Constraints faced by cotton growers in adoption of integrated weed management practices

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ABSTRACT

This study was carried out in Vadodara District of middle Gujarat state because of larger area under cotton cultivation with objective to find out constraints faced by cotton growers in adoption of integrated weed management practices and this investigation revealed that major constrains faced by the respondents in integrated weed management practices were: shortage of labour force for weeding (70.83 %), high cost of herbicides(70.00 %) and lack of technical guidance about different weed management approaches(50.00 %).

Key Words : Constraints, Cotton growers, Weed management

INTRODUCTION

Cotton “King of Fibre” is one of the most ancient and important commercial crop next only to food grains is being cultivated in seventy countries of the world with a total coverage of 32.30 m ha. India was the first country in the world to commercialize cotton hybrids and area wise it ranks first in global scenario (about 33 per cent of ha world cotton area) but ranks second next to china as far as production is concern. About 70% of cotton production is contributed by just 3 states – Gujarat (33%), Maharashtra (26%) and A.P. (17%) and are characterized by rainfed cultivation coupled with aberrant precipitation pattern over the years leading to large scale fluctuation in production. Among all the states, Gujarat has highest production but productivity point of view it ranked fifth after Tamil Nadu, Haryana, Punjab and Rajasthan. However, still there exist a wide gap between the production potential and the actual production realized by the cotton growers. The lower yields are attributed to infestation of the crop by insects- pests in general and weeds in particular and also due to non adoption of plant protection measures for control of these. Integrated weed management is one of the important tool in weed management. This is the area which required more attention. It is therefore, necessary to find out existing level of knowledge and extent of adoption of integrated weed management practices in cotton and also to identify constraints faced by them in adoption of this approach. It is also essential to identify constraints faced by them in adoption of integrated weed management practices belonging to different personal, situational and socio-economic categories and the study shall attempt to find out the selected variable with constraints faced by them in using integrated weed management practices with given objective: