

Farmer's Knowledge About Moth bean Production Technology in Arid Zone of Rajasthan

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Abstract: The study was conducted in two panchayat samitis of Jodhpur district of Rajasthan. From each panchayat samiti three villages and from each village 30 moth bean growing farmers each, 10 marginal, small and large were selected randomly. The total number of farmers were 60 marginal, 60 small and 60 large. The study revealed that majority of the marginal, small and large farmers possessed fair knowledge regarding seed technology of moth bean and poor knowledge regarding fertilizer and plant protection technology. Over all majorities of the marginal, small and large farmers possessed fair knowledge regarding moth bean production technology. Out of twelve variables age of the marginal, small and large farmers was negatively and significantly correlated with knowledge of moth bean production technology while caste, education, social participation, mass media exposure, contact with extension agencies and infrastructure facilities were positively and significantly correlated with knowledge. The education of the farmers was found most important predictor of knowledge.

Key words: Moth bean, knowledge, seed treatment, plant protection measures.

Moth bean [*Vigna aconitifolia* (Jacq.) Marechal] is one of the important kharif pulse crop of Rajasthan as it occupies about 15.93 lakh ha area. It shared about 33.51% of total pulse area of Rajasthan, but contributes only 23.81% of the total production of the state. Mostly, it is grown under rainfed condition. The productivity of moth is very low 288 (2013-14) (486 kg ha⁻¹) 384 (2010-11) in comparison to other pulse crops in the state i.e. mung bean 360 (621 kg ha⁻¹), urd 555 (737 kg ha⁻¹), chaula 649 (529 kg ha⁻¹) and arhar (758 kg ha⁻¹) (Rajasthan Agricultural Statistics at a glance for the year 2013-14). The low yield shows that new technologies generated at Research Institute and Agricultural University have not been integrated into farming practices of the farmers in order to convert them into production accomplishment. Many factors are responsible for low yield of the crop. Among them, knowledge of moth bean production technology is one of the important factors in boosting up the productivity of moth bean. Keeping this in view, the present study was under taken to study the knowledge of the farmers regarding moth bean production technology and to find out the relationship between socio-economic characteristics of moth growers and their knowledge of moth bean production technology.

Materials and Methods

The study was conducted in Jodhpur district of Rajasthan. The list of all panchayat samities of Jodhpur district was prepared, out of nine panchayat samities, only two panchayat samities namely Mandore and Bhopalgarh were selected randomly. In each panchayat samiti, all the villages were divided into three categories according to the distance from the panchayat samiti. First category of the villages were within 0 to 3 km distance from the panchayat samiti. Second category were 3 to 6 km distance from the panchayat samiti and third category were more than 6 km distance from the panchayat samiti. One village from each category was selected randomly. Thus a total of 6 villages formed the sample of the study.

Total number of farm families in each selected villages were listed and classified into three farm size group viz marginal (upto 3.5 ha un-irrigated), small (3.51 to 7.0 ha un-irrigated) and large (more than 7 ha un-irrigated) with the help of Lekhpal and Village Development Officer (VDO) of the concerned village. Ten farm families from each marginal, small and large farm size group were selected by random sampling method. Thus, the selected respondents were 60 marginal, 60 small and 60 large. The total number of selected 180 respondents formed the sample of the study. The data were collected using pre-tested