

Assessing the Awareness Level of Eco-friendly Agricultural Practices among Groundnut Growers of Tirunelveli District

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ABSTRACT

Eco-friendly agricultural practices are unique to a given culture or society, this society, this knowledge aid for sustainable agricultural development. It is dynamic, it changes through creativity and innovativeness as well as through contact with other systems. Agriculture is considered as the backbone of India, where around 75% of the Indian Population are dependent on agriculture and allied activities for their livelihood. In many countries of the world, great emphasis is being given in recent years for the development of eco-friendly and sustainable agriculture aiming for a sustainable environment. This study was conducted to analyse the awareness of eco-friendly agriculture practice in groundnut cultivation in Tirunelveli district of Tamil Nadu. Three hundred farmers were identified based on the proportionate random interview schedule. The collected data were subjected to statistical analysis like percentage analysis. About ten eco-friendly practices associated with groundnut cultivation like setting up traps, treating the seeds with *Pseudomonas*, keeping *Calotropis* leaves near the field to resist the pest attack were identified. More than fifty per cent of the respondents were aware of all the identified eco-friendly agricultural practices of groundnut cultivation.

Introduction

An eco-friendly technology may be defined as the use of knowledge and resources in a systematic way to produce desired outputs without harming the environment (Reijntjes et al., 1992). An eco-friendly technology may be defined as the use of knowledge and resources in a systematic way to produce desired outputs without harming the environment (Reijntjes et al., 1992). In a population rich, but an otherwise poor country like India, ensuring food security will depend greatly on strategies to enhance crop yields. Rapid progress in economic, technical and demographic condition brought in increasingly rapid changes in the small holder farming systems. The strength of sustainable farming lies in its regional orientation and farm level input sufficiency and output efficiency. That means sustainable farming offers

way to make a living and responsive way to produce sufficient food (Berman 1990). Eco-friendly agricultural products provide lucrative business in the world market. In this study, an attempt is made to analysis the awareness of eco-friendly agricultural practices in groundnut cultivation.

METHODOLOGY

Tirunelveli District of Tamil Nadu is selected for the study. A sample size of 300 farmers was selected based on the proportionate random sampling produce on the 11 Taluks. Four villages were selected and the data are collected by using well-structured and pre-tested interview schedule. The data were subjected to percentage analysis and the results are reported.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The distribution of respondents based on the awareness of eco-friendly agricultural practices are presented in Table-1

Table-1. Awareness of eco-friendly agricultural practices in Groundnut cultivation

S.No.	Eco-friendly Agri-practices	Number of Respondents	Percentage
1	Irrigation is given by splash method during the night	220	73.33
2	Soaking groundnut seeds in lime solution before sowing for better germination	215	71.66
3	Storing groundnut kernel with their shell for longer lift (even for more than six months)	210	70.00
4	Setting up 3-4 light traps and bonfires immediately after receipts of rains, after sowing in the rainfed season to attract & kill moths of red hairy caterpillar	202	67.33
5	Treating the seeds with <i>Pseudomonas fluorescens</i> @ 10g/Kg seed (Seed treatment will protect the young seedlings from root – rot & collar rot infection)	196	65.33
6	Lighting of fire during the night in groundnut field to attract red hairy caterpillar and other moth pests	196	65.33

7	Soil application of <i>Pseudomonas fluorescens</i> @ 2.5 kg/ha mixed with 50Kg of well decomposed FYM or sand at 30 days after sowing to control root rot	190	63.33
8	Beating empty iron drums in groundnut field to ward off the birds	190	63.33
9	Placing calotropis leaves near the groundnut field to reduce insect attack	187	62.33
10	Separation of groundnut pods by beating the base of the plants against a wooden plank or dried midrib of coconut frond which is kept over a small pit on the field itself	186	62.00

It could be observed from the Table-1, that 73.33 per cent of the respondents were aware of the irrigation given by splash method during night time followed by Groundnut seeds soaked in lime solution before sowing for better germination (71.66 per cent), groundnut kernel storing with their shell for longer life even for more six months (70.00 per cent), setting up 3-4 light traps and bonfires immediately after receipts of rains after sowing in the rainfed season to attract & kill moths of red hairy caterpillar (67.33 per cent), treating the seeds with *Pseudomonas fluorescens* 10 g/Kg of seed to protect the young seedlings from root-rot & collar rot infection (65.33 per cent), lighting of fire during night in groundnut field to attract and kill red hairy caterpillar and other moth pests (65.33 per cent), soil application of *Pseudomonas fluorescens* 2.5 kg/ha mixed with 50 Kg of well decomposed FYM or sand at 30 days after sowing to control root rot (63.33 per cent), beating empty iron drums in groundnut field to reduce insect attack (62.33 per cent) and separation of groundnut pods by beating the base of the plants against a wooden plank or dried midrib of coconut frond which is kept over a small pit on the field itself respectively. This finding is support with the findings of Berman, H1990.

CONCLUSION

From the examination of the various eco-friendly agricultural practices in groundnut cultivation showed that more than half of the respondents in the study area aware about the

Eco friendly practices in groundnut. The groundnut cultivators may be encouraged to adopt these cost effective and timely oriented eco-friendly sustainable agricultural practices. Considerable attention is being paid to the eco-friendly practices in different parts of the world. For some of these practices were provided a basic knowledge for identifying ecological sustainable options of resource. For others, these are cheap sources of identifying ideas which have considerable scope for commercial exploration.

REFERENCES

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