



Research Article

OCCUPATION AND ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LEVEL OF KNOWLEDGE OF BANANA GROWERS ABOUT INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT

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Received: May 03, 2021; Revised: May 26, 2021; Accepted: May 27, 2021; Published: May 30, 2021

Abstract: Occupation means the involvement of the respondents in different activities as a source of income for their livelihood. It plays a relevant role in influencing the level of knowledge of banana growers about integrated pest management. Keeping this in view, an attempt has been made to study occupation and its relationship with the level of knowledge of banana growers about integrated pest management. The result of study revealed that slightly less than three-fourth (74.00 per cent) of the banana growers were depend on farming + animal husbandry and farming. It is also revealed occupation of the banana growers had positive and significant correlation ($r = 0.240^*$) with their level of knowledge about IPM.

Keywords: Occupation, Integrated pest management, Banana growers

Citation: Maheswaran M., et al., (2021) Occupation and its Relationship with The Level of Knowledge of Banana Growers about Integrated Pest Management. International Journal of Agriculture Sciences, ISSN: 0975-3710 & E-ISSN: 0975-9107, Volume 13, Issue 5, pp.- 10776-10777.

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Introduction

Banana becomes one among the most popular fruits due to its low price and high nutritive value. Integrated pest management is a system approach to pest control which combines biological, cultural and other novel approaches with the judicious use of pesticides. The prime intent of IPM is to maintain pest levels below economically damaging levels while minimizing detrimental effects of pest control on human health and environmental resources.

Occupation means the involvement of the respondents in different activities as a source of income for their livelihood. It plays a relevant role in influencing the level of knowledge of banana growers about integrated pest management. Keeping the above facts in view, an attempt has been made to study occupation and its relationship with the level of knowledge of banana growers about IPM.

Objectives of study

To study the occupation of banana growers

To ascertain relationship between the occupation of banana growers and their level of knowledge about integrated pest management practices

Material and Methods

The present study was undertaken in Anand district of Gujarat state. The level of knowledge of banana growers about IPM was studied with the help of the developed test. Five villages having fairly good number of banana growers adopting integrated pest management practices were selected from each taluka purposively. 10 banana growers adopting integrated pest management practices were randomly selected from each village. Thus, total sample size was 100 banana growers adopting integrated pest management practices

Occupation

It refers to the involvement of banana growers in different activities as a source of income for their livelihood. The occupation of the respondents was categorized and scored as under:

No.	Occupation	Score
1	Farming only	1
2	Farming + Animal Husbandry	2
3	Farming + Animal husbandry+ job	3
4	Farming + business	4
5	Farming + Animal Husbandry + Business	5

Karl person coefficient of correlation(r) was calculated to find out the relationship between occupation and the level of knowledge of banana growers about integrated pest management.

Results and Discussion

Occupation

Occupation means the involvement of the respondents in different activities as a source of income for their livelihood. The data regarding occupation of the respondents were grouped in to five groups and presented in Table 1 and graphically depicted in [Fig-1].

Table-1 Distribution of banana growers according to their occupation, n=100

No	Occupation	Number	Per cent
1	Farming	25	25.00
2	Farming + Animal husbandry	49	49.00
3	Farming + Animal husbandry+ job	8	8.00
4	Farming + business	12	12.00
5	Farming + Animal husbandry+ business	6	6.00
Total		100	100.00

The data presented in [Table-1] revealed that slightly less than half (49.00 per cent) of the banana growers were dependent on farming and animal husbandry, followed by 25.00 per cent, 12.00 per cent, 08.00 per cent and 06.00 percent of them were dependent on only farming, farming + business, Farming + Animal husbandry + job and Farming + Animal husbandry + business, respectively. Thus, it can be concluded that slightly less than three-fourth (74.00 per cent) of the banana growers were depend on farming + animal husbandry and farming.

The probable reason might be that a greater number of dairy cooperatives in Anand district might have motivated them to have dairy as an additional and subsidiary income generating activity along with agriculture. Also, the farmers might have understood the manorial value as well as pest and disease controlling effect of cowdung, cow's urine and other litter wastes obtained from dairy farming in banana cultivation. This might have reduced the dependence of farmers to external sources of inputs in farming and thus they might have getting profitable returns by reduction in cost on external outputs as well as by optimum utilization of resources. This finding is supported by the findings of Patel (2013) [1] and Patel (2016) [2].



Fig-1 Distribution of banana growers according to their occupation

Occupation and Knowledge

The correlation coefficient value ($r = 0.240^*$) clearly indicates that occupation of the banana growers had positive and significant correlation with their level of knowledge about IPM. Hence, the null hypothesis that "there is no relationship between occupation of banana growers and their level of knowledge about IPM" was rejected. Hence, it may be concluded that occupation of respondents had played a relevant role in shaping knowledge of banana growers about IPM.

From the results, it can be inferred that involvement of banana growers in more than one occupation makes them economically sound to get and adopt new knowledge of IPM in banana cultivation. As majority of the farmers are involved in farming and farming + animal husbandry, obviously they might have good knowledge regarding IPM. Moreover, as most of the time they spend in farming activities which might have resulted in gaining more information and experience in using various IPM measures for effectively controlling various pest and diseases. This finding is in line with the findings of Patel (2016).

Conclusion

From above study it is revealed that slightly less than three-fourth (74.00 per cent) of the banana growers were depend on farming + animal husbandry and farming.

Application of research: It is also revealed that occupation of the banana growers had positive and significant correlation ($r = 0.240^*$) with their level of knowledge about IPM.

Research Category: Extension Education

Acknowledgement / Funding: Authors are thankful to Bansilal Amrutlal College of Agriculture, Anand Agricultural University, Anand, 388001, Gujarat, India

****Research Guide or Chairperson of research:** M. R. Patel

University: Anand Agricultural University, Anand, 388001, Gujarat, India

Research project name or number: MSc Thesis

Author Contributions: All authors equally contributed

Author statement: All authors read, reviewed, agreed and approved the final manuscript. Note-All authors agreed that- Written informed consent was obtained from all participants prior to publish / enrolment

Study area / Sample Collection: Anand district of Gujarat state

Cultivar / Variety / Breed name: Banana

Conflict of Interest: None declared

Ethical approval: This article does not contain any studies with human participants or animals performed by any of the authors.

Ethical Committee Approval Number: Nil

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