KNOWLEDGE AND ATTITUDE OF FARMERS TOWARDS ‘SAWAJ’ BIOFERTILIZERS AND BIOPESTICIDES IN JUNAGADH DISTRICT OF GUJARAT STATE

ABSTRACT

Key words: ‘Sawaj’ biofertilizers and biopesticides, Knowledge, Attitude, Evaluative perception

Junagadh Agricultural University developed biofertilizers and biopesticides *Rhizobium*, *Azotobacter*, Phosphate Solubilizing Bacteria biofertilizers and *Trichoderma harzianum* and *Beauveria bassiana* respectively as ‘Sawaj’ trade name. There is great need to increase farm production to overcome the requirement of food for increasing population without damaging the environment. The more use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides are harmful to living soil and therefore use of biofertilizers and biopesticides are required which improve the soil fertility without any harmful effect to the soil as well as biopesticides are require to control of pest without harmful effect to environment. Looking to above facts a study entitled, “Knowledge and attitude of farmers towards ‘Sawaj’ biofertilizers and biopesticides in Junagadh district of Gujarat state”

The study was conducted in Junagadh district of Gujarat state. Junagadh district has consisted total nine talukas, out of nine talukas three talukas were selected which are more nearer to Junagadh Agriculture University. From each selected taluka four villages were selected randomly. Total twelve villages from three talukas of Junagadh district were selected randomly and list of farmers of these villages and talukas were collected from department of agricultural entomology and department of plant pathology of college of agriculture, J.A.U., Junagadh. Thus a total sample size of biofertilizers and biopesticides users became 120.

In respect to ‘Sawaj’ biofertilizer users, majority (61.17 per cent) of the respondents had medium level of knowledge. Whereas, majority (66.67 per cent) of the respondents had medium level of knowledge about ‘Sawaj’ biopesticides. While in case of ‘Sawaj’ biofertilizer users, majority (61.66 per cent) of the respondents had medium level of attitude towards ‘Sawaj’ biofertilizers. Whereas, majority (68.33 per cent) of the respondents had medium level of attitude regarding ‘Sawaj’ biopesticides.

In case of ‘Sawaj’ biofertilizer users, the characteristics viz. education, land holding, farm mechanization index, extension participation, scientific orientation, social participation, herd size, annual income and innovativeness had significant relationship. Only age had negative and significant relationship. While only cropping
intensity and cosmopoliteness failed to establish a significant relationship with knowledge level of respondents about ‘Sawaj’ biofertilizers. In respect to ‘Sawaj’ biopesticide users, the characteristics viz. cropping intensity, extension participation, innovativeness, scientific orientation, education, social participation, herd size, farm mechanization index and cosmopoliteness had significant relationship. Only age had negative and highly significant relationship. However only land holding and annual income had not significant relationship with knowledge level of respondents about ‘Sawaj’ biopesticide.

The characteristics viz. land holding, farm mechanization index, innovativeness, scientific orientation, education, social participation, extension participation and cosmopoliteness had significant relationship, only age had negative and significant relationship. While Herd size, Annual income and cropping intensity failed to establish a relationship with attitude of respondents regarding ‘Sawaj’ biofertilizers. While in case of ‘Sawaj’ biopesticide users the characteristics of the respondents viz herd size, extension participation, cosmopoliteness, scientific orientation, education, social participation, land holding, annual income and innovativeness were having significant and positive relationship with attitude regarding ‘Sawaj’ biopesticides. While only age had negative and significant relationship with attitude. Whereas cropping intensity and Farm mechanization index failed to establish a relationship with attitude towards ‘Sawaj’ biopesticides.

Two fifth (61.67 per cent) of the respondents had medium level of evaluative perception about ‘Sawaj’ biofertilizers. Whereas majority (68.33 per cent) of the respondents had medium level of evaluative perception towards ‘Sawaj’ biopesticides.