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Girijesh Kannaujiya
M.Sc. Student, Department of
Extension Education,
ANDUA&T, Kumarganj,
Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh, India

RK Doharey
Professor, Department of
Extension Education,
ANDUA&T, Kumarganj,
Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh, India

NR Meena
Assistant Professor,
Department of Extension
Education, ANDUA&T,
Kumarganj, Ayodhya,
Uttar Pradesh, India

Niyaj Ahamad
M.Sc. Student, Department of
Plant Molecular Biology &
Genetic Engineering, ANDUA&T,
Kumarganj, Ayodhya,
Uttar Pradesh, India

Corresponding Author
Girijesh Kannaujiya
M.Sc. Student, Department of
Extension Education,
ANDUA&T, Kumarganj,
Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh, India

The knowledge and awareness level of the respondents regarding soil testing

Girijesh Kannaujiya, RK Doharey, NR Meena and Niyaj Ahamad

Abstract

Present study in titled “study on knowledge and adoption of soil testing regarding utility of soil health card in Maharajganj district of Uttar Pradesh” conducted in Maharajganj District of U.P., District Maharajganj and two blocks namely Nichloul and Mithaura block were selected purposively for present study, village and respondents were selected randomly. Five villages were selected randomly from each block and 15 farmers from each village. Therefore, a total of 150 farmers selected for present study in which larger number of farmers have been getting benefits of soil health card regarding soil testing. Result revealed that Majority of the respondent were found in middle age category (35-61 years) i.e. 36.66 percent, majority of the respondents were found in literate category, maximum number of respondents were found married, most of the respondents were belonged to Hindu religion, rate of OBC caste is higher in the study area, most of the respondents were belonged to nuclear family, most of the respondents were belonged to small sized family, most of the respondents were marginal farmers maximum numbers of respondents were engaged in farming with animal husbandry, most of the respondents had mixed housing pattern, majority of respondents were not participated in any organization, most of the respondents had income between 1, 00,000 Rs to 2, 00,000 Rs. In extension contact, most of the respondents were given preference to Gram Pradhan, family, and TV in aspect of formal sources, informal sources, and mass media exposure respectively, in Material possession, Respondents have good number of pumping set/diesel engine for farm power, sickle and khurpi were major implements for agricultural work, maximum respondents had bicycle for transportation, chair cots and wall watch were major household materials, mobile is major component for communication media possessions.

Keywords: knowledge, awareness level, respondents regarding soil testing

Introduction

Indian accounts about 2.4 per cent of total world’s geographical area and 4 per cent of water resources, but having about 17 per cent of total world’s human population and 15 per cent of total livestock. Agriculture is a key sector of the Indian economy because its accounts about 14 per cent of the nation are GDP. Agriculture share’s about 11 per cent of exports, half of the population still dependent on agriculture as it has main source of income. In, India intensive agriculture follow by maximum number of farmers and has an impressive growth in food grain production by using of high yielding variety, application of fertilizers like N, P,K and assured irrigation. 50 per cent yield increased by the using of fertilizers, new technology and high yielding variety. (Anonymous, 2016).

Soil health is not a new concept, Greek and Roman philosopher’s aware from the importance of soil health to agricultural opulence over two thousand years ago, and they reflected awareness in their treatises on farm management. As per as the science of agriculture developed, many plant nutrients identified which is essential components of soil health, at least they sustaining biological productivity. Aggregate concerned over the agriculture’s impression on the environment partake and renewed curiosity in terms of soil health.

Soil health and fertility of soil are the two bases for sustainable viability of the farmers all over the world. Further, utilising pattern of optimum doses of fertilisers, cropping pattern according to scientific reference is the preliminary phase towards sustainable farming. As far as agriculture production is concerned to soil health, so soil health performance active role in safeguarding of sustainable production by the optimum use of fertilizer (Patel *et al.*, 2017). (Neufeld *et al.* 2006) reported that soil testing is an essential tool for determining the accessible soil nutrients. On behalf of this objective, Government of India launched Soil health card scheme on 19 Feb., 2015. Main goal of SHC is to promote soil test and stable use of fertilisers to facilitate farmers towards higher yields at a low cost as well as make them aware

about the suitable amount of nutrients for the particular crop depending on the quality of soil.

Soil health card is a printed report that a farmer is given for all his land holdings. It holds the status of soil considering 12 parameters i.e. N, P, K, S, Zn, Fe, Cu, Bo, Mn as well as PH, EC, OC. Based on all these parameters the soil health card resolves specify fertilizer endorsements and soil variations required for the farm. SHC (Soil health card) will be made available once in each 3 yr to farmers and this will indicate the position of soil health particular period. The state government collects soil samples twice in a year afterwards harvesting of Kharif and Rabi crop or as soon as there is no standing crop. The main purpose behind announcing the soil health scheme was to determine the type of specific soil and then tell farmers as to how they can recover it.

Methodology

The study was conducted in state Uttar Pradesh. Uttar Pradesh is a state in northern India. The state is divided into 18 divisions, 75 districts and capital of Uttar Pradesh is Lucknow. Uttar Pradesh state was purposely selected with many reasons. About 68.20 percent Population of Uttar Pradesh directly or indirectly depends on agriculture and allied sector. Out of 75 districts of UP, Maharajganj district was selected for study. The area is selected for this study because it's a backward area of state and the researcher is familiar to area and culture therefore it has facilitated him to obtain factual data from the respondents. There are twelve Community Developmental Blocks in the district out of them two blocks namely Nichloul and Mithaura block were selected purposively for the present study because of the convenience to researecher and large number of stockholder of soil health card in district of Uttar Pradesh. Nichloul block has 10 Nyay Panchayats with 69 Gram Panchayats and 113 villages. From them, five villages were selected randomly, in which lager number of farmers has been getting benefits of soil health card regarding to soil testing. Mithaura block has 9 Nyay Panchayats with 62 Gram Panchayats and 109 villages. From them, five villages were selected randomly, in which lager number of farmers has been getting benefits of soil health card regarding soil testing. Therefore, finally five – five villages were selected from each block. Badauli village is situated 43 km away from district headquarter Maharajganj. As per 2009 stats, Badauli village is also a gram panchayat. The total geographical area of village is 612.42 hectares total population is 1,032 peoples. There are about 204 houses in Badauli village. Dhesho village is 32km away from district headquarter Maharajganj. As per 2009 stats, Desho village is also a gram panchayat. The total geographical area of village is 568.25 hectares. Desho has a total population of 985

peoples. There are about 192 houses in Desho village. Dona is situated 20 km away district headquarter Maharajganj. As per 2009 stats, Dona is the gram panchayat of Dona village. The total geographical area of village is 781.03 hectares. Dona has a total population of 1,794 peoples. There are about 263 houses in Dona village. Hargayan village is situated 16 km away from district headquarter Maharajganj. As per 2009 stats, Hargayan village is also a gram panchayat. The total geographical area of village is 653.16 hectares. Hargayan has a total population of 1,917 peoples. There are about 260 houses in Hargayan village. Sohata village is situated 19 km away from district headquarter Maharajganj. As per 2009 stats, Sohata village is also a gram panchayat. The total geographical area of village is 1041.93 hectares. Sohata has a total population of 2,384 peoples. There are about 504 houses. It is situated 7 km away from district headquarter district Maharajganj. As per 2009 stats, Auratar village is also a gram panchayat. The total geographical area of village is 1161.93 hectares. Auratar has a total population of 2,352 peoples. There are about 523 houses. It is situated 12 km away from district headquarter Maharajganj. As per 2009 stats, Chainpur village is also a gram panchayat. The total geographical area of village is 901.65 hectares. Chainpur has a total population of 1,410 peoples. There are about 319 houses. It is situated 6 km away from district headquarter Maharajganj. As per 2009 stats, Tikur village is also a gram panchayat. The total geographical area of village is 695.03 hectares. Tikur has a total population of 1,479 peoples. There are about 368 houses. It is situated 25 km away from district headquarter Maharajganj. As per 2009 stats, Obari village is also a gram panchayat. The total geographical area of village is 829.94 hectares. Obari has a total population of 1,917 peoples. There are about 404 houses. It is situated 11 km away from district Maharajganj. As per 2009 stats, Hardiya village is also a gram panchayat. The total geographical area of village is 960.43 hectares. Hardiya has a total population of 2,073 peoples. There are about 398 houses.

Results and Discussion

Table 1. Measurement of awareness level

Table 1: Distribution of the respondents based on over all Awareness Level

S. No.	Category of awareness	Respondents	
		Frequency	%
i.	Low (up to 24)	54	36.00
ii.	Medium (25-28)	82	56.67
iii.	High (29 and Above)	14	09.33

Mean=26.30, SD=2.11, Min=21, Max.=33, max possible score=57

Table 2: Distribution of the respondents based on statements of awareness. n=150

S. No.	Statements about awareness	High awareness (3)	Medium awareness (2)	Low awareness (1)	MPS	Rank
I	Do you know about the SHC Scheme?	30	46	74	02.39	II
ii	What is the SHC?	75	56	19	02.43	I
iii	Who Initiated SHC scheme?	80	34	36	02.34	III
iv	What is Slogan of this scheme.?	14	00	136	01.05	XIII
v	What is main purpose of the SHC Scheme?	00	100	50	01.70	V
vi	What is method of taking soil sample.	00	19	131	01.08	XII
vii	What is right time of taking soil sample in crop season.?	00	16	134	01.02	XIV
viii	Who tests the soil sample? and where?	10	20	120	01.16	X
ix	How much farmer must pay for each sample test?	06	00	144	01.14	XI
x	From where SHC can be collected?	15	01	104	01.25	VIII
xi	Who distributes SHC?	20	07	118	01.27	VII

xii	Information is provided in SHC?	16	46	88	01.39	VI
xiii	What are the benefits of SHC.?	37	91	22	02.10	IV
xiv	What effect of SHC on soil.?	17	18	115	01.19	IX
					01.54	

Conclusion

- Results revealed that 56.67 percent respondents have medium awareness about Soil Health Card (SHC) whereas 36.00 percent and 09.33 percent respondents have low level and high level of awareness about Soil Health Card respectively in study area.
- Results revealed that respondents had highest awareness about what is the SHC? (02.43), do you know about the SHC Scheme? (02.39), who initiated the SHC scheme? (02.34), what are the benefits of SHC? (02.10), what is main purpose of the SHC Scheme? (01.70), Information is provided in SHC? (01.39), who distributes SHC? (01.27), from where SHC can be collected (01.25), what effect of SHC on soil? (01.19), who tests the soil sample and where? (01.16), how much farmer must pay for each sample test? (01.14), what is method of taking soil sample? (01.08), what is Slogan of this scheme? (01.05) and what is right time of taking soil sample in crop season? (01.02) respectively in study area.

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