

Original Research Article

Knowledge of the Respondents towards Black Pepper Production Technology in Idukki District of Kerala

Abstract

A study entitled “Knowledge of respondents towards Black pepper production technology in Idukki District of Kerala” was carried out to study the knowledge level of Pepper growers. A structured interview schedule was developed to complete the study and 120 Black pepper growers were taken from 5 villages of the selected block of the District purposively. The knowledge level of the respondents clearly visible that majority 49.17 per cent of the black pepper growers had medium level of knowledge on black pepper production technology, 28.33 per cent and 22.50 percent of the black pepper growers had low and high level of knowledge on black pepper production technology respectively . It can be concluded that knowledge level of majority of respondents was medium .

Keywords: Knowledge, Black Pepper, Black Pepper production technology,

1. Introduction:

The Black pepper is the one of the most ancient and traditional spice crops of India which has been produced and traded worldwide. India reigned supreme till 1990's in the production and export of pepper, however, now it stands second in production and export. Black pepper is cultivated mostly by small and marginal holders and their livelihood has crucial bearing on this crop. Idukki and Wayanad are two major pepper producer districts in Kerala. **Scaria,(2019)**

Black pepper (*Piper nigrum* L.) is a flowering vine in the family piperaceae, cultivated for its fruit, known as a peppercorn, which is usually dried and used as a spice and seasoning. The fruit is a drupe (stone fruit) which is about 5mm (fresh and fully mature), dark red and contains a stone which encloses a single pepper seed. Peppercorns and the ground pepper derived from them may be described simply as pepper, or more precisely as black pepper (cooked and dried unripe fruit), green pepper (dried unripe fruit), or white pepper (ripe fruit seeds).

Richness of the culture and the fragrance of the spices were the major sources of glory of the ancient India. It is really amazing to see that India could maintain her supremacy in the production and trade of spices even the Vedic ages dating back to 6000 B.C, to the modern era of the third

millennium. The vicissitudes of history made unbelievable changes everywhere but the Indian domination over the world spices market still remains unquestionable.

Pepper is one of the oldest and best-known spices in the world. India has always reigned supreme in the production and export of this most exotic and sought-after spice. Indian pepper had a profound influence on the European economy of the middle ages. Many western countries owed their prosperity to this spice, which fetched them a very high price. Easily the finest in quality anywhere, Indian pepper is grown in the monsoon forests along the Malabar Coast in South India. Here, a combination of natural advantages and organic techniques produces bigger, better shaped, more aromatic and flavourful berries. Two of the most celebrated trade varieties of Indian black pepper are 'Malabar Garbled' and 'Tellichery Extra Bold'.

In India, Kerala is the largest producer of Black pepper, accounting over 50 per cent of India's total output followed by Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

2. Research Methodology:

The study entitled "**Knowledge of the Respondents towards Black Pepper Production Technology in Idukki District of Kerala**" was undertaken to assess the knowledge of the respondents towards black pepper production technology. The Study was conducted in Idukki district of Kerala, one of the most important districts in terms of area and production of black pepper. From the district Idukki was selected purposively on the basis of highest area under black pepper crop. A pooled list of all black pepper growers was prepared for all selected villages. A sample of 120 black pepper growers is selected for the research work. A descriptive research design will be followed for the study. The present study was mainly based on primary data. The required primary data were collected from selected farmers for the agricultural year 2022. The requisite secondary data were collected from various published records of government offices, books, block development offices, reports, related website and other related sources. The knowledge of the respondents towards black pepper production technology through personal interview of black pepper growers, a pre structured interview schedule will be used as a tool for data collection. For achieving the stated objective, the analytical tools such as tables, charts and graphs simple ranking, percentage method were used.

3. Results and Discussion:

The study entitled “**Knowledge of the Respondents towards Black Pepper Production Technology in Idukki District of Kerala**” was undertaken to assess the knowledge of the respondents towards black pepper production technology.

3.1 Knowledge of the respondents towards black pepper production technology

Table 1: Knowledge of the respondents on black pepper production technology

S. No.	Statement	Response					
		Fully correct		Partially correct		Not correct	
		<i>f</i>	%	<i>f</i>	%	<i>f</i>	%
1.	Field preparation	36	30	53	44.17	31	25.83
2.	Variety used- (local varieties , research station varieties)	43	35.83	40	33.33	37	30.83
3.	Selection of mother plant-Age (5-12yrs) Max num of spikes per unit area, Long spikes Close setting of berries	14	11.67	64	53.33	42	35.00
4.	Planting time: may– June	39	32.50	62	51.67	19	15.83
6.	Fertilizers(ha) 1.NPKS/ha:120:50:50:150g/ vine/year 2.FYM- 5-10kg mixed with top soil	50	41.67	60	50.00	10	8.33
7.	Irrigation: 1.Till march & holding there after. Radius 75 cm	32	26.67	65	54.17	23	19.17
8.	Pest of black pepper (pollu beetle , black pepper mussel scale, burrowing nematode Control measures- pollubeetle – cypermethrin 0.01% Scale – Azadiractin 5000ppm15days interval.	21	17.50	74	61.67	25	20.83
9.	Weed control	28	23.33	66	55.00	26	21.66

10.	Diseases: 1. Foot Rot 2. Quick wilt 3. Anthracnose	37	30.83	52	43.33	31	25.83
11.	Harvesting- older berries are hand plucked ,The berries need to be plucked before fully ripen	36	30.00	58	48.33	26	21.67
12.	Yield: 0.39 tonnes/ha	54	45.00	35	29.17	31	25.83
13.	Soil: Well drained soil,Grows well in red laterite soil	38	31.67	50	41.67	32	26.67
14.	Chemical weed control: 1. Pre- emergence 2. Post emergence	29	24.17	71	59.17	20	16.67
15.	Soil :1. PH .5.5 to 6.5	41	34.16	73	60.83	6	5.00

It can be reported that regarding field preparation, 30.00 percent, 44.17 percent and 25.83 per cent of respondents reported fully correct, partially correct and not correct response respectively. Regarding variety, 35.83 percent, 33.33 percent and 30.83 percent of respondents reported fully correct, partially correct and not correct response respectively. Regarding selection of mother plant ,11.67per cent, 53.33 percent and 35.00 per cent of respondents reported fully correct, partially correct and not correct response respectively. Regarding planting time, 32.50 per cent, 51.67 per cent and 15.83 per cent of respondents reported fully correct, partially correct and not correct response respectively.

Meanwhile, regarding fertilizers 41.67 per cent, 50.00 per cent and 8.33 per cent of respondents reported fully correct, partially correct and not correct response respectively. Similar finding was reported by **Afrad (2020)**. Regarding irrigation, 26.67 percent, 54.17 percent and 19.17 percent of respondents reported fully correct, partially correct and not correct response respectively. Regarding pest of black pepper, 17.50 per cent, 61.67 per cent and 20.83 per cent of respondents reported fully correct, partially correct and not correct response respectively. Regarding weed control, 23.33 percent, 55.00 percent and 21.67 percent of respondents reported fully correct, partially correct and not correct response respectively. Regarding diseases, 30.83 per cent, 43.33 percent and 25.83 per cent of respondents reported fully correct, partially correct and not correct response respectively.

Similarly, regarding harvesting, 30.00 per cent, 48.33 per cent and 21.67 per cent of respondents reported fully correct, partially correct and not correct response respectively. Regarding

yield, 45.00 percent, 29.17 percent and 25.83 percent of respondents reported fully correct, partially correct and not correct response respectively. Regarding soil, 31.67 percent, 41.67 per cent and 26.67 per cent of respondents reported fully correct, partially correct and not correct response respectively. Regarding chemical weed control, 24.17 per cent, 59.17 percent and 16.67 per cent of respondents reported fully correct, partially correct and not correct response respectively. Regarding soil pH, 34.16 per cent, 60.83 per cent and 5.00 per cent of respondents reported fully correct, partially correct and not correct response respectively.

Table 2: Distribution of respondents according to their overall knowledge level

S.No.	Category	Number	Percentage
1.	Low level knowledge	34	28.33
2.	Medium level knowledge	59	49.17
3.	High level knowledge	27	22.50
	Total	120	100.00

It was clearly visible that majority 49.17 per cent of the black pepper growers had medium level of knowledge on black pepper production technology, 28.33 per cent and 22.50 percent of the black pepper growers had low and high level of knowledge on black pepper production technology respectively. Similar findings was reported by Ngadong (2017)

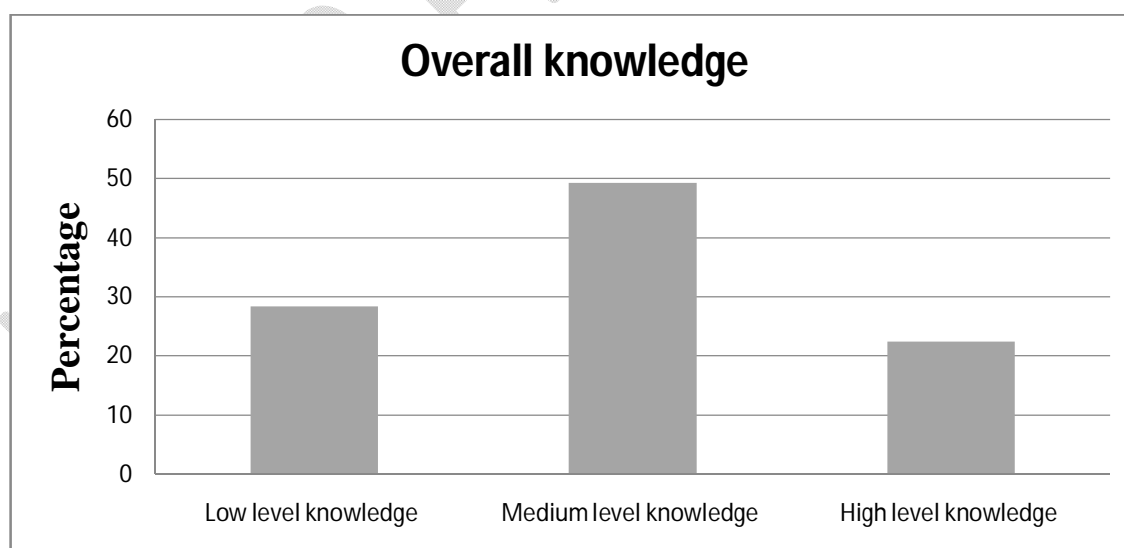


Fig 1. Distribution of respondents based on their overall knowledge level.

Summary and Conclusion:

It was concluded that majority 49.17 per cent of the black pepper growers had medium level of knowledge on black pepper production technology, 28.33 per cent and 22.50 percent of the black pepper growers had low and high level of knowledge on black pepper production technology respectively. Knowledge level of majority of respondents was medium. Government should formulate appropriate extension strategy to increase the knowledge and adoption behaviour of growers towards pepper production technology.

References:

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