Original Research Article

KNOWLEDGE OF TRIBAL FARMERS TOWARDS IMPROVED HATHEI CHILLI PRODUCTION PRACTICES IN SIRARAKHONG VILLAGE OF UKHRUL DISTRICT, MANIPUR

ABSTRACT : The present study was conducted in Sirarakhong Village, Ukhrul district, Manipur. A total of one hundred twenty respondents were selected randomly. The data were gathered by the researcher using pre-structured interview schedule. The finding revealed that majority of the respondents were having medium to high level of knowledge towards improved Hathei Chilli production practices. Age, education, occupation, land holding, farming experience, annual income, mass media exposure, innovativeness, risk orientation and economic motivation were found positive and significant correlation with their knowledge level of the respondents .

Keywords:- Knowledge, Production Practices, Hathei Chilli

INTRODUCTION

The Hathei chilli better known as Sirarakhong chilli, is said to best one of the best variety of chilli in the world. This special type of chilli is only grown in Sirarakhong village in Ukhrul District of Manipur. Hathei chili recently received GI tag (2021).

Hathei chilli, locally called as Hathei, an indigenous chilli variety is unique to a remote Tangkhul Naga inhabited village nestled in the Mahadev hills in Ukhrul district of Manipur state. Being hot the sound produced “ha” and “thei” which means fruit in Tangkhul dialect, the plant came to be known as Hathei. Since then, the cultivation of this particular chilli in the village has been going on for ages. The cultivation of this chilli is the main source of income of the villagers.

There are some 202 households with a population of 1243 who are engaged in chilli cultivation. The village produces about 5000 kg dried chilly annually and chilli is the main source of income of the people of the village. Normally each household harvests 100-300 kg chilli every six months. The farmers cannot bring the chilli to Imphal in large quantities because of the hilly terrain and bad road. It is mainly sold in bulk and marketed at Ukhrul.

MATERIALS AND METHOD :

The present study was purposively undertaken in LM block of Ukhrul district in Manipur. Sirarakhong village was purposively selected as it was the only place where Hathei chilli is grown. One hundred twenty respondents were selected randomly as a sample of the study. Pretested interview schedule was used for collection of data. The collected data were classified, tabulated and analyzed in the light of the objectives to draw logical conclusion. Descriptive research design was followed and the variables were measured by using suitable scale and procedure. Appropriate statistical tools were used to draw the inferences.

RESULTS AND CONCLUSION :

Table 1:- Socio-economic characteristics wise distribution of the respondents (N=120)

CATEGORY	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
AGE		
Young (Below 35 Years)	27	22.50
Middle (36-55 Years)	43	35.83
Old (Above 55)	50	41.67
	120	100.00
EDUCATION		
Illiterate	11	9.17
Can read and write	17	14.17
Primary School	21	17.50
Junior High School	33	27.50
Intermediate	22	18.33
Graduate and Above	16	13.33
	120	100.00

OCCUPATION		
Agriculture only	25	20.83
Agriculture + Labour	45	37.50
Agriculture + Business	37	30.83
Agriculture + Service	13	10.83
	120	100.00
HOUSING PATTERN		
Hut	96	80.00
Semi cemented	16	13.33
Cemented	8	6.67
	120	100.00
LAND HOLDING		
Up to 1 acre	21	17.50
1 to 2 acres	67	55.83
Above 2 acre	32	26.67
	120	100.00
FARMING EXPERIENCE		
Up to 5 years	11	9.16
5-10 years	9	7.50
10-15 years	23	19.17
Above 15 years	77	64.17
	120	100.00
ANNUAL INCOME		
Up to 50,000	20	16.67
50,001 to 1,00,000	58	48.33
Above 1,00,000	42	35.00
	120	100.00
MASS MEDIA EXPOSURE		
Low (5-7)	38	31.67
Medium (8-10)	64	53.33
High (11-13)	18	15.00
	120	100.00

INNOVATIVENESS		
Low (15-18)	27	22.50
Medium (19-23)	82	68.33
High (24-27)	11	9.17
	120	100.00
RISK ORIENTATION		
Low (7-9)	4	3.34
Medium (10-12)	25	20.83
High (13-15)	91	75.83
	120	100.00
ECONOMIC MOTIVATION		
Low (10-12)	4	3.33
Medium (13-15)	17	14.17
High (16-18)	99	82.50
	120	100.00

Table 1 shows that 41.66 per cent of the respondents are of old age group (above 55 years). It was observed that 45.00 per cent of the respondents belongs to medium level (primary school - junior high school) category. It was found that majority (71.67%) of the respondents are engaged in agriculture only. It reveals that 37.50% of the respondents are engaged in agriculture + labour. It shows that majority of the respondents (80.00%) of the respondents had housing pattern as hut. It was observed that majority (55.83%) of the respondents had 1 to 2 acres of land holding, similarly it was observed that majority (64.17%) of the respondents had above 15 years of farming experience. It was stated that 48.33 per cent of the respondents had annual income of 50,001 to 1,00,000 rupees. It was found that 48.33 per cent of the respondents belongs to low level of mass media exposure category, 48.33 per cent of the respondents belongs to medium level innovativeness category, majority (75.83%) of the respondents belongs to high level risk orientation category, (82.50%) of the respondents belongs to high level economic motivation category. Similar result was also reported by ***Tomar et al.,*** **(2020).**

Table 2 : Knowledge of respondents towards improved Hathei chilli production practice

Sl. No.	STATEMENTS	EVALUATIONS		
		Full Known F(%)	Partially Known F (%)	Not Known F (%)
1.	Suitable soil	84 (70.00)	24 (20.00)	11 (9.17)
2.	Seed treatment	105 (87.50)	4 (3.33)	11 (9.17)
3.	Sowing time	114 (95.00)	4 (3.33)	2 (1.67)
4.	Sowing depth	106 (88.33)	10 (8.33)	4 (3.33)
5.	Common insect	25 (20.83)	34 (28.33)	59 (49.17)
6.	Common pest and disease	49 (40.83)	29 (24.17)	42 (35.00)
7.	Use of fungicide, insecticide or pesticides	63 (52.50)	10 (8.33)	47 (39.17)
8.	Need of chemical fertilizers	77 (64.17)	9 (7.50)	34 (28.33)
9.	Name of fertilizer	51 (42.50)	9 (7.50)	60 (50.00)
10.	Dose of fertilizer	44 (36.67)	18 (15.00)	58 (48.33)
11.	When is it used	64 (53.33)	6 (5.00)	50 (41.67)
12.	Method of application	61 (50.83)	6 (5.00)	53 (44.17)
13.	Weeding stage	113 (94.17)	5 (4.17)	2 (1.67)
14.	Advantage of Weedicide	58 (48.33)	5 (4.17)	57 (47.50)
15.	Weedicide for weed control	58 (48.33)	7 (5.83)	55 (45.83)
16.	Harvesting	118 (98.33)	0 (0.00)	2 (1.67)
17.	Expected yield	101 (84.17)	6 (5.00)	13 (10.83)
18.	Use of fumigants	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	120 (100.00)
19.	Which fumigants	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	120 (100.00)
20.	Crop rotation	101 (84.17)	10 (8.33)	8 (6.67)

F - Frequency %- Percentage

Table 3 : Overall Knowledge level of farmers towards improved Hathei chilli production practices of the respondents. (N=120)

Knowledge level			
Category	**Knowledge score**	**Frequency**	**Percentage**
Low	28-37	18	15.00
Medium	38-47	56	46.67
High	48-55	46	38.33
Total		120	100.00

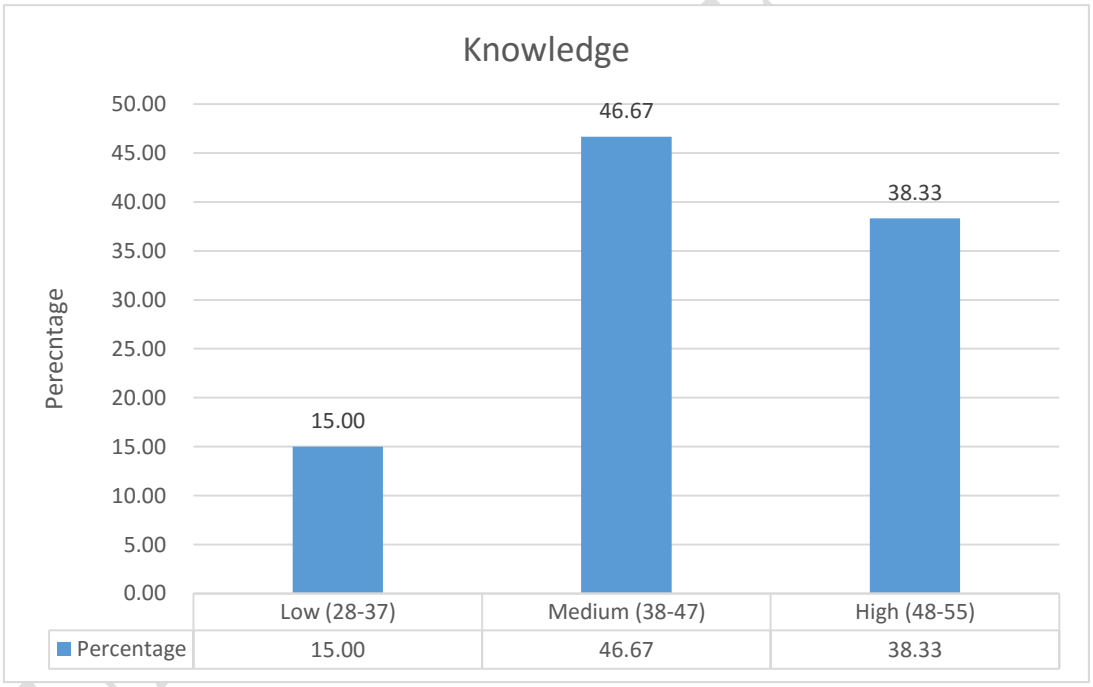

Fig 1 : Knowledge level of the respondents in percentage.

Table 3 reveals that majority 46.67 per cent of the respondents fell in the medium knowledge level group, whereas 38.33 per cent respondents were observed in the high knowledge level group and remaining 15.00 per cent respondents formed low knowledge level group. It is concluded that most of farmers were having medium knowledge level followed by high and low knowledge level respectively. Similar results were also observed by ***Verma et al.*** **(2015).**

Table 4 : Relationship between the selected independent variables with knowledge of farmers towards improved Hathei Chilli production practices. (N = 120).

Sl. No.	Variables	Correlation Coefficient ('r' Value)
1.	Age	0.848287296**
2.	Education	0.92129109**
3.	Occupation	0.578393894*
4.	Housing Pattern	-0.943108629NS
5.	Land Holding	0.847501749**
6.	Farming Experience	0.319685607**
7.	Annual Income	0.98454409**
8.	Mass Media Exposure	0.325754209**
9.	Innovativeness	0.534357579**
10.	Risk Orientation	0.479736137*
11.	Economic Motivation	0.383411481**
* = Significant at 0.05 level of probability		
** = Significant at 0.01 level of probability		
NS = Non Significant		

The above Table 4 revealed that out of eleven independent variables, ten variables are i.e. age, education, occupation, holding, farming experience, annual income, mass media exposure, innovativeness, risk orientation and economic motivation positively and significantly correlated with knowledge of farmers towards improved Hathei chilli production practices whereas the independent variable i.e. housing pattern of the respondents was availed negatively and non-significantly correlated with knowledge of farmers towards improved Hathei chilli production practices. Similar findings is also reported by ***Naik et al.,*** **(2019).**

CONCLUSION

It was concluded that the socio-economic profile of the sample group had medium level. Most of respondents had medium level of overall knowledge towards improved Hathei Chilli production practices. The factors influencing the knowledge of farmers towards improved Hathei Chilli production practices were age, education, land holding, farming experience, annual income, mass media exposure, innovativeness, risk orientation and economic motivation which were directly co-related with knowledge towards improved Hathei Chilli production practices. Farmers should be trained for better productivity, timely availability of organic fertilizers and proper education on plant protection measures should be ensured the Department of Agriculture.

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