

Original Research Article

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Knowledge and Adoption of Recommended Cultivation Practices of *Rabi Jowar* among the Growers

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ABSTRACT

The present study was conducted in Aurangabad and Beed district of Marathwada region to know the knowledge and adoption of recommended cultivation practices of *Rabi Jowar* among the growers. The Data was collected personally with the help of structured scheduled and analysed with the help of statistical methods. Data revealed that the majority of the respondents (87.50%) had knowledge about the ploughing and harrowing operations whereas 62.50 per cent of them were aware about improved varieties of *Rabi Jowar*. Majority of them (91.67%) were well known about the proper sowing time and 32.49 per cent of them had knowledge about recommended dose of fertilizers. It was depicted that 90.00 per cent of the respondents had knowledge about thinning, while 55.83 per cent of them had knowledge about various pests and diseases and 18.33 per cent of them were having knowledge about application of weedicides Atrazine. It was further observed that 80.83 per cent of them were well known about the protective irrigation. Cent per cent respondents were aware about the methods of harvesting. As regards to overall knowledge level, majority of them (54.17%) had medium level of knowledge. In case of adoption of improved cultivation practices of *Rabi Jowar* by the respondents, it was found that about 87.50 per cent of them had fully adopted the practice of ploughing and harrowing, whereas, 66.67 per cent of them do not applied the manuring to the crop, while none of them had done the soil testing. It was also observed that 55.84 per cent respondents had adopted improved varieties, while 56.67 per cent of them had used recommended seed rate. It was also noticed that 35.00 per cent of them had done seed treatment. Majority of them had sown the crop during recommended sowing time. While 62.50 per cent of respondents had adopted the recommended spacing and 25.00 per cent of them had applied the recommended dose of chemical fertilizers to the crop. In case of plant protection, 37.50 per cent and 40.00 per cent of the respondents fully adopted plant protection measures for control of pest and disease, respectively. Only 8.33 per cent of them had sprayed weedicide Atrazine as per the recommendation. Most of the respondents (48.33%) had medium level of adoption of recommended cultivation practices of *Rabi Jowar*, followed by 36.66 per cent and 15.00 per cent of the respondents were in low and high adoption level, respectively.

Keywords

Knowledge, Adoption,
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Introduction

Sorghum (*Sorghum bicolor* (L.) Moench) popularly known as 'Jowar' is the most important food and fodder crop of dry land agriculture. This cereal crop is perennial in nature and possessing corn like leaves and bearing the grain in a compact cluster. *Jowar* is the fifth most important cereal crop in the world after wheat, rice, maize and barley. It is grown in the arid and semi-arid parts of the world, due to its feature of being extremely drought tolerant. *Jowar* is used for ethanol production, alcohol, starch production, production of adhesives and paper other than being used as food and feed.

The area under *Rabi Jowar* in Maharashtra was around 26.08 lakh ha. during 2014-15 as compare to 19.81 lakh ha. in 2013-14. Whereas productivity had decreased to 584 kg./ha. during 2014-15 from 893 kg./ha. compare to 2013-14. In Marathwada region of Maharashtra state, *jowar* occupies 8.28 lakh ha, in 2014-15 compared to 7.46 lakh ha. in the year 2013-14 and the productivity was 452 kg/ha. in year 2014-15, whereas it was 1047 kg. / ha. in the year 2013-14.

Keeping in view the instability in yield and importance of jowar under climate change, the study was conducted to know the knowledge and adoption of recommended cultivation practices of *Rabi Jowar* among the growers in the Marathwada region with following objectives;

Objectives

To study the knowledge about recommended cultivation practices of *Rabi Jowar* by the respondents.

To study the adoption of recommended cultivation practices of *Rabi Jowar* by the respondents.

Materials and Methods

The present study was undertaken in the purposively selected Aurangabad and Beed district as these districts have maximum area under *jowar* cultivation in Marathwada region. From each district two talukas were selected and three villages from each talukas were selected purposively (i.e. total 12 villages were randomly selected). From each village ten farmers were selected randomly thus total samples were 120 respondents. The Data was collected personally with the help of structured scheduled. The data was analysed with the help of frequency, percentage, mean and standard deviation.

Results and Discussion

Knowledge of the growers about recommended cultivation practices of *Rabi Jowar*

The knowledge of the respondents about recommended cultivation practices of *Rabi Jowar* is presented in Table 1.

Preparatory tillage

The majority of the respondents (87.50%) had knowledge about the ploughing and harrowing operations, while 76.67 per cent of the respondents had knowledge about application of manuring for the crop. Whereas 66.67 per cent respondents were have knowledge about the suitable soil for the cultivation of *Rabi Jowar*. Only 10.00 per cent of them had knowledge about soil testing.

Seed and seed treatment

Regarding seed and sowing practices, 62.50 per cent of the respondents were aware about improved varieties of *Rabi Jowar*. Whereas more than half of the respondents (58.33%) were knew about proper seed rate and seed

treatment with thiram or 300 mesh fine sulphur (4 gm/kg.) was known by 25.00 per cent of the respondents.

Sowing

Majority of them (91.67%) were well known about the proper sowing time, while 79.17 per cent of them had knowledge about recommended spacing of sowing (i.e. 45 x 15 cm).

Chemical Fertilizer

It was revealed that 32.49 per cent of the respondents had knowledge about recommended dose of fertilizers (i.e. 80:40:40 kg / ha NPK), while 29.16 per cent of the respondents had knowledge about the application of nitrogenous fertilizer in spilt doses.

Intercultural operations

It was depicted that 90.00 per cent of the respondents had knowledge about thinning. Whereas, 25.00 per cent of them had knowledge about the weeding and hoeing operations as per the recommendation.

Plant protection

As regarding plant protection practices, 55.83 per cent of the respondents had knowledge about various pests and diseases of *Rabi Jowar*, whereas 50.00 per cent of them had knowledge about control measures of pest and diseases.

Use of weedicides

It was noticed that about 18.33 per cent of the respondents were having knowledge about application of weedicides Atrazine. Whereas, 16.66 per cent respondents had knowledge about proper concentration of Atrazine.

Protective irrigation

It was observed that 80.83 per cent of the respondents were well known about the protective irrigation in *Rabi Jowar*.

Intercropping and mixed cropping

It was clearly observed that 62.50 per cent of respondents were having knowledge about intercropping and mixed cropping in *Rabi Jowar*.

Harvesting

It was revealed that cent per cent respondents were aware about the methods of harvesting of *Rabi Jowar*. While 91.66 per cent of respondents had knowledge about maturity stage of *Rabi Jowar*.

Overall knowledge

It is portrayed from Table 2 that majority of the respondents (54.17%) had medium level of knowledge.

Whereas 29.16 per cent and 16.67 per cent of them had low and high level of knowledge about recommended cultivation practices of *Rabi Jowar*.

Adoption improved cultivation practices of *Rabi Jowar* by the respondents

Preparatory tillage

It was found that about 87.50 per cent farmers had full adoption of ploughing and harrowing as per recommendation, while 65.00 per cent farmers had full adoption about suitable soil for cultivation of *Rabi Jowar*. Whereas, 66.67 per cent of the respondents do not applied the manuring to the crop, while none of the respondents had done the soil testing (Table 3).

Table.1 Knowledge of the growers about recommended cultivation practices of *Rabi Jowar* (N=120)

Sr. No.	Recommended cultivation practices of <i>Rabi Jowar</i>	Frequency	Per cent
A	Preparatory tillage		
1	Soil testing	12	10.00
2	Type of soil	80	66.67
3	One ploughing & Two harrowing	105	87.50
4	Manuring (12 – 15 carts/ha.)	92	76.67
B	Seed & Seed treatment		
1	Improved varieties	75	62.50
2	Seed rate (10 kg/ha.)	70	58.33
3	Seed treatment (Thiram / 300 mesh fine sulphar @ 4 gm/kg seed)	30	25.00
C	Sowing		
1	Sowing time (15 Sept. -15 Oct.)	110	91.67
2	Spacing (45 X 15 cm)	95	79.17
D	Chemical Fertilizers		
1	Recommended Dose of Fertilizers (80:40:40 kg/ha NPK)	39	32.49
2	Application of N as split dose	35	29.16
E	Intercultural operations		
1	Thinning (10-15 days after sowing)	55	45.00
2	Two Weeding & Two Hoeing	108	90.00
F	Plant protection		
1	Major pest and diseases of <i>rabi jowar</i>	65	55.83
2	Control measures of pest & diseases	60	50.00
G	Use of weedicides		
1	Application of weedicides (Atrazine)	22	18.33
2	Proper concentration of Atrazine (1 kg in 1000 liter water for one hectare)	19	16.66
H	Protective Irrigation	97	80.83
I	Intercropping / Mixed cropping	75	62.50
J	Harvesting		
1	At maturity stage	110	91.66
2	Method of harvesting	120	100.00

Table.2 Overall knowledge of the growers about recommended cultivation practices of *Rabi Jowar* (N=120)

Sr. No.	Overall Knowledge Level	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Low (Up to 10)	35	29.16
2.	Medium (11 to 19)	65	54.16
3.	High (20 & above)	20	16.66

Table.3 Adoption of recommended cultivation practices of *Rabi Jowar* by the growers (N=120)

Sr. No.	Recommended cultivation practices of <i>rabi jowar</i>	Fully		Partially		No adoption	
		F	%	F	%	F	%
A	Preparatory tillage						
1	Soil testing	00	00.00	00	00.00	120	00.00
2	Type of soil (medium to black)	78	65.00	42	35.00	00	00.00
3	One ploughing & two harrowing	105	87.50	10	08.33	05	04.17
4	Manuring (12 to 15 tones)	30	25.00	10	08.33	80	66.67
B	Seed & Seed treatment						
1	Use of improved varieties	67	55.84	00	00.00	53	44.16
2	Seed rate (10 kg/ha.)	68	56.67	52	43.33	00	00.00
3	Seed treatment (Thiram / 300 mesh fine sulphar @ 4 gm/kg seed)	15	12.50	15	12.50	90	75.00
C	Sowing						
1	Recommended sowing time (15 Sept. – 15 Oct.)	110	91.67	10	08.33	00	00
2	Spacing (45 X 15 cm)	75	62.50	25	20.83	20	16.67
D	Chemical fertilizers						
1	Recommended Dose of Fertilizers (80:40:40 kg/ha NPK)	30	25.00	65	54.16	25	20.83
E	Intercultural operations						
1	Thinning 10-15 days after sowing	15	12.50	20	16.67	85	70.83
2	Two weeding (hand weeding)	30	25.00	24	20.00	66	55.00
3	Two hoeing	47	39.16	53	44.18	20	16.66
F	Plant protection						
1	Control measures of pest	45	37.50	20	16.67	55	45.83
2	Control measures of diseases	48	40.00	18	15.00	54	45.00
G	Use of weedicides						
	Spraying of weedicides Atrazine (1 kg in 1000 liter water for one hectare)	10	08.33	10	08.33	100	83.34
H	Protective irrigation	16	13.34	20	16.66	84	70.00
I	Intercropping / Mixed Cropping	67	55.84	33	27.50	20	16.67
J	Harvesting						
1	At maturity stage	105	87.50	10	08.33	05	4.17
2	Proper method	120	100.00	00	00.00	00	00.00

Table.4 Overall of recommended cultivation practices of *Rabi Jowar* among the growers (N=120)

Sr. No.	Overall Adoption Category	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Low (Up to 14)	44	36.66
2.	Medium (15 to 28)	58	48.33
3.	High (29 & above)	18	15.00

Seed and seed treatment

As far as use of improved varieties is concerned, it was observed that 55.84 per cent of the respondents had adopted improved varieties. While 56.67 per cent of respondents had used recommended seed rate @ 10 Kg / ha and 43.33 per cent of them used recommended seed rate partially. It was also noticed that 35.00 per cent of them treated seed with Thiram / 300 mesh fine sulphur (4 gm/10g.) as per recommendation.

Sowing

Majority of the respondents (91.67 %) had sown *Rabi Jowar* crop during recommended sowing time. As per spacing is concern, 62.50 per cent of respondents had adopted the recommended spacing i.e. 45 x 15 cm.

Chemical Fertilizers

It was observed that 25.00 per cent of respondents had applied the recommended dose of chemical fertilizers to the crop. Whereas 54.16 per cent of them applied fertilizers dose partially to the crop.

Intercultural operations

In cases of intercultural operations, 70.83 per cent of the respondents do not adopted thinning practices in *Rabi Jowar* whereas 12.50 per cent respondents adopted thinning practices fully. While 25.00 per cent and 39.15 per cent of the respondents adopted two hand weeding and two hoeing operation fully as per recommendation, respectively.

Plant protection

In case of plant protection of *Rabi Jowar*, 37.50 per cent and 40.00 per cent of the respondents fully adopted plant protection measures for control of pest and disease,

respectively. Whereas 45.83 per cent and 45.00 per cent of them do not adoption any control measures as per recommendation.

Use of weedicide

Regarding to use of weedicide, only 8.33 per cent of the respondents had sprayed weedicide Atrazine for *Rabi Jowar* as per the recommendation whereas 8.33 per cent of them had partially used the weedicide.

Protective irrigation

As regard to the application of protective irrigations, it was revealed that majority (70.00%) respondents had not given protective irrigation due to non-availability of irrigation water. While only 13.34 per cent of them had irrigated their crop as per recommendation.

Intercropping / mixed cropping

As regard to the intercropping and mixed cropping, it was observed that 55.84 per cent of the respondents had fully adopted recommendations of intercropping and mixed cropping.

Harvesting

As regards harvesting at maturity stage, it was clear that 87.50 per cent of respondents had harvested their crop at proper maturity stage whereas cent per cent respondents had adopted the proper method of harvesting.

Overall adoption

Table 4 revealed that most of the respondents (48.33%) had medium level of adoption of recommended cultivation practices of *Rabi Jowar*, followed by 36.66 per cent and 15.00 per cent of the respondents were in low and high adoption level, respectively.

These findings are in line with findings of Sharma and Gupta (2010), Mane (2012) and Thorat (2013).

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