ABSTRACT

Parameswaran, K. 2016. Adoption of Improved Production Technologies in Seed Propagated Aggregatum Onion – An Exploratory Study in Tiruppur District of Tamil Nadu. Ph.D., (Dr. L. Raja)

The study entitled "Adoption of Improved Production Technologies in Seed Propagated Aggregatum Onion – An Exploratory Study in Tiruppur District of Tamil Nadu" aimed to assess the level of awareness, knowledge and adoption of seed propagated aggregatum onion growers. It also intends to reflect the relationship between the socio economic profile of the onion growers, to analyze the factors influencing the adoption of improved production technologies of seed propagated aggregatum onion and to analyze the constraints explained by the onion growers in adoption of improved production technologies of seed propagated aggregatum onion.

Aggregatum onion is an important vegetable crop grown in Tamilnadu and popularly known as "Queen of Kitchen" because of its characteristics flavour. A distinct feature that differentiates the state from other onion producing states is that the area under common onion is very meagre and majority area is covered with aggregatum onion.

In aggregatum onion the bulbs are used as planting material and seed is of recent origin and gaining momentum in many onion growing districts of Tamilnadu. Even though there has been rapid shift from conventional bulb propagated type to seed propagated type, there exists a wide gap in the adoption of recommended production technology of aggregatum onion propagated through seeds among the onion growers across the different districts of Tamilnadu.

It is reported that most of the onion growers are not fully knowledgeable on the improved production technologies of seed propagated aggregatum onion. Hence the study was undertaken to explore the gap in awareness, knowledge and adoption of improved production technologies of seed propagated aggregatum onion among the farmers and contributing factors responsible for the non adoption of recommended practices.
A multi stage random sampling procedure was used to select the respondents. Tiruppur district was purposively selected as there is larger area covered under seed propagated aggregatum onion as compared to other districts. At the first stage of sampling, the six blocks namely Pongalur, Kundadam, Dharapuram, Gudimangalam, Udumalpet and Madathukulam were selected. In the second stage of sampling, six villages from each block totally 36 villages were selected. And at third stage of sampling, ten farmers from each village thus totally 360 respondents were selected. Well structured interview schedule was used for data collection and they were analyzed by using of appropriate statistical tools. The salient findings of the study are detailed below.

The majority of the onion growers belonged to the old age category, most of the onion growers possessed more than secondary school educational level, practiced agriculture as main occupation, most of the farmers belonged to high level of annual income, majority of the respondents had more than ten years of onion growing experience, medium level of contact with extension agency, farm power possession, social participation, mass media exposure, high level of credit orientation, economic motivation and livestock possession among the onion growers were observed.

The age, educational status, extension agency contact mass media exposure, scientific orientation, area under onion cultivation and innovativeness are the contributing variables of awareness level. The variables namely educational status, livestock possession, social participation, extension agency contact, credit orientation, economic motivations are contributing knowledge level. Farming experience, area under onion cultivation, credit orientation, innovativeness, economic motivation and scientific orientation are the variables influenced the adoption level.

Regulated market committee, high price fluctuation, non availability of top quality of seeds, climate change and labour shortage are the major constraints experienced by the respondents. Training programme shall be organized on improved package of practices of aggregatum onion to facilitate the farmers to enhance the productivity. These were suggested by the majority of the respondents to enhance adoption of improved production technology of seed propagated aggregatum onion.