

Relationship of Farmers' Education with Adoption of Selected Citrus Growing Practices in Sargodha Tehsil

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Abstract: Citrus is one of the major fruits of Pakistan. Its importance has generally been recognized throughout the world. Punjab province contributes a major share in the total citrus production in the country. Sargodha Tehsil being the most important citrus growing area, was selected for this study. The present paper reports the relationship of education with the adoption of some selected citrus growing practices. The analysis of the data showed that education of the respondents had highly significant association with the adoption of recommended plant to plant distance, picking method, and plant protection measures.

Key words: Adoption, Education, Citrus

Introduction

Citrus fruit is playing a vital role in the economy of Pakistan by providing valuable returns through its export. It is one of the major fruits of Pakistan. Its importance has generally been recognized throughout the world. During 1999-2000, the area under citrus in Pakistan was 197000.7 hectares while 186000.8 hectares in the Punjab. Its annual production was 1943000.2 tones in Pakistan while 1859000.2 tones in the Punjab (Govt. of Pak., 2000). However, the challenge is to capture our share of the world citrus trade.

It is generally been recognized that the citrus fruit has a very bright future in Pakistan. During the last two decades the citrus fruit industry has been expanded considerably due to increasing demand of this fruit. This situation has created a great challenge for citrus growers to maximize citrus production. In order to achieve this target, they have to make use of the latest recommended horticultural technology. It is assumed that non-adoption of the recommended citrus growing practices by the growers is the major cause of low yield. Therefore, it was decided to study the relationship of independent variable (Education) with the adoption of some selected recommended practices regarding citrus growing by garden owners in Sargodha Tehsil.

Materials and Methods:

The universe of the study comprised all the citrus growers of Sargodha Tehsil. Five union councils were selected from 62 union councils at random. From each selected union council, three villages were selected at random. Eight citrus growers were selected randomly from each selected village. Thus 120 citrus growers were selected as sample for the study. The data were collected through a pre-tested interview schedule. The data were first tabulated by making a tally sheet and then Chi-square test was used to check the relationship between the independent and dependent variables.

Results and Discussion

Table 1: Relationship Between Education of the Respondents and Adoption of Recommended Plant to Plant Distance (25' x 25')

Education	Adoption		Total
	Adopter	Non-Adopter	
Illiterate	4	-	4
Up to primary	13	-	13
Up to matric	59	3	62
Up to graduation	32	9	41
Total	108	12	120
Chi-square	=	10.23**	
Significant level	=	0.01	
D.F.	=	3	

Table 1 indicates a highly significant relationship between education of the respondents and the adoption of the recommended plant to plant distance (25' X 25') by them. It means that educated farmers were more likely to be adopters of recommended plant to plant distance than those who had no education.

Similar results were found by (Shah,1992) who concluded that education had positive effect on the adoption of recommended plant to plant distance by the respondents.

Table 2: Relationship Between Education of the Respondents and Adoption of the Recommended Picking Method of Citrus Fruit with Scissors

Education	Adoption		Total
	Adopter	Non-Adopter	
Illiterate	01	3	4
Up to primary	10	3	13
Up to matric	28	34	62
Up to graduation	01	40	41
Total	108	12	120
Chi-square	=	32.75**	
Significant level	=	0.000	
D.F.	=	3	

Table 2 indicates a highly significant relationship between education of the respondents and the adoption of recommended picking method of citrus

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fruit with scissors. It means that educated farmers were more likely to adopt recommended picking method than uneducated farmers. These findings are in line with those of (Anwar, 1988) who found that education of the respondents was significantly associated with the adoption of recommended picking method.

Table 3: Relationship Between Education of Respondents and Adoption of the Recommended Plant Protection Measures

Education	Adoption		Total
	Adopter	Non-Adopter	
Illiterate	02	02	04
Up to primary	12	01	13
Up to matric	30	32	62
Up to graduation	31	10	41
Total	75	45	120
Chi-square	=	13.47**	
Significant level	=	0.0037	
D.F.	=	3.00	

Table 3 indicates a highly significant relationship between education of the respondents and the adoption of recommended plant protection measures. It may imply that educated farmers were more likely to be adopters of recommended plant protection measures than those who had little or no education. Similar results were found

by Anwar (1988) who concluded that there existed significant relationship between education of the respondents and the adoption of recommended plant protection measures.

Conclusions

The analysis of the data showed that there existed a highly significant relationship between education and the selected dependent variables i.e. adoption of recommended plant to plant distance, picking method, and plant protection measures. It may imply that educated farmers were more likely to be adopters of recommended citrus growing practices than those having little or no education.

References

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