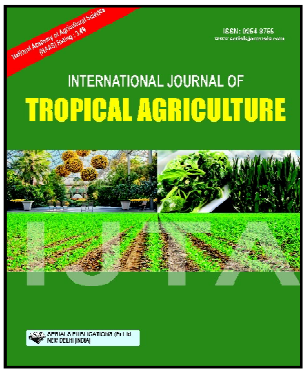

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Knowledge of Brinjal growers (*Solanum Melongea* L.) Production Technologies in Tapi District of Gujarat State

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Abstract: The present investigation was undertaken in Tapi district of South Gujarat. Total 120 brinjal growers, with minimum 3 years of experience in brinjal cultivation were selected randomly from twelve villages of selected four Talukas. A total sample size of 120 respondents were randomly selected and interviewed with the help of well structured and pretested interview schedule .The data so collected were subjected to statistical analysis using mean, frequency and percentage, based on this results were interpreted.

Key words: Improved, Technology, knowledge

INTRODUCTION

Botanical name of brinjal is *Solanum melongea* L. and it belongs to Solanaceae family and it is originated in India, Brinjal has been considered as one of the important vegetable crop of Gujarat. The brinjal growers can increase production of brinjal through the adoption of new varieties and with improved technologies. A firsthand knowledge regarding existing status of adoption of improved technology helpful to the extension workers for concentrating their efforts to create favorable condition for better adoption of the innovations of brinjal cultivation. It is expected that findings of this study may prove beneficial to know the personal, social and economical characteristics of the brinjal growers as well as the adoption of improved technology of brinjal by them.Like wise findings available from this study is useful to immense importance for planners, extension workers, administrators, teachers and students of extension education who are directly or indirectly engaged with the development of improved technology of brinjal cultivation. For the students and academicians it will serve as a guideline who wants to work on the same direction. Brinjal

has high nutritive and medicinal values. It contains about 92.3 gms moisture, 0.3 gms fat, 1.3 gms fiber, 24 kcal energy, protein 1.4 gms, minerals 0.3 gms, carbohydrates 4 gms, vitamin C 12 mgs etc per 100 gm. Brinjal also valued for its medicinal properties and has got de-cholestrolizing property primarily due to presence of poly-unsaturated fatty acid present in fresh and seed of fruit. In native medicines, role of brinjal in treatment of liver diseases, cough due to allergy etc. It can block the formation of free radicals, help in control of cholesterol level and good source of folic acid and potassium. (Salunkhe *et al.* 2017).

METHODOLOGY

The present study was conducted in tapi district of Gujarat state. An ex-post- facto research design was used.Tapi district have seven talukas namely Vyara, Songad, Valod, Kukurmunda, Ucchal, Dolvan and Nigar. Multistage random sampling was used for selection of respondent brinjal growers. At first stage, out of seven, four taluka (namely Vyara, Valod , dolvan and Songad) were selected on the basis of highest area under brinjal growers respectively. At second stage three villages per talukas were selected on the basis of discussion with the VEW and proportionate area under these villages. At last stage, ten growers per village were randomly selected. In all samples were composed of 120 brinjal growers. Simple statically tools viz, average and percentage were used to accomplish the objectives.

1. Knowledge regarding recommended brinjal cultivation technology

Table 1
Distribution of brinjal growers according to their knowledge level (n = 120)

Sr. No.	*Level of knowledge*	*Number*	*Percent*
1.	Low level of knowledge	16	13.33
2.	Medium level of knowledge	80	66.66
3.	High level of knowledge	24	20.00
	Total	**120**	**100.00**

It is observed from the table 1 that majority (66.66 per cent) of the brinjal growers had medium level of knowledge regarding recommended practices of brinjal, while 20.00 and 13.33 per cent of brinjal growers had high and low level of knowledge respectively.

Table 2
Practice wise knowledge level of brinjal growers about recommended brinjal production technology (n = 120)

Sr. No	*Recommended practices*	*Number*	*Per cent*
	1) Nursery management		
	Soil Solarization	00	0.00
	Size of nursery bed	89	74.14
	Seed rate	120	100
2)	Land preparation	120	100
3)	Time of transplanting	87	72.50
4)	Selection of seedlings	120	100
5)	Recommended variety	120	100
6)	Seed treatment / use of treated seeds	107	89.16
7)	Spacing	92	76.66
8)	Manures / FYM	106	88.33
9)	Chemical fertilizers	82	68.33
10)	Irrigation management	103	85.83
11)	Weeding		
	Manually	120	100
	Chemical	47	39.16
12)	Insect pest control	84	70.00
13)	Disease control	67	55.83
14)	Harvesting	120	100
15)	Post harvest management	120	100

It is observed from table 2 that cent per cent of the brinjal growers had high level of knowledge regarding seed rate, land preparation, selection of seedlings for transplanting, recommended verities, manual weeding, harvesting criteria and post harvest

management, followed by seed treatment (89.16 per cent), Manure and FYM (88.33 per cent), irrigation management (85.83 per cent), recommended spacing (76.66 per cent), size of nursery bed (74.17 per cent), time of transplanting (72.50 per cent), and insect pest control (70.00 per cent).

It also found that brinjal growers had medium level of knowledge regarding recommended practices of brinjal namely recommended dose of chemical fertilizers (68.33 per cent), disease control (55.83 per cent) and chemical weeding (39.16 per cent) had low level of knowledge regarding recommended practices of brinjal. While none of the brinjal growers did not know about Soil Solarization of nursery soil. (Salunkhe *et al.* 2017).

CONCLUSION

From the above discussion it could be concluded that majority of the brinjal growers were found in the had medium level of overall knowledge regarding recommended practices of brinjal. Practices wise knowledge that among the different recommended brinjal production technologies, cent per cent of the brinjal growers knowledge technologies namely land preparation, selection of seedlings for transplanting, recommended verities, manual weeding, harvesting criteria and post harvest handling, followed by seed rate and manures / FYM , seed treatment or use of treated seeds and irrigation management, recommended dose of chemical fertilizers, time of transplanting, size of nursery bed and insect pest control, respectively

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