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A Study on Scientific Attitude and Habit of Potato Growers in Jakhaniyan Block of Ghazipur (U.P)

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ABSTRACT

The present study was designed to identify scientific attitude and habit of potato growers in Jakhaniyan block of Ghazipur. Out of 238 potato growers of the 18 selected villages, 100 respondents were selected randomly with the help of proportionate sampling. Data was collected by using interview schedule. Findings of the study reveal that, maximum number of respondents (51 per cent) were having medium level of attitude regarding the potato cultivation, followed by high level of attitude and low level of attitude. Maximum number of respondents (53 per cent) were having medium level of habit followed by low level and high level of habit of the respondents. Findings of the study also reveal that, there was a significant differences between scientific attitude and habit of potato growers in the Jakhaniyan block of Ghazipur district.

Keywords *Scientific attitude, Habit, Potato growers*

Since last two decades, the rate of food production in developing countries has been increasing at the rate of 3 per cent per year. But due to steady increase in population, especially in these developing countries, food shortage has become an acute problem. In India, food grain production has increased tremendously after the green revolution and now has reached a record level of 190 million tonnes. But the target of food production for the year 2000 is 220 million tonnes. This has become a formidable task for all concerned.

The potato has been established as a crop plant since last two centuries and in its origin centre of Peru of the Titikaka region. Symbiotic representations of potato occurred on pottery in the proto-chimu period of the second century A.D. suggesting that the potato was a familiar food of the coastal people for generations before adorning their pottery. The vital role of potato is recognized on account of its merit of food potential. The potato constitutes as a dietary item in over 100 countries, testifying to the wide adaptation of this crop. The potato is the fourth most important food crop in the world. It produces, on average, more dry matter per hectare than the legumes and more than any of cereal crop except maize, which exceeds, it by some 20 per cent. In terms of its nutrition potential, the potato ranks first among the 10 major food crops in calorie production per unit area per day and second to soybeans in protein production per unit area. In India, potato is the most important vegetable in the diets of its people, both rich as well as for its nutritional values. The potato cultivation in India has made great strides during the last 46 years. There has been an increase in area, production and productivity, i.e., from a production of 9667.5 thousand tonnes from 729.2 thousand hectares in 1980-81. The production rose to 15718.0 thousand tonnes from 1075.2 thousand hectare in 1992-93. The production per hectare has almost doubled i.e. from 13258 kg's per hectare in 1980-81 to 14619 kg's per hectare in 1992-93.

The state of U.P. occupies first position in area well as production among the potato producing states in India. There is a vast scope to increase the yield of potato crop in the state of U.P. The important components of improved management for high yield are high yielding varieties, timely sowing, balanced fertilizer application, efficient water management, weed control, timely plant and protection measures of improved implements cultivation, keeping this in mind, present investigation entitled, "A Study on scientific attitude and habit of potato growers in Jakhaniyan Block of Ghazipur (U.P)", has been undertaken with the following specific objectives, 'To find out the scientific attitude and habit of potato growers' and 'To find Scientific difference among Attitude and Habit of Potato Growers

MATERIALS AND METHODS

In the present study descriptive research design was used. The study was conducted in Jakhaniyan block of Ghazipur district (U.P.). Jakhaniyan block comprises of 78 gram panchayats, out of which 18 gram panchayats were selected randomly. From each

gram panchayat one village was selected randomly for the study purpose. Out of 238 potato growers of the 18 selected villages, 100 respondents were selected randomly with the help of proportionate sampling. The statistical methods like frequency, percentage, mean and standard deviation etc. were used in the study for precise and meaningful analysis and interpretation of data collection.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Scientific attitude and habit of potato growers

Scientific Attitude

Scientific attitude is the most important outcome of science teaching and which enables us to think rationally. It is the combination of many qualities and virtues which is reflected through the behaviour and action of the person. The respondents were classified into three categories namely, high, medium and low according to their scientific attitude. The results have been presented in table

A perusal of the findings in the above table 1, shows that maximum number of respondents (51 per cent) were having medium level of attitude regarding the potato cultivation, followed by high level of attitude (25 per cent) and low level of attitude (24 per cent). So, it can be said that half of the respondents were having medium level of attitude, one fourth of them were having high and low levels of attitude towards high yielding varieties of potato cultivation.

Habit

Habit is a behaviour pattern acquired by frequent repetition or physiologic exposure that shows itself in regularity or increased facility of performance. The respondents were classified into three categories namely, high, medium and low according to their habit. Distribution of respondents according to their habit has been presented in table

The findings in the table 2 show that maximum number of respondents (53 per cent) were having medium level of habit, whereas 29 per cent of them were having low level and only 18 per cent of the respondents were having high level of habits..

Table 1: Distribution of respondents according to their scientific attitude

S. No	Level of attitude	No. of respondents	Percentage
1.	High >(x+ S.D.)	25	25
2.	Medium (x+ S.D.)	51	51
3.	Low <(x- S.D.)	24	24
	Total	100	100

Mean (x) = 63.55 S.D. = 18.29

Table 2: distribution of respondents according to their habit

S. No	Level of habit	No. of respondents	Percentage
1.	High >(x+ S.D.)	18	18
2.	Medium (x+ S.D.)	53	53
3.	Low <(x- S.D.)	29	29
	Total	100	

Mean (x) = 33.52 S.D. = 8.54

Table 3: Significance of the mean difference between scientific attitude and habit of potato growers

S. No	Respondent category	Score		'z' value of the test statistics
		Mean	S.D.	
1	Scientific attitude	63.55	18.29	10.88**
2	Habit	33.52	8.54	

**Significant at 0.01 level of probability

In this study Table 3 shows that there is a significant difference between scientific attitude and habit of potato growers. This may be due to fact that the concept related to scientific attitude and habit are different. Habits are not governed by attitude and attitudes are not governed by habit because of this there might be difference between scientific attitude and habit.

CONCLUSION

From the above findings it conclude that, maximum number of respondents (51 per cent) were having medium level of attitude regarding the potato cultivation, followed by high level of attitude and low level of attitude. Maximum number of respondents (53 per cent) were having medium level of habit followed by low level and high level of habit of the respondents. From the above finding it clearly came to know that, there was a significant differences between scientific attitude and habit of potato growers in the Jakhaniyan block of Ghazipur (U.P.)

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