

IMPACT OF FLD CONDUCTED ON PLANT PROTECTION SCHEDULE AND USE OF CERTIFIED SEED IN THE YIELD OF POTATO

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Abstract: In Surguja district of Northern Hilly zone of Chhattisgarh, potato is grown as *rabi* and *kharif* also, The use of seed treatment and recommended plant protection schedule like 3 sprays of recommended pesticides for management of major diseases (i.e. –blight *Phytophthora* wilt etc) and insect pest, (i.e. Potato tuber moth aphids & sucking pest) will achieve the expected yield of potato. The present study was carried out during the year 2012-15 in Surguja district of Chhattisgarh state. Findings of the study showed the data significantly indicated that before Front line demonstration (FLD), the majority of respondents were (57.14 to 74.28 per cent) in the category of low level of knowledge for various aspects of study. With respect to knowledge level in medium category in each aspect of plant protection, remaining respondents were included and the share of respondents ranged between 25.72 per cent to 42.86 per cent. There was a rise in the number of respondents in middle level of knowledge from low level and the respondents belonging to this category after FLDs ranged between 49.00 to 51.42 per cent as against 25.71 to 42.86 per cent before FLDs. 22.85 to 43.29 per cent respondents become successful in acquiring high level of knowledge pertaining to the various aspects of plant protection in potato production. There was increase in the number of respondents in middle level of adoption and the respondents belonging to this category after FLDs ranged between 37.14 to 54.28 per cent as against 22.86 to 37.14 per cent before FLDs. 22.86 to 37.14 per cent respondents become successful in acquiring high level of adoption pertaining to the various aspects of plant protection in potato production after FLDs. With respect to various aspects of certified seed of potato, the FLDs helped the respondents to improve their knowledge. There was increase in no of respondents in high knowledge level and medium knowledge level category and reduction of respondents in low knowledge level category. With respect to adoption level in medium category in each aspect of use of certified seed of potato remaining respondents were included and the share of respondents ranged between 17.14 to 54.28 per cent. Data further revealed that average yield before FLD were 70q/ha⁻¹. However it increased to 110q/ha⁻¹ and increase in yield was 57% after FLDs. Problems faced by respondents regarding use of plant protection schedule indicated that maximum number of respondents had problems about uncertain weather condition like frost, rainfall and hailstorm (97.14%) followed by Disease infestation especially early and late blight of potato (88.57%) respectively. Problems faced by respondents regarding use of certified seed maximum respondents having problems of more demand of local red variety of potato by consumer (100.00%) and more cost of seed potato(100.00%) both followed by non availability of certified seed of potato in market and lack of facility of cold storage(94.28%) both.

Keyword: FLDs, Potato, Surguja districts (C.G.)

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