

A Study on Lime Cultivation in Bijapur District

Bijapur in Karnataka is a major lime growing district with an area of 1600 ha producing 2400 tonnes during 1986-87. The average yield per plant per year (800 fruits) is less compared to the expected yield of 1000-2000 fruits. There is scope for increasing the production of lime by increasing per hectare yield through adoption of modern technology. Hence, a study was undertaken to gather information on lime cultivation practices followed and constraints involved in its cultivation.

The study was conducted during the year 1988-89 in Indi taluk of Bijapur district which occupied first place in area and production among 11 taluks of the district. One hundred and fifty randomly selected farmers belonged to 10 villages which were selected among the villages listed based on the criterion that village should have 10 ha and more area under lime cultivation.

Adoption of practice

Results revealed that cent per cent respondents planted Kagzi lime, a recommend variety. Sixty four per cent of the respondents had used purchased seedlings for planting in their orchards as against 36 per cent who used self raised seedlings. Among those who used self raised seedlings, 74 per cent followed recommended spacing in the nursery. None of the respondents had practiced important nursery practices—transplanting the seedlings to secondary seed bed and plant protection measures.

Sixty three per cent of the respondents adopted larger pit size (3' x 3' x 3') than recommended (2' x 2' x 2') while 73 per cent followed larger spacing (10' x 18') than the recommended one (15' x 15'). In both practices,

only about 3 per cent of the respondents adopted less than recommendations.

The contents of Table 1 indicated that majority (66%) of the respondents applied FYM before planting as against 34 per cent who did not apply it. Similar trend could also be observed in the application of FYM in subsequent years of planting i.e. upto 6 years after planting and during the year 1989.

Table 1 Distribution of respondents according to the quantity of FYM applied
(n = 150)

FYM applied	Number	Per-centage
A) FYM applied before planting upto 15 kg/pit.		
15 to 20 kg/pit	95	63.33
Not applied	4	2.67
	51	34.00
	150	100.00
B) Subsequent years of planting (Upto 6 years)		
25-65 kg/plant	98	65.34
75-105 kg/plant	44	29.33
Not applied	8	5.33
	150	100.00
C) Application in the year 1989 (Cart load/acre/year)		
Upto 25 cartloads	126	83.99
25 to 30 cartloads	11	7.34
> 30 cart loads	11	7.34
Not applied	2	1.33
	150	100.00

Eighty per cent of the respondents applied all the three nutrients (NPK) but not as per recommended levels.

All the respondents had followed after-care practices like training, staking, hand weeding, irrigation and intercropping while plant protection operations were practiced by 85 per cent (Table 2) of the respondents.

Table 2 Distribution of respondents based on after-care practices followed.

(n = 150)

Practice	Number	Per-centage
Training	150	100.00
Staking	150	100.00
Hand weeding (No. of times in a year)		
1 to 2	58	38.67
3 to 4	87	58.00
4	5	3.33
Intercropping		
Upto 3 years	10	6.67
Upto 4 years	85	56.67
Upto 5 years	54	36.00
No intercropping	1	0.66
Irrigation frequency		
4 to 5 days	6	4.00
6 to 7 days	130	86.67
12 to 15 days	14	9.33
Plant protection		
Followed	128	85.33
Not followed	22	14.67

Constraints involved in lime cultivation

Low prices during rainy season was the most serious constraint involved in lime cultivation as it was expressed by all the respondents. This is quite true because in rainy season there will be glut followed by less demand and low consumption which results in decline of price and hence the producers will be put to loss. Therefore this constraint needs immediate attention. The other serious constraint was 'Problem of canker disease' as it was expressed by 92 per cent of the respondents. Canker is a serious disease affecting lime and it occurs recurrently in the study area and it leads to deterioration of fruit quality thereby affecting the market value of the produce. Therefore efforts have to be made by all the concerned to produce and supply canker free seedlings to the lime growers. Other important constraints involved in lime cultivation as expressed by farmers were non-availability of FYM in sufficient quantity (63 per cent), non-availability of credit and guidance on cultivation of lime (57 per cent) and irregular supply of electricity (47 per cent). These problems suggest the need to educate farmers about the use of alternatives in place of FYM, arrangements to provide adequate amount of loan in time with technical guidance and regular supply of electricity in the hours specified to supply electricity to run irrigation pumpsets.

Department of Agril. Extension
UAS, Dharwad

S. H. GOTYAL
B. SUNDARSWAMY
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