

Indigenous Technical Knowledge Practices Under Rainfed Agriculture in Assam

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Abstract

Indigenous technical knowledge (ITK) is the accumulated skill and technology of a locality or a community that has been passed on from one generation to another generation. The present study is an effort to gather ITK adopted by the farmers in eight districts of Assam in Northeast India who have been pursuing organic agriculture in the light of the hazards of chemical pesticides posing serious threats to humans, animals and the environment. The information was collected using both structural schedule and semi-structured interview. The paper deals with various problems faced by farmers during cultivation of rice, vegetables, fruits (citrus, mango), and coconut as well as during storage. The study reveals that many of the indigenous practices, which are still in vogue, meet the farmers' needs in minimizing risks in rainfed situations. The percentage of farmers practicing different ITK practices ranged from 12.7% to 86.4%. Identification of scientifically sound indigenous practices will be helpful to the scientists in technology blending program and in generation of low-cost, location-specific, and appropriate technology.