

## Impact of front line demonstrations on yield and economics of onion

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### ABSTRACT

Problems of onion crop production and their solutions at farming situations were studied with the participation of farmers. In this regard, under technology development and refinement, front line demonstrations for three years on onion was conducted at different locations in Haveri district. These demonstrations focused on increased productivity of onion per unit area and to get the feed back from farmers on the performances of improved onion variety. The study revealed that over the years Arka Kalyan variety has performed superior over local check. The gross returns, net returns and B:C ratio recorded were highest in Arka Kalyan compared to local check.

**KEY WORDS :** Frontline demonstrations, Technology gap, Extension gap, B: C ratio

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### INTRODUCTION

Onion consumption is spread throughout the year and there is constant demand for onion bulb around the year. However, production of onion fluctuates from year to year. The low production results in hike of prices which creates discomfort among consumers. The middlemen are taking undue advantage of this situation and exploiting both producers and consumers.

Onion (*Allium cepa* L.), belongs to family Alliaceae. The synonymous are *Earulli*, *Ulladaddi*, *Piyaz*, *Kanda*. It is one of the important commercial vegetable crops produced in India for both domestic consumption and export. It is used both in green and mature stage for salad and spice in a variety of flavoured dishes and soups. It is very important in cooking; hence it is called the "Queen of kitchen" by Germans.

India is in second position after China in production. Karnataka contributes a major area in South India. Onion is produced in the states of Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Orissa, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Rajasthan. The productivity of onion is much low in India than the world average (Pandey, 2000; Lawande, 2005). Haveri district in north Karnataka is an important onion growing district. Even in Haveri

district yield levels are lower than the state average (Anonymous, 2008). However, the technological break through has no doubt recorded greater strides in augmenting onion production and productivity. But the insufficient and improper extension activities are the major factors resulting in non-adoption of improved package developed at research institutions. Further, the replacement ratio of traditional varieties with improved varieties and non-availability of sufficient quantity of quality seeds of improved variety in time, are the major constraints in onion cultivation. Hence, with these views in mind the present investigation was undertaken to evaluate the performance of onion variety Arka Kalyan with local variety through front line demonstrations.

### METHODS

The study was conducted in Haveri district of north Karnataka (Under large scale demonstrations). Improved onion variety, Arka Kalyan was introduced through front line demonstrations project of Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Hanumanamatti from 2005-06 to 2007-08 in different locations of Haveri district. Each demonstration was conducted in an area of 0.4 ha. Adjacent to this the local variety was also grown for comparison. The data were

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