



Research Note

Performance of quality protein maize (QPM) variety Shaktiman-4 in Muzaffarpur district of Bihar

VIRESH KUMAR, DINESH RAI, AJAY KUMAR AND MRITUNJAY KUMAR

Abstract : To demonstrate the productivity potentials and profitability of maize production technology, FLDs were originated under real farm situations with irrigation through AICRP(Maize) initiatives. It was found that the extent of adoption of farmers towards improved maize production technology, productivity and profitability of maize were significantly improved as an impact of maize FLDs.

Key Words : Front line demonstrations, Maize impact

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India is the fifth largest producer of maize in the world contributing 3 per cent of the global production. Being a potential field crop in India, maize occupies an important place as a source of human food (26%), animal feed (11%), poultry feed (48%), industrial products (12%) and 3% seed. Maize is an important food, fodder and feed crop of Bihar. It is grown throughout the year in all the seasons viz., *Rabi*, *Kharif*, Spring and Summer. It is an important crop of Muzaffarpur district and largely grown under irrigated conditions. Maize plays a vital role in improving the socio-economic conditions of the farming community of Muzaffarpur district. Shaktiman-4 was released in the year 2004. It is high yielding full seasonal maturity and yellow grained variety. It is QPM variety have triptophane and lysine, tolerant to diseases. The average yield of Shaktiman-4 is 90q/ha.

To ascertain the constraints encountered by maize growers of this area, a multidisciplinary team of scientists of AICRP maize carried out a bench mark survey. The results of the survey revealed following facts, (i) majority of the farmers were cultivated local/ composite varieties of maize. (ii) local varieties are less yielding and susceptible to pest and diseases. (iii) maize growers were using higher seed rates i.e. 30kg/ha as they use their own seed for sowing. (iv) planting at a closer spacing within the line resulting in to over plant population and lower yield. Average yield of maize (Local varieties/ composite) is about 40-50q/ha (vi) Market value of the local varieties is less because small size of cob and (vii) farmers were not satisfied with yield as well colour of grain of maize.

Considering the above facts, AICRP(Maize) had initiated the programme of development of high yielding hybrid varieties and tolerant to insect pest. The objective was to popularize high yielding varieties by supplying pure seeds to farmers on regular basis and there by increase the productivity of maize in the Muzaffarpur district. It has been planned to cover at least 25 per cent of the area under maize in the surrounding village with increasing the productivity and profitability /unit area. The training programmes especially on production technology of high yielding hybrid

MEMBERS OF RESEARCH FORUM

Author of the Correspondence :

DINESH RAI, Department of Plant Breeding (AICRP on Maize), Tirhut College of Agriculture, Dholi, MUZAFFARPUR (BIHAR) INDIA

Address of the Coopted Authors :

VIRESH KUMAR, AJAY KUMAR AND MRITUNJAY KUMAR, Department of Plant Breeding (AICRP on Maize), Tirhut College of Agriculture, Dholi, MUZAFFARPUR (BIHAR) INDIA