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Performance of front line demonstration on greengram and blackgram in Salem district of Tamil Nadu, India

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ABSTRACT

Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Salem (T.N.) facilitated front line demonstration (FLD) funded by ICAR (TOT) with performing improved technologies in different villages of Salem district during 2003-06. Farmers were selected randomly and demonstration done in their field itself. Critical inputs were distributed to the farmers. In case of local check plots existing practices being used by farmers were followed. During the period under study it was observed that yield of demonstration was significantly higher (greengram: 563 kg/ha blackgram: 523 kg/ha) than local check plots (greengram: 415kg/ha blackgram: 414 kg/ha). However, fluctuations were observed mainly an account of variation in rainfall in terms of percentage yield improvement in demonstration was recorded from 33.8 to 36.8 % in greengram 20.3 to 28.4 % in blackgram over local check. In field days, FLD farmers well explained the cultivation practices followed and experiences also shared among the farmers. Yield potential can be increased to a great extent by conducting effective front line demonstrations with proven technologies. The technologies suitable for the Tamil Nadu similar to Salem district of Tamil Nadu should be evolved and brought to the access of farmers transfer centres like KVKs.

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INTRODUCTION

Greengram [*Phaseolus radiatus* (L.)] commonly known as golden gram is one of the most important short duration pulse crops is India. It ranks third among all pulses grown in India. The seeds are highly nutrious with protein (23-24%).

Blackgram (*Phaseolus mungo or Azukia mungo or Vigna mungo*) also known as urd bean, black mapte etc. is grown in cropping systems as a mixed,catch and sequential crop. Its seed are highly nutritious with protein (25-26 %) (Sharma, 2003).

Key words : Greengram, Blackgram, Front line demonstration, Flower shedding.

Table 1: Area, production and productivity of green and blackgram in Salem district of Tamil Nadu

Crop	Tamil Nadu			Salem		
	Area(ha)	Production tonnes	Productivity (kg/ha)	Area ha	Production tonnes	Productivity (kg/ha)
Greengram	154959	61760	399	3165	2143	677
Blackgram	226364	82998	367	3019	1683	558

In Salem district, average productivity is high when compared to other districts. Even though majority of the farmers could not able to get such a yield due to the following constraints faced by the farmers in green and blackgrams.

Constraints in green and blackgram production:

Biological:

The biological constraints include indeterminate growth habit, unproductive plant type, flower and pod shedding, low harvesting index and shattering habit.

Agro ecological:

These crops two are mainly cultivated as rainfed crops under marginal and submarignal conditions without any inputs mostly by poor farmers. Thus, they are subjected to uncertain insufficient rainfall, harsh environments and other abiotic stresses like drought, poor soil condition and fertility status.Managerial insufficient extension activities is the major factor resulting in non adopting of integrated production technology and improved crop management practices, developed at research institutions. Replacement ratio of old cultivar with new cultivars and quality seed is very poor.

Socio-economic:

Although there have been markedly increase in price, even then grams remain poor competitors to cereals, oilseeds and other cash

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