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Impact of frontline demonstration of pigeonpea in transfer of improved technology

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ABSTRACT

Pigeonpea is an important pulse crop of Madhya Pradesh. It is also one of the most important pulse crop of Raisen district of Madhya Pradesh. Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Raisen (M.P.) conducted 60 frontline demonstration of pigeonpea crop. The results were compared with full package of practices *viz*., improved variety, seed rate, proper spacing, plant population, balance fertilizers, plant protection etc. and farmers practices included local/old variety, no seed treatment with fungicides, improper spacing and imbalance use of fertilizers.

The FLD in pigeonpea registered 43.67per cent higher yield over farmers practice on an average. The highest yield (17.0 ha^{-1}) was recorded in the year 2008-09 in FLD, which was 37.65per cent more over the farmers practices (12.35q ha^{-1}). Average extension gap was recorded 4.13 q ha^{-1} and average technology index was recorded 31.53per cent. The technology gap ranged between 4.65 q ha^{-1} to 7.85 q ha^{-1}. On an average technology gap under 5 years FLD programme was 6.36 q ha^{-1}. The results indicated that the frontline demonstration has given a good impact over the farming community of Raisen district as they were motivated by the new agricultural technology applied in the FLD plots.

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INTRODUCTION

Pigeonpea is the most important pulse crop in India, which accounts for 90per cent of the world pigeonpea production (Nene and Sheila, 1990). Among important pulse crops in India, pigeonpea ranks second next to chickpea. It is one of the important pulse crops in Madhya Pradesh. The lower yield of pigeonpea in the region are attributed to the non-availability of improved cultivars that are sensitive to the pest and diseases, which change in the climate for a short period, in addition to the crop and land management practices. In India, pigeonpea is attacked by more than 200 species of insect pests, among which the pod borer (*Helicoverpa armigera*) causes enormous losses (Anonymous, 1987). The pigeonpea wilt Fusarium udune is also a serious disease, which causes mortality of seedlings up to 15-25 per cent in normal year.

Among the different agronomic practices, date of sowing, crop geometry (row spacing), seed treatment, plant population and crop management practices play an important role in determining the yield of pigeonpea. The basic objectives of FLD are the speedy spread of new technology of pigeonpea in the Raisen district.

METHODOLOGY

The present study was carried out by the Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Raisen (M.P.) during *Kharif* seasons from 2004-05 to 2008-09 in farmers field of 3 adopted villages *viz*., Baroda, Bankhedi and Hinotiya Mahalpur. The area under each demonstration was 0.40 ha. (1acre). In the demonstration on control plot was also kept where farmer's practice was carried out. The improved package of practices *viz*., improved variety (JA-4), seed treatment, spacing recommended dose of fertilizers and plant protection management were demonstrated on the farmers field through frontline demonstration in different locations. Materials for the present study with respect of FLD and farmers practices are

Key words : Pigeonpea, Frontline demonstration, Transfer of technology

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