



Research Article

Boosting summer mungbean production through frontline demonstration

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SUMMARY : Among the different transfer of technologies, Front line demonstration (FLD) is one of the most powerful tools to disseminate the latest technologies or crop varieties to the farmers through Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs'). Keeping in view of an effective extension approach of FLDs for dissemination of summer mungbean technology, FLDs on mungbean were conducted in different villages of Ambala district in Haryana state during 2006 to 2011 at farmers' fields. Rice-wheat cropping system is prevalent in the Indo-Gangetic plains for the last three or more decades. The continuous dominance of rice-wheat cropping sequence in irrigated agro-ecosystem particularly in Punjab and Haryana has resulted in many types of agro-ecological problems viz., depleting status of soil physical, chemical and biological health, herbicide resistant in wheat, excessive use of water resources and over exploitation of underground water. The practice of cultivation of summer rice has further worsened the situation. The burning of combine-harvested residues of both rice and wheat has altered the biological properties of soil resulting in decrease of nutrient use efficiency and decrease of organic matter. The all-apparent consequences of this cropping system are reflected in either stagnating or decreasing productivity of rice and wheat crops. There is great scope of judicious utilization of fields vacated by wheat before transplanting of rice during summer. The summer mungbean can be easily infused in rice-wheat cropping sequence.

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Front line, demonstration, Pulse, Mungbean, Average yield, Net returns

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

Mungbean (*Vigna radiata* L.) or green gram which commonly known as Moong is an important pulse crop grown in our country. Mungbean is generally of short duration crop compared to other pulses and is easily accommodated in most of the crop rotations which provides a small niche between two major crops during summer or *Kharif*. Mungbean is delicious pulse and is considered as first choice among pulses particularly in northern parts of the country. Green gram is generally recommended by doctors for growing children, old persons and patients due to its easy digestibility. Eating mungbean sprouts is indeed a very important part of healthy eating. Half a cup of almost any sprouted seed provides vitamin C equivalent to six glasses of orange juice. Therefore, a plateful of sprouted moong Chat and Salads is a tasty and healthy way of getting daily dose of

vitamins. Mungbean is also a good source of protein thiamin, iron, magnesium, phosphorus, potassium, copper, folate and manganese (Kokate *et al.*, 2010).

Mungbean plant is annual, herbaceous, erect or semi-erect, 45-120 cm tall, sometimes with slight tendency of twining. Numerous slightly hairy peduncle, straight pods around 10 cm long without a beak are produced on each flowering axis, they are often pendant and each contains 10-15 green or golden yellow seeds which have flat white hilum. The germination of mungbean is epigeal. Being a tropical crop, it cannot tolerate low temperature. It thrives well at 25-35°C. It is grown in our country during *Kharif*. But it is also grown in spring or summer season in irrigated northern plains and as a *Rabi* crop in southern and south-eastern parts, where the winter is quite mild. The grains (whole or split) are used as *dal* or to make flour. The straw and husk are used as

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