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Research Article

Impact of frontline demonstration on lentil in Ambala district of Haryana

AFZAL AHMAD, RAMESH KUMAR AND GURU PREM

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SUMMARY : Lentil is an important pulse crop of Haryana. Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Tepla, Ambala conducted 28 frontline demonstrations in different villages on lentil. The results were compared with full package of practices *viz.,* improved variety, seed treatment, seed inoculation, recommended dose of fertilizer, use of SSP fertilizer and plant protection management etc. and farmer practices included local or old variety, no seed treatment, no seed inoculation and imbalance and wrong choice of fertilizer. The FLD on lentil registered 24.51 per cent higher yield over farmers practice on an average. The highest yield (13.75 qt/ha) was recorded in the year 2009-2010 in FLD, which was 23.64 per cent more over the farmers practice (10.50 qt/ha.). Average extension gap was recorded 2.09 qt/ha. and average technology index was recorded 28.49 per cent. The technology gap ranged from 1.75 qt/ha. to 8.75 qt/ha. On an average, technology gap was 4.05 qt/ha.

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Key Words :
Lentil, Frontline demonstration, Extension gap, Technology gap

Author for correspondence :
AFZAL AHMAD
Department of Agronomy, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Tepla, AMBALA (HARYANA) INDIA
Email: afzal_ahmad76@yahoo.com
See end of the article for authors' affiliations

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

Lentil (*Lens culinaris*) is one of the oldest pulse crops and most nutritious among the *Rabi* pulses. India ranks first in the world in respect of production as well as acreage. In India, it is mainly cultivated in Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Bihar and West Bengal. These states together contribute 85 per cent of area and 90 per cent production of lentil. However, the average productivity is significantly poor being only 714 kg/ha. below the world average of 1008 kg/ha. Annual species of the genus *Lens viz., L. culinaris* Medik has been divided into two sub species of *macrosperma* and *microsperma* mainly on the basis of seed size. Lentil originated in Near East and Mediterranean region (Kumar and Srivastava, 2007).

Lentil is generally grown in rainfed crop during *Rabi* after rice, maize and pearl millet. In intercropping it is mainly grown with barley and mustard. It is also grown as an inter crop in autumn planted sugarcane. In north-eastern plains, it is also grown as *utera* crop after rice. The seed are broadcast in standing crop of rice just before harvest (Anonymous, 2008).

The lower yields of lentil in Ambala region are attributed to the non-availability of improved cultivars that are sensitive to the pest and diseases and crop and land management practices. 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 lentil. The basic objectives of FLD are the speedy spread of new technology of lentil in Ambala district.

RESOURCES AND METHODS

The present study was carried out by Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Tepla, Ambala (Haryana) during *Rabi* seasons from 2005-2006 to 2010-2011 at farmers' fields of adopted villages namely, Akbarpur, Harda, Jawahargarh, Dhurala, Gola, Goli, Sambhlkha and Chudiala. The area under each demonstration was 0.40 ha (1 acre). In the demonstration one control plot was also kept where farmers' practice was carried out. The improved package of practices like use of improved and recommended varieties, seed treatment, seed