



Research Article

Demonstration - An effective technology for increasing the productivity of cumin

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SUMMARY : The present study was conducted in Gudhamalani, Panchayat Samiti, Barmer district of Rajasthan. From Panchayat Samiti was selected maximum number (70) of Front Line Demonstrations on cumin crop conducted by Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Danta, Barmer district during the last five years (2006-07 to 2010-11). The results revealed that the average yield recorded in the FLDs field and farmer's field was 5.93 and 4.35 q/ha⁻¹ during 2010-2011, respectively and FLDs field and farmer's field lowest yield was 4.22 and 3.41 q/ha⁻¹ during 2006-2007, respectively. The result showed 23 to 37 per cent yield increase in FLDs over farmers practice during 2006-07 to 2010-2011. Therefore, front line demonstration programme was an effective tool for increasing the productivity of cumin and changing knowledge, attitude and skill of farmers. This created greater awareness and motivated the other farmers to adopt improved practices of cumin.

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Key Words :

Cumin, Front line demonstration, Productivity, Production

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

Cumin (*Cuminum cyminum* L.) commonly known as Jeera is an important seed spice crop grown in western part of India. It is mainly used in flavouring foods and also used in Ayurvedic medicines. It is a tropical plant and grows well in Gujarat and Rajasthan which the major cumin growing states in the country. High humidity during flowering and fruit set, causes fungal diseases in its crop. The yield of cumin crop is adversely affected by incidence of wilt and blight diseases and attack of aphid. Cumin can be cultivated in all types of soils but well drained sandy loam and medium loam soils are suitable for the crop. Cumin is the major *Rabi* season crop of Barmer district.

The Department of Agriculture, Govt. of India had established a "Technology Mission on Seed Spices" in 1991-1992 to achieve self-sufficiency in seed spices production. Under this mission, the ICAR introduced the concept of "Front Line Demonstration" during 1990-1991. These demonstrations are conducted under the close supervision of scientists of the NARS, Krishi Vigyan Kendras and State Agricultural Universities

and of two to four hectares of land. The FLDs is an important method of transfer of latest package of practices in totality to farmers and main objective of this programme is demonstration of newly released crop production and protection technologies and management practices at the farmer's field under real farming situation at his own field under different agro-climate regions. Though, the farmers learn the latest technology that may lead to higher production or adoption. Realizing the importance of Front Line Demonstration in transfer of latest technologies through KVKs, the present study has been undertaken to study the difference between demonstration package and farmers practices of cumin and to assess effect of FLDs technology on increasing the productivity of cumin.

RESOURCES AND METHODS

The present study was conducted in Gudhamalani, Panchayat Samiti, Barmer district of Rajasthan. This Panchayat Samiti was selected maximum number (70) of Front Line Demonstrations on cumin crop were conducted

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