



Effect of front line demonstrations on enhancing productivity of mustard

GURDARSHAN SINGH, N.S DHALIWAL, JAGMOHAN SINGH AND KARAMJIT SHARMA

SUMMARY

The productivity of mustard in India is quite low owing to adoption gaps in recommended technologies and application of critical inputs. It is imperative to demonstrate high yielding mustard varieties with resistance against biotic and abiotic stresses to increase the overall production and productivity under close supervision of the scientists. KVK Muktsar conducted front line demonstrations on mustard during 2005-06, 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 to compare the yield levels of mustard under farmers' practice and FLD fields and to collect feedback information for further improvement in research and extension programmes. The results obtained from five years data revealed that average yield of mustard varieties under FLDs was 14.33 q/ha as against 12.13 q/ha observed under farmer's practice, thereby recording an average yield increase of 17.87 per cent under FLDs as compared to farmers' practices.

Singh, Gurdarshan, Dhaliwal, N.S., Singh, Jagmohan and Sharma, Karamjit (2011). Effect of front line demonstrations on enhancing productivity of mustard. *Asian J. Soil Sci.*, 6(2): 230-233.

KEY WORDS : Front line demonstrations, Mustard, Productivity, Adoption gaps

In spite of best efforts, rapeseed-mustard cultivation is not being taken up by the farmers extensively and cropped area under these crops is quite less as compared to other crops in India. The production and productivity of these crops leaves much to be desired. Lack of improved seeds of high yielding varieties, under dose of fertilizers, insect-pests and diseases are the limiting factors for decline in yield. The Government of India spends lot of foreign exchange to import edible oil from foreign countries to meet domestic needs of our ever increasing population. To boost the production potential of rapeseed-mustard, various programmes have been launched by the central government. Conduct of front line demonstrations (FLDs) is one of the important activities to realize the production potential of rapeseed-mustard through the adoption of innovative technologies.

The Krishi Vigyan Kendras are acting as light house to the farming community. One of the chief mandates of KVKs is to conduct front line demonstrations (FLDs). It is the new concept of field demonstration evolved by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research with the inception of Technology Mission on oilseed crops during mid-eighties. The field demonstrations conducted under the

close supervision of the scientists of the National Agriculture Research System are known as FLDs because the technologies are demonstrated for the first time by the scientists themselves before being fed into the main extension system of State Department of Agriculture. The main objective of FLDs is to demonstrate newly released crop production and protection technologies and its management practices at the farmers' fields under different agro-climatic regions and farming situations.

Rapeseed-mustard crops in India are grown in diverse agro climatic conditions ranging from north-eastern / north western hills to down south under irrigated/rainfed, timely/late sown, saline soils and mixed cropping. Indian mustard accounts for about 75-80 per cent of the 5.8 m ha under these crops in the country during 2009-10 crop seasons. The contribution of rapeseed-mustard to the total oilseed acreage and production is 23.7 per cent and 26.0 per cent, respectively. During 2009-10, rapeseed-mustard contributed 25.9 per cent and 22.0 per cent to the total oilseeds production and acreage, respectively. India account for 21.7 per cent and 10.7 per cent of the total acreage and production (FAO 2010). The productivity

Address of the corresponding author :

JAGMOHAN SINGH, Department of Soil Science, Krishi Vigyan Kendra (P.A.U.), MUKTSAR (PUNJAB) INDIA

Email : jagmohanpau@gmail.com

Address of the co-authors :

GURDARSHAN SINGH, N.S. DHALIWAL AND KARAMJIT SHARMA, Krishi Vigyan Kendra (P.A.U.), MUKTSAR (PUNJAB) INDIA