



Research Article

Frontline demonstration- An effective tool for enhancing gram productivity

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Summary

The present study was conducted across 20 villages in Muktsar district of South- Western Punjab with the objectives to study the difference between demonstrated package of practices *viz-a- viz*, practices followed by the local farmers in gram crop and the effect of FLDs on production performance of gram. The primary data were collected from the selected farmers with the help of interview schedule and interpreted and presented in terms of percentage, the qualitative data were converted into quantitative form and expressed in terms of per cent increased yield. Thus, a total sample size comprised of 45 respondents from 20 villages across Muktsar district wherein, FLDs were conducted by KVK Muktsar. Forty five frontline demonstrations were conducted by KVK Muktsar from the year 2005-06 to 2009-10. The results of the study revealed that the average yield of gram under FLD plots varied between 13.26 to 16.99 q/ha, whereas, under the farmers' practice, it varied between 11.66 to 15.65 q/ha. The FLD plots recorded 11.27 to 18.5 per cent increase in yield, with sole exception of year 2009-10, which recorded a decrease in per cent yield of 8.31 per cent in demonstrated plots over the farmers' practice. It was due to the fact that the performance of desi gram variety GPF-2 under the farmers' practice was better than Kabuli gram variety BG-1053 under demonstration due to its' better tolerance to high pH soils of Muktsar district. The increment in yield of gram crop under front line demonstrations was due to dissemination of improved and latest technology *viz.*, HYV, recommended seed rate, fertilization and plant protection measure.

Key words : Frontline demonstration, Farmers' practice, HYV, Latest technology

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Introduction

India has been a net importer of pulses. The domestic production of pulses has been around 14-14.8 million tonnes during the last three years while the demand is estimated at around 17-18 million tonnes (Economic Survey 2009-10). According to Roy (2006), in the past five decades pulses production has not kept up with growth in demand calling for import to the tune of 0.5 to 1.5 million tones. Gram is an important *Rabi* pulse crop of Punjab occupying an area of 2.9 thousand hectares and production of 3.4 thousand tones in the year 2008-09. This crop has an important role in realizing our aim of sustainable agriculture through biological nitrogen fixation.

The Government of India had established a "Technology

Mission on Pulses" in the year 1991-1992 with the objective to enhance the pulse production and productivity. The concept of first line demonstrations was put forth under this mission. These demonstrations are conducted under the close supervision of scientists of Krishi Vigyan Kendras, SAUs and their Regional Research Stations. The FLD is an important tool for transfer of latest package of practices in totality to farmers and the main objective of this programme is to demonstrate newly released crop production and protection technologies and management practices at the farmers' field under real farming situation. Through this practice, the newly improved innovative technology having higher production potential under the specific cropping system can be popularized and simultaneously feedbacks from the farmers