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### Research Article

# Front line demonstration – An effective tool for increasing the productivity of summer moong in Amritsar district of Punjab

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## **Summary**

The productivity of pulse crops continues to be quite low due to technological gaps in adoption of pulse technologies and other factors also. The yield of pulses could be increased by demonstrating their cultivation technologies at the farmer's fields under the supervision of scientists working in the operational area. The present study was conducted across 19 villages in Amritsar district of Punjab. Sixty front line demonstrations were conducted by KVK Amritsar from the year 2006 to 2010 during the *Kharif* seasons. The results of the study revealed that the average yield of summer moong in FLD plots sown after potato crop was highest (12.37q/ha) followed by summer moong sown after pea crop (11.61 q/ha). The least yield of 9.14 q/ha was obtained in the summer moong sown after wheat crop. Similarly the average yield of summer moong in farmer practice sown after potato crop was highest (10.81q/ha) followed by summer moong sown after pea crop (10.27 q/ha). The least yield of 7.93 q/ha was obtained in the summer moong sown after wheat crop. The increment in yield of moong crop after different crops is due to different sowing time and different fertility status of soil under these crops. The higher yields in front line demonstrations were due to dissemination of improved and latest technology *viz.*, HYV, recommended seed rate, fertilization and plant protection measures.

Key words: Front line demonstrations, Technological gaps, Adoption, Moong

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#### Introduction

India is the largest producer and consumer of pulses in the world, accounting for about 25 per cent of global production, 27 per cent of consumption, and 34 per cent of food use (FAO, 2004). It is also the top importer, with an eleven per cent share of world imports, although imports have only accounted for about 6 per cent of domestic consumption. The domestic production of pulses was around 14.8 million tonnes over the last three years while the demand hovered around 17-18 million tonnes (Economic survey, 2009-10). According to Roy *et al.* (2006), in the past five decades pulses production has not risen up with increase in demand calling for import to the tune of 0.5 to 1.5 million tonnes. Pulse production in India has fluctuated widely with no long-term trend, leading to a steady decline

in per capita availability over the past 20 years.

The pulse production targeted to be 32 million tonnes with productivity of 850 kg/ha for the period 2007-2012 by Govt. of India. The Government of India had also established a "Technology Mission on Pulses" in the year 1991-92 with the objective to enhance the pulse production and productivity. The concept of front 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 farmer's field under real farming situation.