



Growth, yield and economic performance of Ashwagandha (*Withania somnifera* Dunal) under rainfed conditions of district Sonbhadra, Uttar Pradesh

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Abstract : *Withania somnifera* Dunal commonly known as Ashwagandha, is an important medicinal plant of family Solanaceae. Its roots, seeds and leaves are used in Ayurvedic and Unani medicines. Ashwagandha root drug finds an important place in treatment of human ailments and it is also used as an important herbal tonic. It is a drought hardy crop which grows well in dry parts of India. Vindhyan region of Uttar Pradesh is one of the best suited location for the Ashwagandha cultivation. It is also found as wild in the forest of Vindhyan region and other areas of central India. Keeping these points in view, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Sonbhadra has conducted front line demonstration on cultivation of Ashwagandha crop continuously for six years (2005- 2011) at several sites of the district Sonbhadra. A higher range of growth and yield parameters were recorded during the study period. Average root yield during the study period was found 4.14 q/ha which gives an average net return of Rs. 31359 with a benefit cost ratio of 4.02. On the basis of six year performance of the crop it can be concluded that the crop is best suited for district Sonbhadra in terms of growth, yield and economics.

Key Words : Ashwagandha, *Withania somnifera*, Medicinal Plant, Profitability, Sonbhadra

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