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RESEARCH PAPER

Benefits of ground nut improved production technologies to small and marginal farmers of Datia district in Madhya Pradesh

B.S. KASANA* AND PUNEET KUMAR
Rajmata Vijyaraje Scindia Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, DATIA (M.P.) INDIA

Abstract : Considering that non- adoption of improved ground nut technologies by the small and marginal resource poor farmers is due to non availability of quality seeds, poor knowledge, inappropriateness of technologies etc. In the current study, improved groundnut technologies have been implemented through participatory mode so as to generate awareness about improved technologies among them. The participatory approach could make the farmer to learn, adopt and spread new technologies. The economic indicators have shown that net return of Rs. 28087per ha was realized by adopting improved variety and integrated crop management (ICM) package during *Kharif* season, and it is higher than the returns realized by growing local variety (Indori/ Junku) with local practice (Rs. 18825/ha). The cost of production has been found to be Rs. 8.83/kg and Rs. 11.10/kg with the improved practice and farmers practice, respectively.

Key Words : Adoption improved production technologies, Quality seeds, Knowledge, High seed cost

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INTRODUCTION

In India ground nut is an important oilseed, food and feed crop grown in an area of 6.45 million ha with a total production of 6.57 million tons based on an average of the last five years (FAO, 2005). This contributes to 26.6 per cent of world's ground nut area and 18.5 per cent of world's ground nut production. Ground nut occupies nearly 28.3 per cent of the cultivated area and contributes 31.7 per cent of the production of total oilseed in the country. It is widely used as cooking oil, digestible protein, minerals and vitamins in many countries and contributes significantly to food security and alleviating poverty. About 80 per cent of India's ground nut production is crushed for oil, 12 per cent using as seed, 5 per cent for food and 2 per cent for export.

Among many reasons ascribed for the lower productivity of ground nut, adoption of agro-technologies is a key factor, which significantly affects the vegetative and reproductive growth, and finally the yield. The advances in agricultural technology have contributed to increased production and productivity of many crops at research and farmer levels. However, it appears from several socio-economic studies that the same has not been reflected in the rises in income level and improvements in socio-economic status of small and marginal farmers (Mann *et al*., 2001).

The non adoption of improved technologies by small and marginal resource poor farmers is mainly due to non availability of quality seed, high seed cost poor knowledge and inappropriateness of the technologies to these farmers.

The appropriateness of technologies to farmers may be improved by employing innovative participatory approaches, which involves encouragement of farmers to engage experiments in their own fields, so that they learn, and adopt new technologies and spread them to other farmers also. Because of low (6.15%) seed replacement rate (Tiwari, 2002) in ground nut, on farm trials and front line demonstration were followed by Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Datia, the study area, to increase availability of farmers preferred quality seed and there by to generate more income to the farmers.

*** Author for correspondence**