

Success story of KVK, Keonjhar on off-season vegetable cultivation

Name of the enterprise: Off season vegetable cultivation

Name and Address of Farmer: Sri Manoranjan Dehuri, At/ Po- Kadagada, G.P - Raisuan

Block- Sadar, Dist- Keonjhar

Initial status:

Kadagada is a small village endowed with rich natural and human resources, situated in the Sadar block of Keonjhar district. The village comprised of around 200 families primarily depending on agriculture as their sole source of livelihood. As the climate of the district is congenial for off-season tomato cultivation most of the farmers grow tomato, cabbage and cauliflower during the Kharif season for getting more profit. Due to the cultivation of local degenerated variety, poor nutrient management, micronutrient deficiency, increasing pest incidence etc. the farmers are unable to get the desired level of yield and profit and used to face extreme difficulties to maintain their family. Increasing price of agro inputs, middleman exploitation and declining trend of market price were further intensifying his problem. Manoranjan Dehuri is one of the young farmer of the village having 2.5 ha of land cultivated off-season vegetable in a small piece of land (0.2 ha) and continuously facing the same consequence as his fellow villagers are confronting with. But he did not give up the hope and continuously in the search of a solution for augmenting the yield and profit by eliminating all possible production constraints. He came to know about Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Keonjhar and its activities from one radio programme and the very next day he came to KVK with great hope and discussed with the scientists about his plight.

Intervention of KVK:

The scientists of KVK visited to the field of Mr. Dehuri, analyzed his existing farming practice and found that use of local degenerated variety, imbalanced nutrient management, micronutrient deficiency and heavy incidence of wilting, damping off, leaf curl virus and fruit borer are some of the causative factors contributing towards the lower yield, poor product quality and ultimately lesser profit.

The multi disciplinary scientist advocated the farmers to adopt a scientific approach of off-season vegetable cultivation based on improved wilt tolerant variety, hi-tech nursery raising for producing healthy seedlings by eliminating the initial viral infection and damping off, soil test based fertilizer application, application of Biofertiliser and micronutrient and adoption of integrated pest management for maximizing the productivity. The scientists demonstrated these technologies in his field through front line demonstration and tried to develop his skill

through imparting training and method demonstration based on the principle of “ Seeing is believing and Learning by Doing”

Innovative extension approach:

- Regular visit by Scientists
- Group Discussion
- Training and method demonstration
- CD-Show

Adoption of improved technology and financial development:

Within one year this scientific approach of crop management brought about a sea change in the economic status of Manoranjan Dehuri. His income has increased from Rs. 56,000.00 to Rs. 3,50,000.00 and now he is leading a very comfortable and happy life. He has increased the area under off-season tomato, cabbage and cauliflower from 0.2 ha to 2.0 ha and now he is planning to establish a poly house for producing quality seedling and off-season coriander.

Farmer’s reaction and feedback:

According to the farmer this improved method of off-season vegetable cultivation has resulted not only higher yield but also better quality by eliminating the micronutrient deficiency and reducing the pest incidence. He admitted that by adoption of IPM strategy based on trap cropping, use of pheromone traps, yellow sticky traps and use of safer pesticides has significantly reduced the cost towards pesticide application, besides it has helped a lot in improving the quality of the produce and thereby increased market demand.

Extent of diffusion:

The age old saga “Seeing is Believing” still holds good and the farmers of Kadagada village are no way different and 15 more farmers are now started adopting this improved production technology of off-season vegetable cultivation after realizing the stupendous success of Manoranjan Dehuri.

Follow-up Action:

The scientists of KVK are regularly visiting Kadagada village and motivating Manoranjan Dehuri to work with spirit and become a role model for other farmers of the village