

# **SUCCESS STORY ON OFF-SEASON CORIANDER**

## **Introduction:**

Like many other inland district of Orissa, Keonjhar is experience in unique climatic situation which is highly favourable for off-season vegetable cultivation. Therefore, many farmers are growing off-season tomato, cauliflower, cabbage and radish and able to get good economic return.

Bhajakishore Naik is one of the progressive farmer of Bhalupali village of Sadar Block has been growing off-season coriander since last three years. In the initial year, he has been able to get good profit as there is good consumer preference for off-season coriander. But use of local variety, continuous cultivation in the same plot and high incidence disease, the productivity is showing a declining trend and off-season coriander production is no more profitable as it was earlier.

## **Intervention**

Bhajakishore Naik visited KVK, Keonjhar and consulted KVK Scientist for minimizing intensity of the problem. The Scientist of KVK visited to the field of Mr. Naik analyzed his problem and found that use of local degenerated variety, imbalanced nutrient management and heavy incidence of *Uromyces* rotting are some of the causative factors contributing towards the lower yield and ultimately lesser profit. The Scientist advocated the farmers to adopt a scientific approach of off-season coriander cultivation based on improved variety with improved management practices (soil solarisation, seed treatment), soil test based fertilizer application for maximizing the productivity. The Scientist conducted an OFT to assess the performance of improved variety of Karishma in the farmers field. This high yielding variety gave higher yield in existing farming situations with good germination percentage and minimum disease incidence which created interest among the farmers of the village to adopt that variety.

## **Output:**

By adopting the improved production technology of off-season coriander cultivation, Mr. Naik has been able to increase his income from Rs 10,600.00/ha to Rs 14,150.00/ha.

## **Outcome:**

Realising the success of Bhajakishore Naik, 25 more farmers of Bhalupali, Kadagada and Raisuana village are now started adopting the improved method of off-season coriander cultivation in around 3 ha and have been able to get good return.

## **Conclusion:**

As market demand for off-season coriander is increasing day by day and the climate of Keonjhar district is highly congenial for production of coriander during Kharif season,

farmers can adopt this technology for increasing their economic status. KVK, Keonjhar is trying to popularise the technology through organising front line demonstration, training programme and extension activities



Seeds sown in farmers field



After germination



Ready to harvest



Farmers are happy due to bumper crop