

26.10.2016



Bharatpur farmers bring expertise from Uttarakhand university

A group of farmers from Bharatpur district, who went on an exposure visit to Pantnagar in Uttarakhand last week, have brought with them expertise in horticulture management as well as wheat and vegetable seeds of high quality.

The group, comprising 43 farmers, attended a farmers' fair at G.B. Pant University of Agriculture and Technology in Pantnagar and witnessed new research activities, modern technology and new equipment displayed at the venue.

Lupin Foundation's chief project coordinator Bhim Singh, who led the group, said on Tuesday that the farmers also visited the crop research centre and the facilities devoted to mushroom production, bee-keeping, animal husbandry and seed production at the university.

Mr. Singh said the farmers benefited from their interaction with experts on the horticulture practices for guava, gooseberry and jujube.

Farmers intended to establish nurseries in the villages of Bharatpur district for production of these fruits, he said.

Steps to set up KVK in Bhadradi

The proposal to set up a Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) at Garimellapadu near Kothagudem, the district headquarters town of recently formed Bhadradi-Kothagudem district, received a major impetus with the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), New Delhi, setting into motion the process of finalising the modalities for the establishment of the KVK.

According to sources, the ICAR has forwarded a letter to the Hyderabad-based Agricultural Technology Application Research Institute to explore the process for signing a memorandum of understanding with the Prof Jayashankar Telangana State Agricultural University for setting up a KVK at Garimellapadu near Kothagudem.

The proposal took a concrete shape owing to the persistent efforts by Kothagudem MLA Jalagam Venkat Rao who had taken the initiative in identifying suitable land for the KVK at Garimellapadu. Mr Rao apprised the agencies of the need for setting up the KVK in the

predominantly tribal region to promote agriculture, animal husbandry, agro-forestry and fisheries, among others.

Farmers go ahead with cultivation



Farmers in the delta region who have raised samba paddy on over nine lakh acres are going ahead with cultivation though water scarcity looms large.

“Dwindling water level in the Mettur Dam causes concern as most of our samba paddy crops are in the 30 to 40 days age group. We need water for a few more days till December end. Unless rain arrives by next week, it would be difficult to save the crops,” says a paddy farmer S. Nageswaran of Kudavasal in Tiruvarur district.

Farmers could not extricate themselves out of the bad situation in several areas of Nagapattinam district. “We went in for direct sowing as advised by the Government to minimize water requirement and reduce the duration of samba paddy crop we preferred short and medium term varieties. Still, we feel that we would run short of water if the rain did not come next week,” fears another farmer K. Subramanianathan of Vaitheeswaran Koil.

While 2.60 lakh acres is under samba paddy in Thanjavur district, a total of 3.04 lakh acres is covered by the crop in Tiruvarur district. Nagapattinam district accounted for another 3.36 lakh acres.

While many farmers expect water from Karnataka, there are those who fear for normal north-east monsoon this year. “I am aghast to find overnight dew in the samba paddy crops and mist early in the morning. I fear for my crop,” says V. Jeevakumar, district vice-president of the Tamil Nadu Vivasaya Thozhilalar Sangam and a farmer belonging to Budalur.

But for the directly sown crops in Nagapattinam district as also in the tail-end areas of Thanjavur and Tiruvarur district, it is going to be a Herculean task to sprout and possess

the normal health to grow from now on. “We don’t know what is in store for us over the next month. Despite Supreme Court rulings water does not come from Karnataka. Even if it starts raining from next week, what is the guarantee that water will be available to see through the samba paddy crop. It is going to be an accumulated loss this year,” rues a farmer R. Uthirapathy of Thalaignayar union in Nagapattinam district.

THE HINDU BusinessLine

Farmready, a profit & potent turmeric variety

HYDERABAD, OCTOBER 25:

Turmeric farmers in India have some good news. A new variety named CIM-Pitamber is available for commercial cultivation.

It holds much promise for a large number of traditional Indian homes where turmeric (*curcuma longa*) is not just one of the popular spices, but also a valuable first aid-cum medical ingredient to tackle a range of anti-inflammatory problems.

Scientists at the Lucknow-based Central Institute for Medicinal and Aromatic Plants, CSIR-CIMAP conducted extensive research for eight years to identify and finally develop the high yielding variety. An average yield of 50 tonnes of rhizomes/ha, containing more than 10 per cent curcuminoids has been demonstrated in multi-centre field trials.

One of the super yielding varieties with expected production of 60-65 tonnes of rhizomes/ha also contains more than 12.5 per cent curcuminoids. The general duration of the crop is 180-190 days, scientists said.

The active ingredient curcumin has a wide spectrum of medicinal properties. These include anti-inflammatory, wound healing, anti-cancer, antioxidants, anti-microbial as well as anti-aging properties.

Super clones

The scientists used genetic techniques on 130 germplasms collected from different places to select, cultivate, differentiate characteristics and finally develop super clones. The CIM-Pitamber is tolerant to the common leaf blotch disease, affecting the turmeric crop.

The variety will be able to produce rhizomes, with 90 per cent more curcuminoids and yields, more than double the existing varieties, and IISR Pratibha, now grown in North Indian plains.

This will enable the farmers to double their yields and also significantly raise their income, the Institute said. The variety was unveiled by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the 75th foundation Day of CSIR, which has 38 national labs, on September 26.

Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu and the South generally account for 70 per cent of turmeric production. Trading happens in the major markets in Erode (TN), Duggirala (AP) and Nizamabad in Telangana said Kotesch Kumar, in-charge, at CIMAP's Centre in Hyderabad.

India is the largest producer and exporter of turmeric and accounts for nearly 80 per cent of the global production. The spice is cultivated on over 150,000 ha in at least eight large States.

The estimated consumption of the spice domestically is about 100 mg per capita, amounting to around 480,000 tonnes per annum. However, turmeric farmers have been facing trouble with stagnation in yields and inadequate market price.