

SMALL FARMER ENHANCES MAIZE PRODUCTIVITY THROUGH TECHNOLOGY ADOPTION

Shirunja in Gadag block of Gadag district is a small village inhabited by small and marginal farmers. Maize is one of the important crop of the farmers. The farmers were struggling to get the good crop of maize until KVK adopted the village during 2012-13. Major productivity constraints in increasing the maize yield were high infestation of weeds and high incidence of Turcicum leaf blight. The farmers were unable to take up timely weeding operation because of lack of labours for weeding and lack of knowledge on management of Turcicum leaf blight.



Shri Jagadish Kabadad is one of the farmer whose livelihood depended on Maize crop. He could take up only one crop of Maize in Kharif season as his soil type is red gravelly soil type. KVK made interventions in Maize crop on chemical weed management and management of turcicum leaf blight through organization of Front Line Demonstrations. He was also trained by KVK on management on these two aspects. KVK demonstrated application of weedicide Atrazine 50 WP @ 1 Kg/ha for management of weeds. For management of Turucicum leaf blight, spray of fungicide i.e. Mancozeb was demonstrated. Mr. Jagadish was involved in all the phases of technology demonstration and KVK experts guided him throughout the crop season.

The technologies demonstrated in Shirunja village were found to be very effective and the crop stands in demonstration fields were very good. KVK organized field day to popularize these technologies wherein participating farmers explained about the productivity constraints in Maize and how they adopted good management strategies to boost the productivity under KVK's guidance.

Among these FLD farmers, Mr. Jagadish harvested bumper crop of Maize. He got 35 quintals of Maize per hectare as against 25 quintals he used to get during previous years. There was increase in yield by 40 percent. Mr. Jagadish says that timely management of weed and turcicum leaf blight has greatly contributed to the increased productivity. Further, he says that in earlier seasons, he used to employ 25 labours for hand weeding per hectare incurring a cost of Rs.2500/- but now through chemical weed management, he spent only Rs.500/ha.

Neighboring farmers who did not manage the weeds and turcicum leaf blight, incurred heavy losses and got only 10-15 Qtl/hectare. However, during the subsequent years, majority of the farmers adopted the successful management practices as KVK conducted FLDs & Field Day and supplied literature to all the maize growers in the cluster villages and then Kisan Mobile Advisory services were provided regularly.