

## ONION SEED PRODUCTION: HIS BREAD AND BUTTER

This is success story of a youth who has taken farming as his livelihood and became model for other youths who are tilted towards white collar jobs.

Mr. Panchaksharayya Shivanandayya Hiremath aged 28 is a resident of Shirunja village in Gadag block of Gadag district. He completed Pre-University education during 2005-06. He had great love for the country as he wanted to join Indian Army. He made efforts to join Army but failed in the selection process. Destiny had the other way. He decided to become farmer as it is his family profession.

He had 8 acres of land of which 2 acres was under irrigation. During 2006-07, he noticed that there was lot of demand for quality onion seeds in the village. He contacted KVK in this regard and shown interest to take up onion seed production. KVK guided him to take up onion seed production of Arka Kalyan variety and supplied bulbs of Arka Kalyan variety on cost basis. Initially, he started seed production in 10 Gunta during 2007-08 and produced 100 Kg Onion seeds. He supplied the seeds to friends and relatives of Kurthakoti & Balaganur villages. There was excellent feed back from the farmers on the performance of the seed(Arka Kalyan variety). This has motivated Mr. Hiremath to increase the seed production to one acre during next year.

During 2010-11, farmers from Kadur and Birur of Chikkamangalur district visited KVK requesting to supply onion seeds of Arka Kalyan variety. KVK linked them to Mr. Hiremath for supply of seeds. Through this link, there has been a regular purchase of onion seeds every year by the farmers of Chikkamangalur district. Mr. Hiremath sells the seeds at the rate of Rs.800 per Kg. He says that it costs Rs.125 to 150 per 1 Kg production of seeds. Every year he produce about 300-400 Kg of seeds and gets net profit of 2.0 to 2.5 lakhs. He says that there is lot of demand for his seed in Chikkamangalur and Bellary districts because the Arka Kalyan variety performs better in those districts under protective irrigation as farmers produce 100-120 quintals of bulbs per acre. Further, Mr. Hiremath says that quality seed production is possible as he takes appropriate care in selection of bulbs for seed production and produces his own bulbs for seed production.

He is one of the resource person of KVK for onion seed production as well as producer and supplier of quality seeds of Arka Kalyan variety. Because of his efforts with technical back-up from KVK, the variety is spread in Shirunja cluster villages and other parts of Gadag and neighbouring districts.