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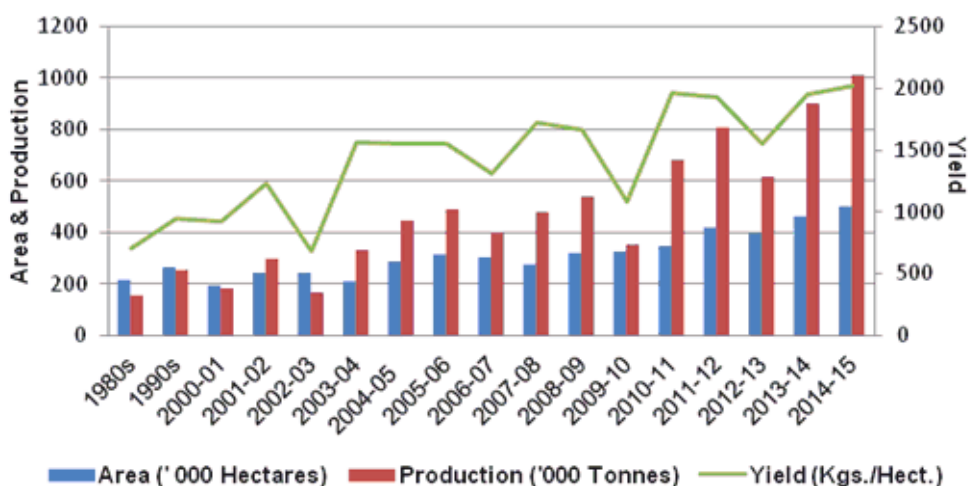
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Groundnut Shining in Rajasthan

Rajasthan is well known for oilseeds cultivation especially in Rapeseed and Mustard, it ranked first in the country. The groundnut cultivation is gaining new heights in the state. During triennial ending average 2015, its state share to the nation's total area and production reached to 9 and 12 per cent respectively. Generally, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu were being considered as major groundnut producing states in the country as they jointly contribute 80 and 76 per cent of its area and production respectively to nation's total (TE 2015 average). The groundnut cultivation in all these five states has shown either decreasing trend or stagnant whereas Rajasthan has shown tremendous growth in groundnut cultivation in last one and half decades. The groundnut production in the state has recorded the compound growth of 11.20 per cent per annum and increased by 460 per cent from 1.80 to 10.11 lakh tonnes from 2000-01 to 2014-15 respectively. Because its acreage has expanded by 156 per cent from 1.96 to 5.01 lakh ha from 2000-01 to 2014-15 respectively, at compound growth rate of 6.01 per cent per annum coupled with improvement in yield from 923 to 2019 kg/ha in the same period.



Trends in area, production and yield of groundnut in Rajasthan

Groundnut is generally grown in most of the districts in Rajasthan but is more concentrated in five districts namely, Jaipur, Bikaner, Chittorgarh, Sikar and Tonk, which contributes around 60 per cent of the state's total area and production. The groundnut acreage in Bikaner and Sikar districts is accelerating at the pace of 12.20 and 9.65 per cent per annum between 1998-99 and 2009-10. Further the groundnut cultivation in its high yielding districts like Churu, Sikar, Jodhpur and Bikaner is expanding at faster rate (Table). This scenario signals better tomorrow and calls for especial attention of the government agencies for more expansion of groundnut in Rajasthan.

Major groundnut growing and high yielding districts in Rajasthan

(Average 1998-99 to 2009-10)

District	Area (ha)	% Share to state	Prod. (tonnes)	% Share to state	Yield (kg/ha)	Growth (in %)	
Major groundnut growing districts						Area	Yield
Jaipur	49419.00	18.10	73052.42	20.90	1477.27	-0.36	4.71*
Bikaner	40959.50	14.50	59895.58	15.90	1457.92	12.20***	
Chittorgarh	32613.08	12.10	38565.58	11.90	1175.54	-4.50**	
Sikar	21020.50	7.50	33638.25	9.00	1516.49	9.65***	2.33**
Tonk	17381.58	6.40	9492.58	2.70	573.31	-6.67***	
Total Share		58.60		60.40			
Highest groundnut yielding districts						Area	Yield
Churu	12658.08	4.40	23451.50	6.20	1788.52	9.65**	
Sikar	21020.50	7.50	33638.25	9.00	1516.49	9.65***	2.33**
Jaipur	49419.00	18.10	73052.42	20.90	1477.27		4.71*
Bikaner	40959.50	14.50	59895.58	15.90	1457.92	12.20***	
Jodhpur	15666.58	5.30	24596.08	6.00	1435.44	34.90***	4.71***
Total Share		49.80		58.00			

Source: Computed from Directorate of Economics and Statistics, GOI.

Note: ***, ** and * indicates 1, 5 and 10 per cent level of significance respectively.

Inputs: Murlidhar Meena and Abhay Kumar

Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal, Minister of State for Finance (GOI) visited Seed Production Unit at ARC, Bikaner

The Minister of State for Finance (GOI), Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal visited groundnut seed production unit of ICAR-DGR, Junagadh at Arid Region Campus, Bikaner on 20th October, 2016. Dr. AK Patel, Head ARC explain the genesis of this centre and their role for enhancing groundnut yield in Bikaner. Honourable minister appreciated the cooperation rendered by ARC-CSWRI to DGR for seed production work at Bikaner.



View of Seed Production Unit of ICAR-DGR at ARC, Bikaner



Shri Arjun R Meghwal, MOS for Finance with scientists at ARC, Bikaner

Inputs: Narendra Kumar

Paired sowing gives more yield of late sown Spanish group groundnut varieties in black soils

Under conditions of late onset of monsoon, short duration Spanish group groundnut varieties are preferred over long duration Virginia group varieties which yield better under early sown conditions. Spanish group varieties yield higher under closer spacing (30 x 10 cm) but farmers resort to wider spacing (45 x 10 cm) to facilitate mechanical interculturing resulting in lower yield due to less than optimum plant stand. Interculturing is particularly a must in black soils to loosen the soil to facilitate peg entry into the soil besides, for timely and economical weed control, and soil moisture conservation. Therefore, there lies a challenge to identify suitable crop geometry, for late sowing of Spanish group groundnut varieties, which ensures optimum plant population as well as facilitates mechanical interculturing.

Keeping in view above a field experiment was conducted during *kharif* 2015 and 2016 to identify suitable crop geometry for Spanish group groundnut variety TG 37A. Based on pooled results of two years it was found that paired sowing at 45/10x10 cm being at par with 30x10 cm spacing gave significantly higher pod yield over 45x10 cm spacing. While significantly higher haulm yield was obtained with 30x10 cm, 45/10x10 cm, 45/15x10 cm, and 45/20x20 cm spacing over 45x10 cm spacing. Besides, in paired cropping cost of production also comes down due to economical weeding through mechanical interculturing as compared to manual weeding in closer spacing of 30 x 10 cm spacing. Therefore, under late sown conditions of Spanish group varieties in black soils, paired sowing at 45/10 x 10 cm spacing may be promoted to get higher yield and reduce cost of cultivation as compared to closer sowing at 30 x 10 cm spacing.



Groundnut crop sown at 30 x 10 (left), 45 x 10 (center) and 45/10 x 10 cm (right) spacing

Inputs: Ram A. Jat, P.V.Zala, Rahul Solanki and Bhargav Thumbar

Agriculture Education Day celebrated

ICAR-DGR celebrated 3rd December as “Agricultural Education Day” to commemorate the birth anniversary of first President of India, Dr. Rajendra Prasad. School children from Junagadh were exposed to various aspects of agriculture and its relevance to country's development, inspire them and attract them towards agriculture, so that they develop interest in agriculture and allied subjects, choose professional career after schooling in some of these courses, engage themselves in agriculture and related activities or become agripreneurs in future.



Establishment of new RRS of DGR at Medinipur

For the establishment of new Regional Research Station for research on groundnut of ICAR-DGR, land has been acquired at Abash, Medinipur, West Bengal. Further development activities will begin shortly.



Groundnut Field Day

ICAR-DGR in collaboration with Arid Region Campus of CSWRI at Bikaner organized a field day for groundnut farmers in and around Bikaner on 28th September, 2016. About 164 farmers from 28 villages participated in the field day. Dr. NB Patil was the Chief Guest of the function. Besides, Dr. Radhakrishnan T., Director, ICAR-DGR; Dr. BD Sharma, Director, CIAH; Sh. Sahiram Dusad, Chairman, Agriculture Mandi (Gramin), Bikaner; Dr. AK Patel, Head ARC, Bikaner; Dr. ND Yadav, Head, CAZRI-Regional Research Centre, Bikaner; Sh. Anand Swarup Chipa, Joint Director Agriculture, Bikaner; and Sh. BR Karwa, Agriculture PD, ATMA, Bikaner attended the function. The dignitaries emphasized the need for suitable varieties having traits of short duration, moisture-deficit stress tolerance and high yield. They also emphasized the need for breeding varieties suitable for soil and climatic conditions of Bikaner. Dr. Radhakrishnan, Director, ICAR-DGR in his welcome address pointed out that new high yielding early maturity and drought tolerant groundnut varieties will be developed suitable for this location and breeding programmes have been initiated to achieve the goal. During the deliberations it was felt that availability of quality seed is the major issue for Bikaner and needs coordinated efforts to supply the quality seeds for enhancing the yield further from its current level of average yield of 2.5-3 t/ha. It was also felt that the initiative of ICAR-DGR taking up seed production of Girnar-2 at Bikaner will boost up the supply of quality seeds in this region of the country. In this programme, all the ICAR institutes in Bikaner demonstrated their technology through exhibitions and publicity materials. An interactive session with the farmers for their agriculture related problems was also arranged for the benefit of the farming community. The farmers appreciated the opportunity provided to them to share and discuss their queries with the scientists. The programme ended with a formal vote of thanks by Dr. Narendra Kumar, Convener of this field day.



Inputs: Narendra Kumar

ICAR-DGR Celebrated its 37th Foundation Day

The ICAR-Directorate of Groundnut Research, Junagadh celebrated its 37th Foundation on 1st October 2016. Dr. C J Dangaria, Vice-Chancellor of Navsari Agricultural University, Navsari, Gujarat was the Chief-Guest. Besides, Dr. A Bandyopadhyay, Ex-Director of DGR and Dr. I U Druj, Asstt. Director of Research, Junagadh Agricultural University, Junagadh graced the occasion. In his welcome address, Dr. Radhakrishnan T., Director, DGR, illustrated the glorious past 36 years of the institute and urged all the employees to work together to achieve the future goals of the institute for enhancing the productivity of groundnut and make it more remunerative.



In his foundation day lecture as a special invitee, Dr. A. Bandyopadhyay retrospect the status of research on groundnut and also presented the future priorities and focus to be given in research for management of abiotic and biotic stress and also climate resilient and remunerative groundnut cultivation. He also urged the scientists to diversify the use of groundnut further more as a food crop rather than a source of edible oil. Dr. C J Dangaria, VC, NAU, also addressed the gathering and requested all the scientists to take proper initiative to solve the emerging and existing problems of groundnut. On the occasion, four retiring employees of groundnut, two each in technical and TSL category were honoured with mementoes.

Groundnut farmer fair cum exhibition

ICAR-Directorate of Groundnut Research, Junagadh organised a 'Groundnut farmer fair cum exhibition' on 1st October, 2016, to acquaint the farmers of Saurashtra region of Gujarat about Management of Neel Gai, White boars in groundnut, legal issues associated with and Government policy support for managing these pests and on managing white grubs in groundnut with a special emphasis on community based approach. This fair was sponsored to ICAR-DGR, Junagadh under NMOOP with a financial assistance of Rs. 4.00 lakh. In all, there were more than 700 farmers from five (Junagadh, Amreli, Jamnagar, Gir-Somnath, and Rajkot) districts covering about 35 villages. The sarpanchs and Talatis of the 25 adopted villages under the "Mera Gaon Mera Gourav" programme, 34 progressive farmers from Madhya Pradesh have also participated.

Dr AR Pathak, Vice-Chancellor, JAU, Junagadh, Dr Manoranja Dutta, Advisor, DAC, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperation and Farmers welfare, New Delhi, Er. Pradeep Singh, Deputy Conservator of Forest, Junagadh and Dr A Bandhyopadhyaya, Former Director, ICAR-DGR, Junagadh and Dr IU Dhruj Associate Director of Research, JAU were the Special Guests of the function. The other guests present on the occasion included Dr Gonthiya, Dean, College of the Agricultural Engineering, Dr Tonk, Dean, College of Veterinary Sciences and Deputy Director Department of Agriculture, Government of Gujarat, Junagadh. In this occasion, programme coordinators of various Krishi Vigyan Kendras like Amreli, Kodinar and Pipaliya (Dhoraji) and scientists from JAU were also present.

The program started by the lighting of the lamp by the guests present on the dais. At the inaugural session, Dr Radhakrishnan T., Director, ICAR-DGR, Junagadh, welcomed all the farmers and dignitaries and requested the participants to take full advantage of the programme organised during the farmers' fairs-cum-exhibitions to the improve their productivity and profit. After the inaugural session, lectures on, 'Management of Neel Ghai, White boars in groundnut, legal issues associated with and Government policy support' and 'Management of white grubs in groundnut' with a special emphasis on community based approach were delivered by Er Pradeep Singh, Deputy Conservator of Forest, Junagadh and Dr MK Ghelani, Assoc. Professor, Dept. of Entomolgy, from Junagadh Agricultural University, Junagadh respectively in local languages. Interactive sessions were well organized between Scientist and farmers after the formal inaugural session.



The mela was inaugurated by Dr. AR Pathak, Hon. Vice Chancellor, Junagadh Agricultural University



A view of the farmer audience



Farmers interactive session in progress



Groundnut plant materials exhibited by the farmers

Swachchhta Pakhwada

The celebration of *Swachchhta pakhwada* was started at this Directorate on 16.10.2016. At the outset a general awareness about the fortnight long *Swachchhta pakhwada* drive was made among the staff and poster/banners were put in various entry places of this Directorate followed by a general cleaning drive in front of and around office premises. All the staff of this Directorate participated in the cleaning drive.

All the staff members of this Directorate took pledge of *Swachchhta Shapath*. The committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. SK Bera, Principal Scientist prepared date wise detail work plan to be under taken from 16th to 31st October, 2016 followed by a general cleaning drive in the campus. All the staff of this Directorate participated in the cleaning drive.

A massive cleaning drive was under taken on the main road connecting Mendrda village to Junagadh city (off campus) and the main drainage line of Junagadh city passing through alongside of the ICAR-DGR campus. All the staff of this Directorate participated in the cleaning drive, removed thorny bushes and revamped choked main drainage line of Junagadh city. All waste materials/bushes were later disposed of to the waste pit/area of the campus. People from nearby villages appreciated the cleaning drive under taken by this Directorate. People from nearby villages appreciated the cleaning drive under taken by this Directorate.

Cleaning of overfilled waste pit near farm unit and revamping of the same were under taken. Later waste materials were disposed of to the waste area of the campus. A separate waste pit for non-recyclable waste was dug followed by a general cleaning drive in back side of Farm unit. Cleanliness drive were also undertaken in residential block, guest house, childrens' park and water reservoir area.

A Yoga and positive thinking session was arranged in the office campus for the staff of this Directorate. A local yoga instructor trained from Patanjali Yogapeeth led the yoga session from 7:00 to 9:00 am. All staff members of this Directorate actively participated in the programme.



Awards



Dr. Ranjeet S Yadav, Senior Scientist at ICAR-DGR receiving award from Sushree Uma Bhartiji, Honourable Minister for Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Government of India; award constituted by Soil Conservation Society of India, New Delhi for research contribution on "Characterization and conservation of soil bio-diversity in arid and semi-arid agro-ecosystems".

Institute Seminars

Speaker	Topic
Dr. Kiran K Reddy Scientist (Soil Science)	Orientation programme at ICAR-DGR
Dr. P. Ananda Kumar P Scientist (IIRR, Hyderabad)	Insect Pest resistant GM Crops

Superannuations



Sh. Virendra Singh, Assistant Chief Technical officer, retired on 31st Dec, 2016 after three decades of service in ICAR.