ICAR-DGR's Efforts Revived Groundnut Cultivation in Sitapur, Uttar Pradesh

Before two and half decades from now, area in Sitapur for groundnut cultivation was around 30,000 hectares, which drastically reduced to about 1600 hectares. The alarming decrease in groundnut cultivation was also reported by honorable MP of Sitapur. So, ICAR-Directorate of groundnut research (ICAR-DGR) in consultation with KVK's and government officials has attributed the causes to menace of wild animals, upscale in sugarcane cultivation, changing cropping pattern and non-availability of appropriate price.

ICAR-DGR's Efforts to Revive Groundnut Cultivation

After an initial round of discussions with the State Agriculture & Rural Development officials and KVK functionaries, and considering the gravity of the situation, ICAR-DGR constituted a team consisting of scientists and Govt. officials Dr. Radhakrishnan T., Director, ICAR-DGR as team leader; Sh. V.K. Yadav, Deputy Director (Agriculture), Sitapur; Sh. Dhirendra Singh, District Agriculture Officer, Sitapur; Dr. Narendra Kumar, Scientist (Plant breeding), DGR; Dr. Ram Dutta, PS & Head (Crop Protection), PI-Crop Protection (AICRP-G), DGR, Junagadh as member secretary. The team visited Sitapur area during 4-6th May 2016 and convened series of meeting and discussions with various stakeholders and officials including the Director Agriculture, Directorate of Agriculture, Uttar Pradesh and other officials; Deputy Director (Agriculture), Sitapur and other officials of state agricultural departments; functionaries of KVKs of Sitapur; progressive farmers and peanuts processors; officials of State Institute of Rural Development, Uttar Pradesh; and Director, ICAR-Indian Institute of Sugarcane Research, Lucknow to assess the ground situation and prepare "Rejuvenation plan for groundnut in Sitapur district and adjoining areas".

Ascertaining Causes/Problems

After a series of discussions and meetings with various stakeholders, it was understood that the groundnuts from Sitapur area has distinct sweet and nutty flavor, which are characteristically distinguished from groundnuts of other places, and processors are interested in such peanut qualities for processing and export, as specified for Saurashtra. It was noted that by and large the issues of soil fertility; non-availability of good varieties of groundnut; lack of demonstrations/ training of the packages and non-availability of assured irrigation, were the reasons which contributed to the reduction in the groundnut area. Non-remunerative prices, losses due to white grub, termite and collar rot were understood to be major problems. The non-availability of quality seed has also contributed to reduction of area of groundnut. Wild animals particularly blue bulls spoiled the crop, hence farmers slowly drifted away from groundnut cultivation switching towards sugarcane cultivation, as there were several sugar mills, which were catering the need and farmers were paid good amount for their produce.

Restoration of groundnut cultivation

During the deliberation for rejuvenation of groundnut, it was opined that groundnut might be promoted for its cultivation during summer (spring or *zaid*) as white grub problem is negligible during this season. Organizations like *Hariyali*, *Khushhali* which sell seed and other inputs may help to strengthen groundnut program, if approached. Seed production could be taken up in the farms of DDU State Institute of Rural Development, Uttar Pradesh at different locations. SIRD was requested to conduct demonstration and training programme at their stations suitable for groundnut. KVKs were requested to conduct large scale demonstrations of Girnar 2 / TG 37A, the varieties suitable for region. Director, ICAR-IISR, Lucknow

was also requested to put experiments, which include groundnut in sugarcane intercropping from *kharif* 2016 onwards. The DGR pursued various agencies for cooperation and support for the programme with intention to begin from summer (Spring) 2017. The Sitapur KVK-II came forward to take up the programme. DGR also requested to conduct cluster demonstrations and seed production program in areas where previously there was no groundnut during spring season and utilize seed from summer-2017 season to *kharif* 2017 season to penetrate more areas coverage.

Revival of Groundnut in Sitapur and adjoining districts of Uttar Pradesh

The KVK-II of Sitapur was asked to submit a proposal for cluster demonstration and seed production. The proposal was to produce seed locally during spring season of 2017 and distribute among farmers for production during kharif 2017. The ICAR-DGR provided quality seed and inputs for supporting the program. Seeds of TG 37A were provided to the KVK-II which distributed it to the selected farmers for sowing during spring season. The program was launched on March 7, 2017 with pre-spring season training program and on farm demonstration in the farmers' field. Monitoring of Demonstrations was done and suitable suggestions were given by the team including Director, ICAR-DGR, Junagadh during 10-12 May 2017. The farmers were satisfied with their queries and replies by us and agreed to multiply seed during spring season and utilize seed during kharif season with added acreage as well as distributing among fellow farmers for further area expansion of groundnut. A good crop was harvested from the demonstrations and the seeds were further distributed to farmers of Sitapur district as well as to other districts through KVK-II. This trend is expected to continue till the desired areas is covered and groundnut is revived in the region.

12 राष्ट्रीय कर्ज माफी पर शिवसेना विपक्ष के साथ

13 कारोबार मारुति अगले वित्तवर्ष में चार वाहन पेश करेगी

14 स्पोर्ट्स अश्विन, जेंडेला ने मारी बाजी

लखनऊ, नई दिल्ली और रायपुर से प्रकाशित

पायनियर

एमा को था पैर टूटने का डर

जिले में फिर लहलाएगी मूंगफली की फसल

जायद में मूंगफली खेती का हुआ प्रदर्शन

- जायद, खरीफ दोनों सीजन में लेगी मूंगफली की खेती
- कृषि वैज्ञानिक ने परियोजना पर शुरू किया काम