

“Impact of Front Line Demonstration on High Yielding variety GPU-28 of Ragi” in Kurki village

- Raghuraja J., SMS (Agri.Extension) and Dr. Devaraja T.N., Programme coordinator

Introduction:

Ragi, the staple food of poor men growing in the country since time immemorial. Increased area under maize has resulted in decreased area under minor millets, oil seeds and pulses in the last decade or so. The trend is same in ragi also. In Davanagere District ragi is grown in 10362 ha, (15912 ha, 2008-09) with total production 15537 tones (23845.5 tons, 2008-09) and productivity 1499 kg/ha. (Source: Department of Agriculture, Davanagere 2009-10) Ragi, which is predominantly grown by poor and marginal farmers uses locally available varieties. These local varieties are poor yielders and less fodder production, resulting in little income to the farmers.

KVK interventions:

Taralabalu Krishi Vigyan Kendra conducted Frontline Demonstration on “Popularization of High Yielding Variety GPU-28 of Ragi” during kharif – 2007. Subject Matter Specialist of Agronomy was in charge of this FLD. Twenty four farmers selected for this FLD in the following villages-1. Mellakatte (8 farmers) 2. Tholahunse (5 farmers) and 3. Kurki (11 farmers) in Davanagere taluk.

On-campus training on “Production Technology in (GPU-28) ragi” was conducted on 25-6-2007. In the training important topics like seed treatment, application of fertilizer based on soil test results, spacing, seed rate, intercultivation and weed management were explained. Field visits (18-7-07 and 16-9-07) for regular monitoring and field day was conducted on 12-10-2007. Demonstrated variety i.e. GPU-28 of ragi produced yield of 22.00 q/ha when compared to 14.00 q/ha yield of local check.

Results and Discussion:

Village survey conducted during February 2011 to know the spread of GPU-28 ragi variety among farmers in Kurki village.

Table-1 Number of farmers growing GPU-28 variety among ragi growing farmers in Kurki village.

(N=320)

GPU-28		Other varieties	
Number	Percent	Number	Percent
256	80	64	20

It is clear from table-1 that among 320 ragi growing farmers, 256 farmers (80%) are growing GPU-28 variety and only 20% growing other varieties performance of GPU-28 variety in terms of yield, size of fingers, quality of grains and quantity and quality of fodder produced played major role in opting for the same. Demonstrated farmers had provided seeds (GPU-28) for neighboring farmers.

During the survey, farmers revealed that average yield of GPU-28 variety is 19.00-20.50 q/ha, in comparison to other varieties 14.00 to 15.95 q/ha. Correspondingly, income generated was Rs. 19000/- /ha. and Rs. 14000/ha incase of GPU-28 and other ragi variety respectively.

Since ragi is grown in rainfed and less fertile land, normally minimum efforts are devoted for crop management practices and in put application when compared to paddy or maize. Considering prevailing prices in the market, farmers cannot afford to spend more on inputs and management practices for production of ragi. In this situation GPU-28 variety introduced by KVK became best sought after ragi variety for ragi growing farmers in kurki village.

Conclusion:

Front Line Demonstration conducted by Taralabalu Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Davanagere on 'Popularization of High Yielding Variety GPU-28 of Ragi' in Kurki village of Davanagere district almost replaced old local varieties of ragi. Yield levels and fodder quantity and quality used for rearing animals was found compatible with conditions prevailing in the village.