

SUMMARY OF FLD ON COTTON 2007-08

Summary of Demonstrations conducted under FLD Cotton during 2007-08

During 2007-08 front line demonstrations were conducted in 13 districts of Tamilnadu and 18 districts of Karnataka. These demonstrations were conducted in 28 districts for Production Technology, five districts of Karnataka for Integrated Pest Management and twenty districts on farm implements. Altogether 2891 farmers conducted demonstrations in an area of 2142.3 ha. In production technology, 1184 farmers were benefited directly as demonstrators in an area of 481.7 ha., whereas in IPM demonstration 408 farmers were benefited as demonstrators in an area of 350 ha. However in the demonstrations on farm implements, 1299 farmers conducted demonstrations of improved farm implements in an area of 1310.6 ha.

Front Line Demonstrations on Production Technology

State-wise performance of demonstrations

State-wise results of demonstrations conducted during 2007-08 reveal that the average seed cotton yield in the demonstration plots was ranging from 17.19 q/ha in Karnataka to 17.54 q/ha in Tamilnadu. More demonstrations were conducted in Karnataka (757 farmers and 299.2 ha area) than in Tamil Nadu (427 farmers and 182.5 ha area). The cost of production in the demonstration plots was ranging from Rs 13,549/ha in Karnataka to Rs 24,107/ha in Tamilnadu. Due to variation in cost of production, yield levels and market price received for the cotton, the benefit cost ratio also varied across states. It ranged from 2.44 in Tamilnadu to 2.85 in Karnataka.

Performance of Bt hybrids, Non- Bt Hybrids and Varieties in Front Line Demonstrations in Cotton during 2007-08

During 2007-08, large number of demonstrations involved Bt hybrids, wherein 736 farmers participated in demonstrations. Among them, MRC-6918 and RCH-708 Bt performed well compared to other Bt hybrids. Five non-Bt hybrids were demonstrated in Karnataka in a total of 324 acre with 330 farmers. DHH-543 performed well compared to others. In Tamilnadu, the non-Bt hybrid TCHB 213 demonstrated in 13 locations at

Dindigul performed well next to RCH Bt hybrids. Among the three varieties tried in Karnataka ((DLSa-17, DDhc-11 and RAHS-14) DDhc-11 showed higher increase in yield compared to the local variety (Jayadhar). Among the varieties tried in Tamilnadu (SVPR 2, Suvin and Sumangala) demonstrated, Suvin performed better (14.7q/ha) than other varieties.

Results in irrigated and rainfed situations

Seven districts in Karnataka and five districts in Tamilnadu conducted demonstrations under irrigated situations. Average yield of demonstration plots ranged from 14.5 q/ha in Tirunelveli to 36.2 q/ha in Salem. Increase in yield of demonstration plots over local check plots was highest in Bagalkot (68.90%) followed by Dindigu (39.92%). Overall increase in yield was to the tune of 24.86%. Under rainfed situations, demonstrations were conducted in six districts in Tamilnadu and 13 districts in Karnataka. Demonstration plot yields ranged from 5.16 q/ha in Koppal to 24.54 q/ha in Belgaum. The average increase in yield was 30.03%. The B:C ratio was 3.32 in irrigated situation as compared to 2.39 in rainfed.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) demonstrations

The IPM demonstrations were implemented and reported by 5 districts of Karnataka state in an area of 350 ha. Belgaum and Mysore districts implemented 2 block demonstrations each (50 ha per block) and the other districts implemented demonstrations in one block each of 50 ha. Belgaum in Karnataka conducted IPM with 151 farmers. Maximum yield of 35.85 q/ha was reported from Raichur (Karnataka).

Demonstrations on Farm Implements

Demonstrations on Farm Implements were spread over 1310.6 ha area in which 1636 farmers participated. Rotavator was demonstrated in 490.6 ha, power weeder in 420 ha area and power sprayer in 200 ha area. The details of the other implements used are given in the table below. Since some of the implements were purchased late, their demonstration will be taken up in the next year.

Extension Activities

Altogether 413 extension activities were conducted in the frontline demonstration plots during 2007-08 with the involvement of 13,211 farmers and farmwomen. In all

these extension activities, 10,001 farmers and 3210 farmwomen participated. Training for farmers (135) and extension functionaries (33), field day (35) and radio talks (29) were the major extension activities.

Extension Activities in Production Technology Demonstrations

In the demonstrations conducted on production technologies 367 extension activities were organized with the participation of 8324 farmers and 2504 farmwomen. Participation in mass media activities was not included in the actual number of participants. Publications like leaflets, folders pamphlets, and electronic media programmes like Radio talks and T.V.programmes would have reached many more rural households and farmers. Most of the KVKs conducted field days, which are normally organized on successfully raised demonstration plots.

Extension Activities in IPM Demonstrations

In the IPM demonstrations 46 extension activities were organized with the participation of 1677 farmers and 706 farmwomen. They were mainly field visits (14), group meetings (14), training for farmers (6), and conventions (4).

Extension Activities in Cotton Farm implements Demonstrations

In the Farm Implements demonstration plots, there were more of demonstrations (325), exhibitions (49) and training for farmers (30). Maximum participation of farmers was in exhibition (8382) followed by training for farmers (1347). Proportion of farmers participation was higher (8241) compared to farm women (2388) out of the total participation of 10629 in these extension activities.