

Bhima Shubhra- A Ray of Hope for Vidarbha Farmers

Patur is a small village in Akola district of Maharashtra. This village comes under the rainfed Vidarbha region. Shri Namdeorao Adhau, a farmer from Patur village used to cultivate traditional varieties of onion in his 1.25 acre land, but the production was far below the expectations.



Research of DOGR Changed the Scenario

White Onion is preferred over red onion in the Vidarbha region of Maharashtra. Directorate of Onion and Garlic Research (DOGR) developed a high yielding white onion variety 'Bhima Shubhra'. This variety was recommended in the workshop of All India Network Research Project on Onion and Garlic at Bidhan Chandra Krishi Vishwa Vidyalyaya, Kalyani during 18-19th April 2013 for cultivation in *kharif* and late *kharif* seasons. This variety matures in about 110-115 days after transplanting during *kharif* and 120-130 days after transplanting in late *kharif*.

Shri Namdeorao Adhau purchased 5 kg seed of 'Bhima Shubhra' from DOGR and sowed onion crop on 1.25 acre area on raised bed as per recommended technology of DOGR. He obtained a record marketable yield of 21 tons/acre of good quality bulbs with uniform size and without doubles and bolters.

Enhanced Production Increased the Profitability

Shri Adhau earned a net profit of Rs. 2.5 lakhs by marketing the production of 'Bhima Shubhra'. Impressed by the performance of this variety, he decided to disseminate the technology to the farmers in his vicinity. Shri Adhau formed a group of about 300 farmers from twelve villages of the region. Now this group is promoting the cultivation of 'Bhima Shubhra' in an area of more than 750 acres in these villages. Most of the members of this group are often earning a net profit of more than Rs. 1.0 lakh/acre.

Appreciation by the Hon'ble President of India

Shri Adhau displayed the bulbs of 'Bhima Shubhra' in various agriculture exhibitions including at 'KRISHI VASANT' - a National Agriculture Exhibition held at Central Institute for Cotton Research (CICR), Nagpur during 9-13th February, 2014. Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Hon'ble President of India was very much impressed by the quality of bulbs of onion variety 'Bhima Shubhra' being displayed by Shri Adhau. Shri Mukherjee remarked 'Bhima Shubhra' as the King of Onion.

Shri Adhau received the 'Late Vasantrao Naik Krishi Gaurav Award' for his pragmatic achievements in onion cultivation. He gave full credit of his success to scientists of DOGR.

(Source: DOGR, Rajgurunagar)