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Success Story of Cluster Frontline Demonstration on Kharif Pulses - Blackgram var. PU-31 at Karimganj District of Southern Assam

In Karimganj district, fields are remained mostly vacant during *Sali* rice fallow condition. However, only in few areas are cultivated with Blackgram with local variety. KVK, Karimganj has done extensive and adequate field survey and selected suitable areas for Blackgram cultivation under Cluster Front Line Demonstration (CFLD) Programme during *Kharif* season of 2019-2020. A cluster frontline demonstration was taken up with Blackgram variety *PU-31*. The demonstration was taken up at farmer's field of Shamakul Roy of Brajendranagar village of Karimganj district of Southern Assam. The success point was barren areas converted into Blackgram grown area after *Sali* rice cultivation. The field data on demonstration of *PU-31* and farmers' local variety were recorded. The yield data of *PU-31* was recorded as 7.2 q/ha with potential yield of 12.0 q/ha whereas farmers' variety were recorded as 5.5q/ha. The district yield average was documented as 5.0 q/ha whereas state yield average was 6.0q/ha.

INTRODUCTION

Agriculture played an important role for the economic development as

Table 1. Performance of technology vis-à-vis Local check (Increase in productivity and returns)

Specific Technology	Yield (q/ha)	Gross cost (Rs/ha)	Gross income (Rs/ha)	Net income (Rs/ha)	B:C ratio
<i>Farmer practices</i>	5.5	22,500	44,000	21,500	2.05
<i>Demonstration</i>	7.50	24,500	57,600	33,100	2.35
% Increase	36	8.89	30.91	53.95	14.63

*CFLD on Kharif Pulses var. PU-31 at Brajendranagar village*

well as providing livelihood to Barak Valley Region of Southern Assam. On the other hand, this sector continues to support more than 75% population of the district directly or indirectly providing employment of more than 53% of the labor force. However, the economy of the valley continues to be principally agrarian in nature. About 70% of the people in the valley are depending on farming for their livelihood. Paddy is the major crop being cultivated in the valley. Resource rich farmers purely on the basis of size of holding *viz.*, very large, large and medium farmers are 5.07% and are possessing 18.03% cultivable area of the district. Resource poor farmers *i.e.*, marginal/small and landless farmers are 94.93% and are holding

81.97% area. The yield enhancement of Blackgram was 36% higher than the farmers practice (4.5q/ha) and B:C ratio enhancement was 14.63%.

CONCLUSION

The study indicates that the yield enhancement of Blackgram was 36% higher than the farmers practice (4.5q/ha), 29% higher than district average (5.8q/ha) and 19% higher than the state average (6.3q/ha) in this CFLD programme. The net income enhancement also quite impressive as 53.95% whereas B:C ratio enhancement was 14.63%. Due to higher yield and economic benefit farmers are impressed with the Blackgram var. PU-31 and adopted by the nearby villages.