

Impact of Frontline Demonstration on Banyard millet variety MDU 1 in Madurai District of Tamil Nadu

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Abstract: The Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVK) is of national importance which would help in accelerating the agricultural production and also in improving the socio-economic conditions of the farming community. Demonstrations and training of farmers is a critical input for the rapid transfer of agriculture technology. Demonstrations is generally conducted by the Krishi Vigyan Kendras to farmers to introduce new technologies and varieties to the farmers. The study was conducted during front line demonstration (FLD) on Banyard millet variety MDU 1 at the farmers' field of usilampatti block of Madurai District during the year 2017-18. The present study aims at the transfer of technology by demonstration method among farmers. Findings of the study revealed that most of the farmers reported increased yield (23.00%). KVK, Madurai is playing a vital role in disseminating the new varieties, improved crop production technologies and helps in increasing the crop yield among farmers.

The constraints faced by the farmers in obtaining higher productivity is documented and the frontline demonstrations are designed to overcome the problems in a scientific way in order to show the worth of the new evolved variety and improved package of practices for enhancing the productivity. In most of the areas of the country, traditional agricultural practices with old varieties are being practiced in order to fulfill the needs of the family. The agricultural production can be increased if the production development programmes focusing more and on transferring the new technologies from research institutes to the farmers fields and make them more result oriented. Selection of the KVK FLD programmes for farmers is based on the need of the farming community. The farmers of the usilampatti block of Madurai District cultivating low yield varieties. Therefore, to enhance the production and income per unit area, it is very essential to grow new Banyard millet variety like MDU 1, which will not only increase awareness about this crop in this area, which will result in an increased production and thus, enhance the income of farmer. Hence, the present study was conducted to demonstrate the cultivation of Banyard millet variety MDU 1, through front line demonstration in the usilampatti block of Madurai District.

METHODOLOGY

Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Madurai conducted Front Line Demonstration (FLD) on Banyard millet variety MDU 1 at the farmers' field of usilampatti block of Madurai District during kharif season of the year 2017-2018. FLD on cultivation of Banyard millet variety MDU 1 were conducted as ten demonstrations on an area of four ha respectively. The various aspects included in the FLD were introduction of high value new crops, variety, integrated nutrient management, weed management, proper irrigation schedule, integrated pest management and harvesting. The detail guidance regarding scientific cultivation practices of Banyard millet variety MDU 1 were given to the farmers to increase the awareness of improved technology and to increase productivity. The special features of Banyard millet is extremely drought tolerant and grown as a rainfed crop by the farmers. The grains are consumed just like rice and also digestibility of protein is 40 per cent. It is also used as feed for cage birds. Farmers are using straw which makes good fodder for cattle. Its green fodder is very much relished by cattle. Farmers are very much interested to take up this new variety, MDU 1 in view of its economic benefits during the upcoming years which has lesser duration of 95- 100 days with high iron content, besides higher yield. The yield data was recorded from demonstrated as well as control (Farmers' practice) fields.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The Banyard millet variety MDU 1 performed better in demonstration plots owing to best management practices like integrated nutrient management, weed management, irrigation and pest management practices. The data regarding performance of Banyard millet variety MDU 1 in front line demonstration is presented in Table 1.

Table: 1 Performance of Front Line Demonstration of Banyard millet variety MDU 1

Details				Demo		Check	
Yield (q/ha)				22		17	
Economics of demonstration (Rs./ha)				Economics of check (Rs./ha)			
Gross Cost	Gross Return	Net Return	BCR	Gross Cost	Gross Return	Net Return	BCR
20615	44000	23385	2.13	14500	22500	8000	1.55

The average green yield of demonstration plots in usilampatti block were 22.00q/ha respectively, whereas, the average yield of control plots were 17.00 q/ha respectively. The net return was Rs 23385/- in demonstration plots, whereas, the net return was Rs 8000/- in control plots respectively. The BCR ratio was 2.13 in demonstration plots, whereas, in the control plot is with BCR ratio of 1.55. There was overall 23.00 per cent increase in yield respectively, in demonstration plots where all the best management practices were adopted over the control plots.

This findings is similar with the findings of Dhemre and Desale (2010) in radish crop, the increase in yield in demonstration over control plots was due to new short duration variety, integrated nutrient management. This findings is also similar with the findings of Nikulsinh.M. Chauhan (2012) that the Front Line Demonstration conducted on Integrated Nutrient Management in gram at farmer's fields in Tapi district of Gujarat revealed that the farmers can get increased gram yield by following the recommended package of practices. The similar type of findings reported by Rai et al (2015) on vegetable pigeon pea crops.

CONCLUSION

Banyard millet MDU 1 is shorter in duration with 90 to 95 days, grains are bolder with high milling recovery (70 %). In addition, it is tolerant to both the extremities viz., drought and water stagnation. The yield in demo plot was higher (22 q/ha). In view of all the above parameters this variety was well appreciated by the farmers. The feedback received from the farmers are increased yield. Hence, it can be concluded that KVK, Madurai is playing a vital role in disseminating the new varieties, improved crop production technologies and helps in increasing the crop yield. The technology transferred is also profitable and acceptable to the farming community.

REFERENCES

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