

Participatory quality seed production : An innovative farming technology for rural development and rural entrepreneurship

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ABSTRACT : Agriculture is the lifeline of India and seed is the lifeline of any crop production system. In all agricultural inputs only seed had inbuilt potential, where as other agricultural inputs i.e. nutrients, irrigation, and plant protection chemicals only contributes to the production potential of seed. If potential of seed is poor, optimum yield is not possible of judicious use of inputs. Many research results indicate that the 10-15 per cent increase in yield is attributed to good potential quality seed. The main reasons for low productivity of field crops are unavailability of reliable quality seeds in the local markets at the time of sowing. To increase productivity, seed should be of high quality, which will express full potential yield of the genotype under farmers farming environments. Therefore, there is basic need to establish quality seed sources at village level. For seeing this scenario, the Krishi Vigyan Kendra Saharanpur introduced an innovative farming technology “Participatory Quality Seed Production” at farmer’s field during Rabi 2008 in Saharanpur district for production of good quality seeds of Paddy and Wheat. After implementation, this innovative farming technology the average seed replacement rate increased by 38.0 – 58.0 per cent in wheat and 38.0 – 54.0 percent in paddy, in operational area. Yield increased in wheat up to 42.0 – 59.0 qt/ha and in paddy 47.0 – 60.0 qt/ha in operational area . Adoption level of improved varieties by the farmers had increased. Informal seed production programme had emerged as an income generating enterprise.

Key Words: Participatory quality seed production, field crops.