

PKV Kranti changed the rabi crop sequence

AICRP-Sorghum, Akola, Maharashtra

Shri Kishor Bonsilal Khandelwal (35 years) is a graduate from middle class family of village Shirpur, Taluka Malegaon, Dist. Washim. He not only selected the farming as business, but also devoted himself fully putting all his resources for getting maximum profitability. He has 18 acres land at Shirpur village for which he has been using drip and sprinkler irrigation system due to limited water resources. The land is of medium to deep black cotton soil type and the average rainfall of the district is about 845 mm. He has two bullock pairs, two cows and two buffaloes a total of eight animals.

For getting maximum profit from this business, Shri Khandelwal frequently visited various developmental departments and scientists of Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh Krishi Vidyapeeth, Akola for getting solutions on various problems faced during crop cultivation and allied activities. He was frequently getting soil test done and based on the report, fertilizer management was done. He regularly attended the various agro-techs, krishi melas and field visit (shivar pheri) arranged by the university for the farmers of the region.

Once, he had visited the university during “Shivar pheri” programme. He learnt about rabi sorghum crop, that can be grown with limited irrigation water and more profits. He received detailed information about rabi sorghum cultivation of PKV Kranti, its profitability and usefulness for the farmers having limited irrigation from the Sorghum Research Unit of the university.

He requested to have frontline demonstration of the same on his field. Accordingly, the unit had provided him detailed information on PKV Kranti with improved package of practices for rabi sorghum cultivation, soil and water conservation practices, plant protection measures and also provide him literature in local language. Apart from the FLD, he wished to extend the cultivation of PKV Kranti on his remaining field and he procured PKV Kranti’s seed from the university. The crop was grown with two irrigations at two critical stages in view to his limited source of water at 30 DAS and 70-75 DAS. With his due attention and hard work, the PKV Kranti under FLD was got excellent yields. The incidental rainfall received at flowering stage eventually led to a flourishing crop. Due to the excellent crop condition, the unit had arranged a field day on his field.

The other farmers of Shripur and adjacent villages also attended the field visit. All the farmers had interactions with scientists of the unit regarding the excellent performance of PKV Kranti. Shri Khandelwal demonstrated successful cultivation of PKV Kranti with just two irrigations. The farmers realized the merits of PKV Kranti from the field experience and got encouraged for rabi sorghum cultivation with PKV Kranti.



A field view of PKV Kranti with farmer's family



Visit of scientists and farmers to plot of PKV Kranti

Earlier, he used to grow wheat and gram in rabi season but he could not get desirable yields due to limited irrigation water. The expenditure on plant protection measures was also more than that of sorghum. However, the cost of cultivation for *rabi* sorghum was low due to less irrigation used, less expenditure on plant protection and management. Sorghum crop yielded 2750 kg/ha grains and 1.1 t/ha fodder. The *rabi* sorghum fetches higher prices due to its quality grains and fodder. While taking any other crop in *rabi* he had to purchase fodder for his animals. He got net returns of Rs. 60,500 /- per ha from grains and Rs. 45805 /- per ha from fodder of PKV Kranti. He got good price for his grain of PKV Kranti in the market compared to the others. He decided to distribute the seeds of PKV Kranti to his fellow farmers for harvesting the maximum benefits in next season. Accordingly, he made packets of 5 kg seeds of PKV Kranti and distributed to the farmer friends in that area. In this way, the farmer became successful in improving his economic conditions by changing his crop as well as in changing the view of fellow farmers.