

Significance of CSV 216R (*Phule Yashoda*) in integrated farming system

In Ranga Reddy district of Andhra Pradesh, dairy farming is a crucial income generating enterprise in many of the villages. Farmers in this part of the state were integrating the animal husbandry with crop production. Therefore, high fodder production had more importance in *rabi* sorghum cultivation. During the years of fodder scarcity, sorghum stover was used to be sold at Rs. 4000/- per ton. In view of this, the farming community of this region included *rabi* sorghum in their farming system to meet out fodder needs. However, farmers in this region were realizing lower grain and fodder yields from the local cultivars.



Scientists and farmer observing the field crop of CSV 216R

Shri P. Balakrishna Reddy, a progressive farmer from Konapur village of Tandur block in Ranga Reddy District, had 5 ha of land. It had deep black soil with high moisture retention capacity which was suitable for *rabi* sorghum cultivation. He has eight dairy animals and two pairs of bullocks. During *rabi* 2007-08, the farmer approached the ARS, Tandur for a high yielding *rabi* sorghum cultivar. They gave him seeds of CSV 216R (Phlule Yashoda) for one ha under FLD programme. He was highly impressed with the performance of CSV 216R (Phlule Yashoda) in terms of vigorous growth within a month. It recorded 2700 Kg /ha of grain, which was 86% higher than the local cultivar (1450 kg /ha). It also recorded 4.50 t /ha of fodder yield, which was 22% higher than the local variety (3.70 t /ha). This phenomenal improvement in grain and fodder yields attracted many farmers in the area. The FLD farmer supplied the seeds to the interested farmers. The farmers rated CSV 216R (Phlule Yashoda) as an excellent *rabi* sorghum variety except for a little lodging problem.

A field day was organized by ARS, Tandur involving about 56 progressive farmers and the officials from the Department of Agriculture in January, 2008, to show the productivity potential of CSV 216R (Phlule Yashoda) in farmer's field situations. Dr. R Ramasubba Reddy, Principal Scientist (Millets) of the PJTSAU (Earlier, ANGRAU) also visited the demonstration and expressed his satisfaction over implementation of FLD programme.