

Doubling Farmer Income through Sesamum Seed Production during Summer in Turmeric Based Cropping System

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Abstract

Agriculture in India is livelihood for a majority of the population. Though agriculture is providing livelihood to majority of the population in our country, the farmers are facing constraints in realizing profitable income from farming. Honorable Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that farmers' income would be doubled by 2022 when the country completes 75 years of its independence. The major strategy to double farmer income includes development of infrastructure, technologies, policies and institutional mechanisms. But there is gap in identification of avenues which would double the farmer income. Farmer's marketing their produce as grain is a general practice in farming. One of the strategies for doubling farmers' income is encouraging farmers in seed production. The success story of Mr. Gollena Narsaiah of Mamda (Village and Mandal) of Nirmal District of Telangana State is an example of farmer who has doubled his income through seed production of Sesamum variety JCS-1020.

Keywords: Seed production, Sesamum, Summer, Turmeric fallows

Introduction

The Nirmal district is one of the prospering districts in agricultural production in the state. The major soil types are black cotton and red soils under irrigated (borewell and canal) and rainfed condition. The average normal rainfall of Nirmal district is 1084.39 mm. Major crops cultivated in *vanakalam* are soybean, cotton and paddy. Major crops cultivated in *yasangi* are chickpea, maize and paddy. Major cropping patterns of the district are Cotton - Fallow, Red gram + Soybean - Bengalgram, Red gram + Cotton-Bengalgram, Cotton-Maize, Cotton +Red gram, Paddy-Paddy, Paddy-Maize, Paddy-Sesamum, Turmeric + Maize - Sesamum, Maize/Soybean-RedJowar/Bajra and Soybean-Bengalgram/Maize/ Sesamum/Chilli.

Sesamum in turmeric fallows is also a major cropping pattern in the district. Mr. Gollena Narsaiah (Figure 1) who has rich farming experience is following this cropping pattern in farming. The reason is turmeric is cultivated from June-July to January and farmers have a short cropping season after harvest of turmeric hence farmers in Nirmal district cultivate Sesamum from January to May. Farmers in the district are also happy after release of Sesamum variety JCS-1020 by Professor Jayashankar Telangana State Agricultural University. JCS-1020 (Figure 2) is a white seeded variety with good quality oil suitable for late kharif and summer season with yield potential upto 11 quintals hectare⁻¹ in Rabi/Summer (PJ TSAU, 2019).

Technology Intervention and Economics

Mr. Gollena Narsaiah cultivates turmeric, paddy, cotton and Redgram in his 25 acres of land. In turmeric fallows after harvesting of turmeric he cultivates Sesamum (JCS-1020 variety) as a general practice, as turmeric followed by sesamum higher yields are realized. After harvesting of crop Mr. Narsaiah has sold Sesamum to farmers as seed rather than of marketing as grains in local market. The reason is the cost of seed (Rs. 200.00kg⁻¹) is more when compared to cost of the grain (Rs. 100.00 kg⁻¹). By this intervention he has doubled his income from Rs. 60,000.00 (Rs. 100.00 ×600 kg=Rs. 60,000.00) to Rs. 1,20,000.00 (Rs. 200.00 ×600 kg= Rs. 1,20,000.00). Details of cost of cultivation are mentioned in Table 1 and net income realized from marketing as seed and grain are mentioned in Table 2.

Table1: Cost of cultivation of Sesamum

Sl. No.	Particulars	Cost of cultivation acre ⁻¹ (in Rs.)
1	Soil preparation	1,800.00
2	Seed	700.00
3	Sowing	200.00
4	Inter-cultivation	900.00
5	Manures and fertilizers	1,450.00
6	Plant protection	1,000.00
7	Harvesting	2,500.00
9	Total expenditure	8,350.00
10	Yield acre ⁻¹ (kg)	600

Table2: Net income realized from marketing as grain and seed

Sl. No.	Particulars	Marketed as grain	Marketed as seed
1	Gross income	60,000.00	1,20,000.00
2	Net income	51,650.00	1,11,650.00

Impact of Intervention

By following the practice he has been an example to fellow farmers and he is encouraging farmers to sell the harvested produce as seed rather than as grain. He is able to market his seeds all over the Telangana and surrounding states like Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka.

**Figure 1: Data collection from the farmer****Figure 2. JCS-1020 sesamum crop**

Conclusion

Mr. Narsaiah is an example to youth and farmers as many feel farming is not profitable. With an intervention of selling as seeds the farmer is able to double his income. Hence, there is need for youth of the country to take seed production in different crops which will help them to realize higher income making agriculture profitable occupation.

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