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*Krishi Vigyan Kendra and Reliance Foundation Initiative
for Doubling Smallholder Farmer's Income in Hingoli
District*

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INTRODUCTION

Agriculture is backbone and primary source of livelihood for both men and women in our India. The agriculture can be considered as a system where crop grown and other enterprise that are compatible and complementary with each other. The farming system includes all components of land such as soil, crop, livestock, water, insect, labour, and other resources. The Hingoli district situâtes in Marathwada région of Maharashtra State. Whereas, Hingoli district has 610 Kharif villages, area about 424589 ha and 101 Rabi villages and area 18739 ha. The average annual rainfall received in district is about 908 mm and climate of region is hot & dry with temperature ranging from 11.2⁰C to 41.6⁰C. The district suffers from various natural calamities like climate change, flood, droughts and non-season rainfall and changes in temperature, population explosion, urbanization and fragmented land holding in rural areas. To address all above problems in agriculture there is need to adopt technology in farming system, change cropping pattern and adoption of allied agricultural related activities to ensure an all-round development of farming families and improving standard of living of farmers from hingoli district.



FARMER BACKGROUND

Shri. Ganesh Pandurang Ambhore is farmer of village Kalamba, Taluka Basmat, District: Hingoli, of Maharashtra State. The education of farmer is eighth standard and at age of 15 years he started doing farming and cultivating his land in traditional way during past 30 years. The farmer is having 2.50 acres of horticulture land holding with irrigation facility in Kalamba village. The Ganesh Pandurang Ambhore with age (45) is in touch with KVK, Hingoli and Reliance Foundation form past three years. Due to traditional farming practices, unaware about fertilizer application dose, lack of knowledge about integrated pest and diseases management farmer spend money but got minimum returns from farming. To overcome these problems, he got information about KVK, Hingoli and Reliance Foundation. He contacts to KVK, Hingoli and Reliance Foundation for obtaining information regarding crop production technology.

INCOME LEVEL OF FARMER BEFORE INTERVENTION

Three years ago in 2019-20, from his 2.5 acres of traditional farming, he earned Rs. 1.91 lakh but the cost of cultivation on farm preparation, inputs and labour was Rs 77,000. Thus, after deducting expenses, he got Rs 1.14 lakh as net annual income.

AWARENESS AND INTEREST DEVELOPED IN FARMER

He heard about Reliance Foundation and getting information about farming since 2019 through voice messaging service, audio conference, WhatsApp, help line, etc. and he started doing farming with as per guidance of Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Hingoli experts. The farmer was satisfied with guidance and decided for doing farming as per guidance of Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Hingoli experts.

KRISHI VIGYAN KENDRA, HINGOLI AND RELIANCE FOUNDATION SUPPORT TO FARMER

Initially Krishi Vigyan Kendra did farmer soil testing, based on soil testing report integrated crop nutrition management was suggested and emphasis was given on improving soil health. The crop cultivation practices schedule viz, sowing, spraying harvesting, and information on weather forecasting were provided by Krishi Vigyan Kendra Hingoli and it was disseminated by Reliance Foundation.

CROP GROWN BY FARMER

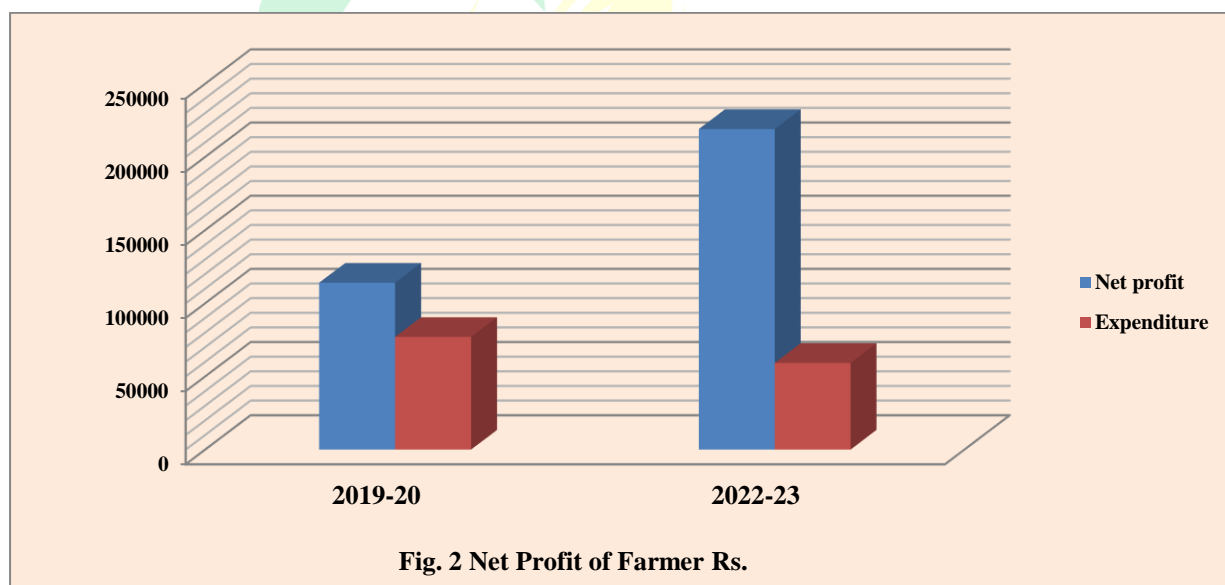
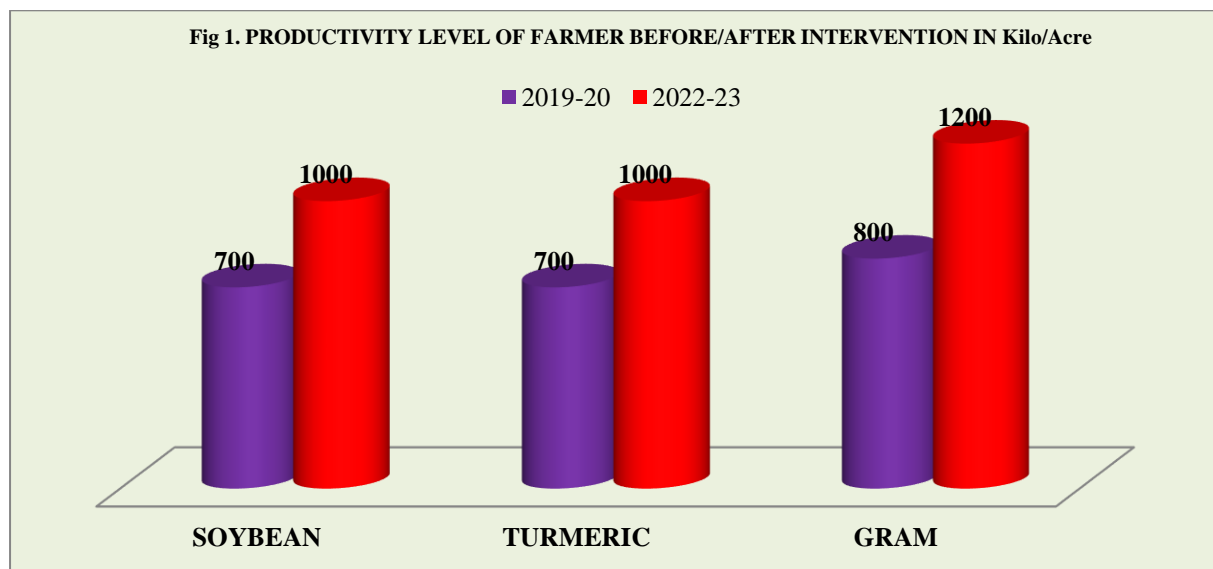
Soybean, Turmeric and Gram crops are selected to grow by farmers as per crop production technology given by experts. The crop production technology, nutrient management and integrated pest and diseases management were applied as per recommendations of experts and time to time guidance through training programs, visit and crop specific information obtained through various social media by Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Hingoli and Reliance Foundation.

TECHNOLOGY ADOPTED BY FARMER

The farmer has installed a sprinkler irrigation system in field to provide uniform and efficient irrigation supply for crop. Thus, unnecessary expenses and losses due to repeat sowing, double spraying, loss of crops harvested in rains were saved. Through gaining knowledge about scientific methods seed germination test and seed treatment as preventive measures against diseases was done by farmer.

INCOME LEVEL OF FARMER BEFORE/AFTER INTERVENTION

The farmer adopted crop production technology suggested by Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Hingoli and was in contact with Reliance Foundation since last three years. The productivity of turmeric increased from 7.00 qt to 10.00 Qt/Acre. While soybean 7.00 quintals to 10.00 Qt/Acre and gram 8.00 quintals to 12.00 Qt/Acre in 2022-23. Thus, total Rs. 2.87 lakh net annual income obtained from kharif and rabi season crops of 2022-23 deducting expenses Rs. 59,200 and earned a net profit of Rs. 2.19 lakh. The net annual income from farming is Rs. 2.19 lakh in 2022-23 it was Rs. 1.14 lakh 2019-20 is almost doubled.



FARMER FEEDBACK

- Shri. Ganesh Pandurang Ambhore’s standard of living and education status has risen. One of his sons is studying law while other two are studying in computer engineering. Through incorporating technology in farming his annual income has increased.
- Adoption of crop production technology and time to time guidance by KVK, Hingoli ithas brought reforms in his farming, many farmers of nearby villages are visiting to his farm for getting information. Now he is becoming a role model for farmers of hingoli district.



- The farmers practice farming with excessive use of fertilizer, insecticide/pesticide/herbicide without getting advice of experts and lacking knowledge about technology. I have done farming through guidance of experts, cost of spraying is reducing and benefited more by getting accurate information about weather forecasting from KVK, Hingoli and platform of Reliance Foundation give me pathway for doing farming in systematic manner.

CONCLUSIONS

- The concerned agencies should provide packages of practices on crop production technology, training support, and time to time guidance on integrated pest and disease management for improving economic condition of farmers and raising their standard of living.
- To help farmers to overcome constraints in crop production the policy makers should keep problems and suggestions in mind while formulating and executing the extension programs.
- The agencies working in agriculture should conduct skill-based training programs for farmers to get need-based training support. In future such attempts should be undertaken in other areas also for ultimate progress and development of farming community in country.

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REFERANCES

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