

Reaping Benefits with Red Gram Cultivation During Rabi

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Agriculture is one of the most vulnerable zones at risk due to erratic climate that influenced entire agricultural productivity. The entire crop patterns are being intuitive to variations in weather conditions. This year was very tough for Khammam district farmers of Telangana due to the delayed monsoons coupled with deficit rainfall leading to non-release of water from NSP canal for yasangi. Keeping in view of this situation, the majority of the farmers have kept their lands fallow during yasangi, whereas in areas with assured irrigation facilitates like open wells or borewells, few farmers have taken the risk of utilizing the available resources to cultivate mainly maize crop along with black gram or green gram.

Sri. Anumolu Krishnaiah from Peddagopati village, Konijerla mandal, Khammam District has land under NSP canal. Every year he cultivated paddy during rabi also, but this year he was left with no choice due to non-availability of water and hence, he contacted Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Wyra for required advice and potentiality for crop diversification. The scientists at KVK, Wyra motivated him to cultivate red gram during Rabi as the water requirement is comparatively low. The farmer purchased two varieties of red gram WRG 255 and WRGE 97 from ARS, Madira through KVK scientists.

The sowing was done on 03.10.2023 with a seed drill having spacing of 150 X 90 cm in 2.5 acres of land. The irrigation was given only three times, in which two irrigations were from NSP canal water during November, 2023 and in December, 2023 the unseasonal rains was the saviour. There was continued monitoring and communication by the KVK scientists for use of recommended dosages of weedicides, fertilizers and insecticides to obtain good yield. The farmer with his experience and KVK guidance, witnessed a new technology adoption for obtaining good results. He harvested the crop on 03.03.2024 with a machine harvester at a cost of Rs 2,000/- per acre. He reaped 600 Kg with WRG 255 and 450 Kg with WRGE 97. The cost

of cultivation was Rs 37,000/- and he sold at Rs. 90 per Kg of red gram earing gross income of Rs 94,500/-, net profits of Rs 57,500/- and B:C of 1:2.55.

The technology is mostly adopted due to the water and labour shortage. In the prevailing situation, farmers are looking for such climate-resilient technologies that help them to combat climate vagaries and labour shortage with farm mechanization. Hence, it can be said that in the coming years, this technology needs to be popularised for wider adoption to improve pulse area and benefit the farming community. The farmer with the guidance of Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Wyra had overcome the tough situation and was able to reap profits. It is evident that new technologies like these are need of the hour to be promoted with the farmer's experience.

