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TRANSFER OF SORGHUM TECHNOLOGY

- Success stories

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Sharad Pawar



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MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE
& FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MESSAGE

In order to improve livelihood status of the sorghum growers in the country, the Directorate of Sorghum Research (DSR) has made several efforts through extension programmes by disseminating improved sorghum technologies to the farmers' fields, which will be an important path to be followed by the other farmers.

To succeed in today's agriculture and economic development, farmers need to evaluate the financial health of their farm businesses, to use strategic planning concepts in making financial management decisions, and to think strategically about their future. In this report there are real life facts with figures on sorghum cultivation so that the users can judge the situation more clearly and vividly. The report also focuses on different aspects to make sorghum cultivation profitable.

I compliment the scientists for compilation of the success stories in this Bulletin. I wish this publication enable sorghum growers and entrepreneurs to realize success in sorghum production and improving quality of life in their communities.

(Sharad Pawar)



Dr. S. Ayyappan
Secretary & Director-General

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MESSAGE

Sorghum is one of the important food crops of the semi-arid regions of the country that are characterized by low and uncertain rainfall and poor land form causing instability in production. In order to improve the farmers' livelihood status, several efforts were made by the Directorate of Sorghum Research through their extension programmes which resulted in realizing pathbreaking achievements in farmers' fields.

Success factors are strongly related to the mission and strategic goals of project. The Directorate of Sorghum Research (DSR) has presented a few success stories in this bulletin "**Transfer of Sorghum Technology – Success Stories**". I hope the end-users and all the stakeholders will make best use of this publication for viable sorghum cultivation and entrepreneurship development. I congratulate all the members from DSR who are involved in this endeavor.

(S. Ayyappan)



Prof. S.K. Datta
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MESSAGE

Sorghum is an assured crop of the farmers who are even having poor land status and resources. Unfortunately, the area under sorghum is decreasing rapidly. A substance which can assure the cultivators in supporting sorghum is very much essential. We know that success in our endeavors depends on how well we understand factors related with enterprise and how well we translate that understanding into its development. We also know that success can take a variety of forms and can be attained to varying degrees depending on our objective, the way we measure our progress, and the stage of the development process that we address. These dimensions of success provide the framework within which, the goal can be achieved effectively.

The DSR scientists have chosen a few successful experiences of sorghum cultivators. I admire the efforts made to compile the major success stories from different sorghum growing regions. This publication will be a source of inspiration for the young and new entrepreneurs in sorghum sector.


(SK Datta)



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Dr. RP Dua

Additional Director General (FFC)

MESSAGE

Major achievements made in sorghum development using improved technologies which were transferred through several extension programmes. With the help of All India Coordinated Sorghum Improvement Project and Krishi Vigyan Kendras, the Directorate of Sorghum Research (DSR) has organized several such programmes viz., frontline demonstration programme, lab to land programme, institute village linkage programme, etc. There are several evidences of its success realized by the farmers and entrepreneurs. It is vital to focus and deliberate the success achieved by the users of the demonstrated technologies to encourage the end users and boost up the sorghum sector towards further development. The stories serve only to illustrate the variety of contributions that our profession has been making to perform enhancement, resource conservation, acceptance, cost reduction, and human welfare. The human factors contributions contained in these success stories will enlighten the overall development of the sorghum sector.

This publication provides abounds in lessons of successful experiences of sorghum farmers of different regions of the country which will be useful to the interested young and small entrepreneurs. It is hoped that this compilation will serve as a torch bearer to the stakeholders and policy makers of sorghum.

(RP Dua)



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FOREWORD

Sorghum is an important crop of resource poor, small and marginal farmers in semi-arid regions. The rainy season (*kharif*) sorghum grain is used both for human consumption and livestock feed, and post-rainy season (*rabi*) produce is used primarily for human consumption in our country. Thus, it is the key for the sustenance of human and livestock population. However, the area under sorghum in India has declined drastically from 18.6 m ha in 1969-70 to 7.06 m ha in 2010-11. The total production also declined from 9.72 m t to 7.24 m t. whereas, the productivity has increased from 522 kg /ha to 962 kg /ha during the same period mainly due to adoption of improved production technologies by the farmers.

Transfer of technology is an important area which played vital role in increasing productivity of the sorghum with the help of improved technologies. In this regard, several initiatives were taken by the institute since its inception. A frontline demonstration (FLD) on sorghum was one of them. It was initiated during 1996-97 with financial support of the Ministry of Agriculture, GOI. This programme envisages to enhance technology adoption by demonstrating the improved farm technologies directly on the farmers' fields. During the past few years, several technologies have been demonstrated on the farmers' fields across the sorghum growing regions in the country. Many small and marginal farmers and farmwomen were involved in this process. In this publication, we have attempted to bring out the success stories of the technology transfer efforts. I compliment the principal investigator and the scientists of the All India Coordinated Sorghum Improvement Project (AICSIP) centres for contributing success stories to this publication. I congratulate all the farmers, farmwomen and entrepreneurs, who actively participated in the institute's programmes and took advantages.

I wish that this publication will encourage many more farmers, researchers and extension personnel to engage in the ever continuing process of technology development and dissemination.

(JV Patil)

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