

Ragi Rewarded Farmers



Ragi (*Eleusina coracana* L.) is main staple crop of Tumkur district and is cultivated in 1.2 lakh ha. However, its cultivation declined in the district in recent years owing to low productivity due to non-availability of quality seeds, poor management and scanty rainfall. At this situation, KVK Tumkur introduced high yielding ragi variety MR-6, which was released in 2004 by University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore, through an empowerment approach called as Appreciative Planning and Action (APA). It has six stages and each stage has distinctly different activities indicated by 6 D's viz., Discovery, Dream, Design, Delivery, Do it now and Discuss/Dialogue. With this approach, 10 ha area was brought under cultivation by MR-6 variety in 2005-06 followed by 80 ha in 2006-07, 125 ha in 2007-08, 350 ha in 2008-09 and now it occupied 525 ha through two seasons June-October as *Kharif* and January-February as summer in the district. Farmers gained a net income of Rs 22000 with Benefit Cost Ratio of 2.5 with ragi variety MR-6 under the technical guidance and monitoring of KVK.

It is noteworthy that one of the farmers Shri Malleshaiah from C.N. Halli taluq created a landmark in the history of ragi cultivation accounting 38.70 q/ha under rainfed condition followed by other farmers viz., Shri B.T. Kariyappa from C.N. Halli taluq, Shri M.Thimmappa from Turuvekere taluq, Shri H.R. Suresh, Shri D.C.



Salient Features

- KVK empowered farmers through Appreciative Planning and Action
- Introduced ragi variety MR-6 which is more suitable for early sowing
- Achieved adoption of ragi variety MR-6 that gave 10-15% more yield as compared to MR-1, MR-2 and GPU-28
- Produced high quantity and quality of fodder through ragi variety MR-6 as compared to other varieties

Chikkabasappa from Tiptur taluq produced recordable yields of ragi 26.51, 35.51, 35.30 and 36.92 q/ha, respectively, for which they all got certificate of honour from the Department of Agriculture, Tumkur. Shri Thimmaiah, Shri Kariyappa, Shri Siddalingaiah and Shri Mallesh were some of the interested farmers actively engaged in the process of disseminating the technology as master trainers and sold seed materials to their neighbours at doorstep.

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