



## Timely Seed Supply Enhanced Farmers Income



**G**roundnut and rice productivity in Shimoga district is low due to non availability of quality seeds at right time. KVK Shimoga established seed villages through farmers participatory seed production in association with National Seed Project (NSP) of University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore. Programme was initiated in groundnut crop during summer 2003 by MOU with farmers to assure them about buy back agreement. According to MOU the selected farmers have to purchase nucleus seeds from NSP by paying Rs 4000/q. KVK imparted technical know-how and do-how through training among farmers and provided regular technical seed production guidance through field visits from time to time. Steps taken to maintain the purity of seed are (i) procured breeder seed from ARS, Honnavile, (ii) provided quality foundation seed to selected farmers, (iii) isolation distance maintained, (iv) timely roughing done and (v) provided seed certification by State Seed Certifying Agency. At the end, NSP purchased graded pods as per MOU.

It was attracted by farmers and area on groundnut seed production was extended to 10 ha during summer 2004. Seed production programme was then extended to rice crop during summer 2005 in an area of 50 ha and produced 2200 q of rice seeds of varieties viz., Jaya, Jyothi and MTU – 1001. Seed production of groundnut started with 2 ha in 2003 which increased to 52 ha at present, where as rice seed production increased from 50 ha in 2005 to 883 ha at present. Due to timely availability of quality seeds of rice, area sown expanded to 39622 ha. Due to seed production of groundnut and rice, additional net profit gained by the



## Salient Features

- Farmers have selected suitable varieties
- Farmers were made aware of about susceptible and resistant varieties towards specific pests and diseases
- Avoided 25-30% pest and disease incidence
- Farmers were learned about post harvest management
- Ensured timely supply of quality seeds
- Small farmers also participated in seed production

farmers was Rs 30000/ha and Rs 4625 to 7281/ha in different varieties of rice, respectively. Looking at the results, Government of India recognized Bullapura village as Seed Village during 2006 and supported with various facilities like paying Rs150/q of quality seed as an incentive to farmers who produce seeds. So far, farmers participatory seed production was established in 19 villages viz., Bullapura, Bedarahosahalli, Hanaswadi, Agasanahalli, Siriyur, Holehanasawadi, Barandur, Navile, Purale, Jayanthigrama, Dhadumghatta, Thimplapura, Hasudi, Honnavile, Belalkatte, Basavapura, Harobenavalli, Melinahanasawadi and Goravinakatte wherein 82 farmers involved in *kharif* and 43 farmers in *rabi*. Karnataka State Seed Corporation has taken up seed processing and marketing where as seed procurement and supply to farmers is being done by Department of Agriculture, Shimoga.

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