



Farm Women Friendly Weeder



Small and marginal farmers of Gadag district faced problems of high hiring charges as well as timely availability of bullock pair for hoeing. Farm women of these families are being used the bullock drawn hoeing equipment with their hands as bullock pair was not available in time on hiring basis. But the drudgery of using bullock drawn hoeing equipment by women was too severe and the pain experienced by farmwomen was too much. In this background, KVK Gadag brought Twin Wheel Hoe Weeder from the Central Institute of Agricultural Engineering (CIAE) and demonstrated in farmers fields during 2003-04. Based on the feedback from farm women, Twin Wheel Hoe Weeder was refined by changing the blade from "V" shape (120°) to horizontal shape (180°) in 3 sizes viz., 9", 10" and 12" to suit to inter row space of crops in Gadag district such as greengram, groundnut, onion etc which are sown in different row spacing as well as to reduce pain in shoulders of farm women during 2004-05. Refined Twin Wheel Hoe Weeder was popularized through frontline demonstrations, extension activities and also publishing article in Newspaper. As per the demand, KVK procured 270 Twin Wheel Hoe Weeders from CIAE and refined them as said above and supplied to farm women in Gadag district and farmers from other districts like Tumakur, Hasan, Chikkamangalore, Bellary, Gangavati, Bangalore etc. who visited KVK.

Data collected from 93 farm women who are using refined Twin Wheel Hoe Weeder for the past 3-4 years indicated that the labour requirement per ha for hoeing with bullocks and hand weeding was 28, 46, 18, 18 and 81 labours in greengram, groundnut, rabi jowar, bengalgram and onion crops where as with refined Twin Wheel Hoe Weeder and hand weeding, it was 15, 30, 16, 16 and 48 labours and saves Rs 1080, Rs 1560, Rs 720, Rs 720, and Rs 2580 per ha, respectively. In addition farm women expressed that timeliness in weeding and hoeing operation is possible only by using refined Twin Wheel Hoe Weeder



Salient Features

- Achieved timelines in hoeing and weeding in different crops through refined Twin Wheel Hoe Weeder
- Refined Twin Wheel Hoe Weeder reduced cost of weeding and hoeing, saved time and increased family labour
- Used refined Twin Wheel Hoe Weeder in close spaced crops (up to 12 inches) for early stage Inter cultivation

which otherwise is not possible in hoeing with bullocks. Study further revealed that inter-cultivation with bullocks was not possible within 45 days of onion crop due to tampering by bullocks and also mechanical damage to onion bulbs where as it was done with refined Twin Wheel Hoe Weeder without damage to bulbs. Many cases family labour was involved in operating refined Twin Wheel Hoe Weeder.

At present 545 farm women are using refined Twin Wheel Hoe Weeder (350 SHG members and 195 non SHG members) in 142 ha of greengram, 196 ha of groundnut, 153 ha of rabi jowar, 98 ha of bengalgram and 76 ha of onion in Gadag district during 2009-10 and save Rs 1533600, Rs 305760, Rs 110160, Rs 70560, Rs 196080, respectively. Few of them are Smt Neelavva Nagappa Hosmani from Tejaswini SHG of Hombal village, Smt Gangavva Channappa Madikeri from Sarswati SHG of Hirehandigol village, Smt Shantavva Ninappa Tirlapur from Shambhavi SHG of Neelgund village, Smt Neelambike Ishwarapp Radder from Manjunath SHG of Mallasamudra village and Smt Jayashree Channaveer Shettar from Kamadenu SHG of Soratur village in Gadag taluq and district.

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