

A SUCCESS STORY OF A COTTON SEED PRODUCTION FARMER

Seed is an important input for the farmers. The productivity of a crop depends on the quality of the seed used. Majority of the farmers do not use improved seeds because of non-availability and lack of knowledge. Under Front Line Demonstration, KVK has been promoting improved varieties of seeds.

Here is a case study of a farmer who was a participant farmer under FLD programme on desi cotton, later became a seed production farmer

Mr. Shambulinga Veerappa Halakeri is a big farmer hailing from Huilgol village of Gadag district. He has a land holding of 25 Acres and the income from their crop was not sufficient enough to maintain his livelihood because of erratic rainfall. At one point of time Mr. Halakeri thought of quitting the agricultural profession. During 2004-05, KVK conducted front line demonstration on Integrated Crop Management in herbaceous cotton. Mr. Halakeri became one of the participant farmer. KVK introduced DDHC-11 variety of herbaceous cotton along with application of vermicompost and bio-fertiliser. He harvested 7 quintal of seed cotton during that year. KVK advised him to gin the cotton to get the seeds of DDHC-11 variety as it is high yielding. Accordingly, he produced 2 quintals of seeds and sold to his fellow farmers during the next year at the rate of Rs.30 per Kg. During 2005-06, he approached KVK for taking up large scale seed production of DDHC-11 variety. KVK facilitated him to purchase foundation seeds and he took seed production of Cotton on 12 acres of his land and produced 20 quintals of seeds and earned Rs. 60000/- from the sales of seed. Since then, the farmer is producing 20-25 quintals of seeds every year and earning Rs. 60000-70,000. He is of the opinion that proper *in-situ* soil moisture conservation along with application of vermicompost and biofertilisers has helped him to produce good quality seeds. He has learnt the art of business in seed production as there are no organised marketing outlets for the Cotton seed.

Looking in to the success of Mr. Halakeri, farmers from neighbouring Hadagali and Gujamagadi villages have approached KVK for foundation seeds for taking up Cotton seed production.