

## **Report of visit to Maharashtra State by Dr. M. Dutta, National Consultant, Oilseeds w.e.f. 27-29<sup>th</sup> July, 2015**

Three districts namely, Nagpur, Chandrapur and Wardha were monitored during the visit.



**Soybean crop demonstration under Broad Bed Furrow (BBF) system**



**Meeting with district officials and Seed Producing Agencies at Nagpur**



**Soybean : Pigeon pea intercropping at Chandrapur district**



**Soybean crop in Chandrapur district**



**Soybean: Cotton (1:1) intercropping in Wardha district**

The major observations/ action points emanating from the visit could be summarized as follows:

- Although soybean sowing was started in time due to favorable onset of monsoon during the year, the crop suffered a long dry spell of about 25 days starting from beginning of July, 2015. The crop has recovered considerably after receipt of rains from 24<sup>th</sup> July onwards and there may not be any significant yield loss.
- The failure/damage of soybean crop in the past 3 years arising from erratic monsoon and untimely rains has resulted in diversion of large area to cotton and pigeon pea which can withstand drought better as these are deep rooted. Climate resilient varieties and agro-techniques need to be developed and disseminated.
- The broad-bed-furrow (BBF) and ridge-furrow (RF) techniques have been introduced but not yet popularized on a large scale among the farmers. Introduction of these farm machineries may help in completion of timely sowing and raise the yield of soybean considerably.

- Soybean: pigeon pea intercropping under BBF system with wider beds for soybean crop to accommodate wheat or chickpea in the subsequent rabi season is a welcome practice and needs to be promoted further.
- The crops like sunflower in kharif and safflower and linseed in rabi which were traditionally grown earlier in the region has almost gone out of cultivation and needs to be brought back together with sesame.
- Soybean has promise to be promoted as an intercrop in the newly established orange orchards.
- Seeds of newly released soybean varieties needs to be produced on a large scale and distributed to farmers for raising productivity level.
- It was pointed out that an early formulation/approval of the annual action plan and decision on pattern of funding, timely disbursement of subsidy and availability of inputs could expedite the delivery at the ground level.
- Sporadic initial infestation of defoliating insects was observed in some of the soybean fields indicating need for preparedness of timely insect management measures.
- Farmers need to be exposed to newer varieties and methods of soybean cultivation through exposure visits to research centers like ICAR-Directorate of Soybean Research, Indore, MP.

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