

Report on Mustard Seed Production Mela organized by Directorate of Rapeseed-Mustard Research (DRMR), Bharatpur ICAR at Madhuri-Kund Farm of DUVASU , Mathura

A Kisan Mela with a focus on seed production of mustard was sponsored to DRMR, Bharatpur under NMOOP with a financial assistance of Rs. 4.00 lakh. This mela was organized by DRMR in collaboration with Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Pashu-Chikitsa Vigyan Vishwavidyalaya evam Go Anusandhan Sansthan (DUVASU) at its Madhuri-Kund farm, Mathura on 3rd March, 2015. Production technologies of mustard, other Rabi crops and animal health improvement were exhibited by DRMR, DUVASU and KVK, Mathura. The mela was inaugurated by the Deputy Director General (CS), ICAR. The participants were addressed by Director, DRMR; Vice-Chancellor, DUVASU; Dean & Director Extension, DUVASU; Consultants, NMOOP and the DDG (CS), the Chief Guest of the function. Interactive sessions was well organized between Scientist and farmers before and after the formal inaugural session. The highlights of the mela are given below:

1. More than 1500 farmers including about 100 women from 4 major mustard growing States namely Haryana, MP, Rajasthan and UP participated in the mela.
2. Scientists from DRMR, Faculty of DUVASU, Officials of UP State and Officials from DAC, personals from seed industry participated in the Mela.
3. A publication entitled “Improved Agronomic Practices for Cultivation of Rapeseed – Mustard in India” brought out by DRMR, Bharatpur was released during the inaugural session (**Appendix-I**). Copies of a bulletin in hindi on “Sarson (laha) ki Unnat Kheti” was widely circulated among the participating farmers (**Appendix-II**).
4. More than twenty five farmers including seed growers were honored for their contribution in improving the productivity of mustard.
5. A folk dance featuring with a song on mustard cultivation including improved varieties of mustard was followed by question answer session and award to the winners.
6. Out of 1400 acre land owned by DUVASU, an area of 800 acre is under cultivation. The quality seed production of mustard over an area of >100 acre and breeder seed production of wheat and barley with an MoU with DRMR, Bharatpur and IARI, New Delhi has been undertaken for the first time to improve the output and utilization of the farm. Hon'ble AM has also visited the University in September, 2014 (**Appendix-III**).
7. Demonstration of seed production of improved varieties of mustard namely RH-749 (60 acre), NRCDR 2 (35 acre) and Rohini (15 acre) was at physiological maturity stage, with an expected yield of >2 tonnes/ha was witnessed by the farmers.

8. A number of progressive farmers expressed their confidence and acknowledged the services rendered by DRMR and DUVASU with the help of Ministry of Agriculture & Cooperation Govt. of India.
9. Important observations emerged during the Mela are summarized as under:
 - 9.1 The varieties of mustard with an average yield potential of 2 tonnes/ha at the University farm under saline conditions clearly indicates that productivity of mustard from the present level of National Average (1250 kg/ha) could be increased by 7.5 qt/ha.
 - 9.2 Enhanced use of farm mechanization particularly for completion of sowing within a short time in rainfed condition followed by protective irrigation with the use of micro-irrigation facilities including water carrying pipes and harvesting of rain water could help in productivity improvement of mustard.
 - 9.3 Production of seed at Government farms including SAUs could ensure the supply of quality seeds to the farmers. Central and State Seed producing agencies should avail such facilities through MoUs.
 - 9.4 The University farm could be more effectively utilized for seed production where large area is saline and the irrigation water is full of heavy metals. Mustard hold promise in such condition. However, the crop like barley and berseem also hold promise to improve the salinity. Basic infrastructure supports like fencing, threshing floor, installation of micro-irrigation and maintenance of seed storage godowns may be supported by the State Government through RKVY or the existing schemes of DAC like NMAET/NMOOP.
 - 9.5 Integrated farming with rearing of live stock and crop production will be a better option for sustainable agriculture in rainfed/semi-arid zones.
 - 9.6 It is imperative to attract youth towards agriculture with enhanced use of IT for faster and precise dissemination of technologies.
 - 9.7 Adoption of organic farming including conservation agriculture (zero tillage) with recycling of bio-resources including weeds, good quality manure with use of gobar gas/ bio-gas plants and solar pumps could reduce the use of pesticides. Participatory research with active involvement of farmers may be adopted by the research institutes for easy adoption of technologies by the target groups.
 - 9.8 Use of multiple/mix cropping system for better risk management under rainfed area was highlighted by a progressive farmer.
 - 9.9 The event was widely appreciated by the farmers, who suggested that such Kisan Melas should be organized at regular intervals with representation of all stakeholders including Private Sector.

.....

Few Photographs of Mustard Mela



Inauguration of the Mustard Mela



Release of publication on Mustard cultivation



DDG (Crop Science), ICAR addressing the gathering



Participating farmers in Mustard Mela



VC , DUVASU addressing the participants



Honor to a farmer