

Co14 Dolichos Bean – Suitable vegetable crop quick return

Background

The farmers of Vilathikulam region in Tuticcorin district are heavily relying on monsoon rainfall for their farming practices. Even the farmers having bore wells to support their crops in the field are seldom raise long duration crops. Water scarcity during peak flowering and fruit setting period often resulted in poor yield which reduces the income from the crops. So farmers were looking for an alternate short duration vegetable crops for quick return.

Intervention

Under the guidance of Dr. Cletus Babu, Chairman of SCAD Institutions and the advice of Dr.Sreenath Dixit, Zonal Project Director, Bangalore Subject Matter Specialists of the ICAR supported SCAD Krishi Vigyan Kendra located at Vagaikulam village, Tuticorin region collected the problems of Vilathikulam farmers through PRA exercise and introduced the CO 14 Dolichos bean as a short duration vegetable crop to the farmers. During 2013-14, it introduced this crop to five farmers through an On Farm Trial programme at Iyan Pommaiahpuram Village. Since the results obtained from the farmers were very encouraging, SCAD KVK again introduced the crop in ten farmers' field through Front Line Demonstration Programme during 2014-15. Along with 4kg of seeds to raise in one acre area, 1kg of vegetable special also given as inputs to the farmers.

Impact

Mr. Dharmaraj(52) of Kuruvarpaati village who got seeds from SCAD KVK sowed the seeds in 45x30cm spacing after treating the seeds with Rhizobium solution. He noticed the first flowering in 38th days after sowing and the flowering completed in 45 days. As instructed by the KVK experts, he sprayed 3% effective microorganism (EM) solution on 45th, 60th and 75th day to boost the flower and fruit production. He also sprayed 0.3% vegetable special on 40th, 55th and 70th day. To control the fruit borer and jassids he



sprayed 2% neem oil with soap solution. He did the first harvest on 52nd day and from 11 harvests, he could harvest 36.2 quintals of green pod from his one acre land.

Economic gains

The green pods fetched the maximum of Rs.38 and minimum of Rs.22 per kg of fruits from the Vilathikulam market. For the production, he spent Rs.17,800 and sold the green pods to Rs.1,08,000. He earned Rs.90,000 as net return within a short period of 96days. For his

outstanding achievement, he was appreciated by Dr. Chandra Gowda, Senior Scientist of Zonal Directorate Office, Bangalore during his field visit. Mr. Madasamy of Iyan pommaiahpuram village also earned Rs.80,000 as net return from the sale of CO-14 Dolichos bean.

Being a photo insensitive crop, it can be cultivated throughout the season. After seeing the very encouraging result, SCAD KVK is now focusing on seed production of CO 14 Dolichos bean as the demand for the crop is increasing among the farmers of Vilathikulam region.