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Safflower Brings More Colours in Farmer's Life - Success Story on Safflower Cultivation

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Crop: Safflower (Variety: Manjeera)

Name of the farmer and Address: Mr. Katkam Praneeth Reddy, Village: Tarnam (B), Mandal: Neridigonda, District: Adilabad (504 323), State: Telangana.

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Abstract

Safflower is an annual oil plant belonging to the Compositae family that can be grown as a summer or winter crop. The seeds are composed of between 20 and 45% oil and 15-20 % protein, and the food value of the protein derived from the seeds is high. Safflower oil is odorless and quite rich in linoleic acid from unsaturated oil, which prevents the formation of high cholesterol in the blood and also it is a rich source of vitamin E. Safflower flower is used as source for dyes or for medicinal purposes. There are both spiny and spineless types of safflower, and the oil contents of the spiny types are higher than those of the spineless types. Global safflower sowing area is 7,82,641 ha, its production is 6,47,374 tons, and the average yield is 8,271 kg ha^{-1}.

Background Information

Tarnam (B) located in Neradigonda Mandal of Adilabad District is famous for flood during *kharif* caused huge loss to farmers by damaging the crops. Mr. Katkam Praneeth Reddy cultivated rainfed cotton crop (7 acres) which was grown on black soil situated in the vicinity of Kadem River. During flood in the river during August, 2018 this cotton crop was majorly damaged. Because of lack of irrigation facility, he was thinking to keep his land fallow during *Rabi*.

Intervention

Mr. Praneeth has taken suggestions from the DAATTC, Adilabad beneficiary farmer Venkata Ramana Reddy from Tejapur on whose field DAATTC had conducted OFT on Safflower in wild boar affected area. As Farmer to Farmer sharing of technology, he brought 40 Kgs of safflower seeds from him and cultivated Safflower in those 7 acres of land with less investment.

He has frequently contacted DAATTC Scientists for technical support during the implementation of this intervention. DAATTC Scientists visits and capacity building program at his crop at every each stage motivated and guided him to cultivate the new crop in area and get good yield.

Success Points

- Contingency crop planning should be kept ready in case of crop loss due to natural or manmade disasters.
- Mechanization from seed to harvesting is needed for effective cultivation of safflower crop. When we cultivate this crop as boarder crop, it protects the main crop from wild animal's especially wild boars.

Results and Outcomes

He has economically benefitted with the net income of Rs. 12,823.00 per acre from the land which he was thinking to keep fallow due to loss of cotton crop.

The cost of the intervention and his benefits are presented in the Table 1.

Table 1: Cost of technology intervention

S.No	Category	Cost of cultivation/ acre (Rs.)
1.	Soil preparation	1000
2.	Seed	250
3.	Sowing	700
4.	Inter-cultivation	0
5.	Manures and fertilizers	0
6.	Plant protection	350
7.	Mechanical Harvesting	1655
8.	Transport	300
9.	Total expenditure	4255
10.	Grain Yield/acre (kg/acre)	475
11.	Gross income (Rs.) Obtained rate (Rs. 3600/Q)	17100
12.	Net income (Rs./acre)	12823
13.	B:C ratio (GI/COC)	4.0:1

Figure 1: Cotton field destroyed with heavy floods during Kharif

Extension Aspects

By successfully adopting this intervention he became a role model for his villagers and neighboring village farmers. Mr. Praneeth and his fellow farmers showed willingness to grow safflower in their fields as sequence crop wherever they grow rainfed soybean during Kharif on black soils to obtain higher profit from the agriculture.

Figure 2: Safflower crop cultivated in Rabi as rainfed crop

Figure 3: Farmers from adjacent villages observing the crop

Conclusion

The farmers recognized that safflower could fetch him good remuneration and compensation for the lost cotton crop. Growing safflower was easy and needed less investment. No damage due to wild animals. It could be a good intervention for the farmers who have no/less irrigation facility and who were suffering from the wild animal's damage to their crops. As the intervention is cost effective, remunerative, and useful for crop rotation and a potential option as contingent crop in wild boar affected area and this resulted in increasing cropping intensity of rain fed agriculture, it is highly sustainable in black soils.