

## **Krishi Vigyan Mandal- Empowering Small and Marginal Farmers in Jalna District of Maharashtra**

Krishi Vigyan Mandal (KVM), conceptualized and promoted by KVK, Jalna-I is an unique example of self-sustainable and innovative extension system in agriculture. KVM has completed 261 monthly farmers' seminars (21 years) on 5<sup>th</sup> May, 2019. The group members meet on 5<sup>th</sup> date of every month on their own without any discontinuity irrespective of holidays, festivals or any other reason. All the financial expenses for organising these seminars are borne by individual KVM members voluntarily with mutual understanding without any conflict. The farmers attended last seminar are asked questions in next seminar and the farmers giving correct answers of five consecutive questions is awarded with silver coin. This helps in motivation and attentiveness of farmers in monthly seminar.

Dr. Lakhan Singh, Director, ICAR-ATARI, Pune participated in 261<sup>st</sup> monthly seminar in which around 450 farmers were benefitted including more than 100 farm women. The topics discussed were Advances in Cotton Technologies, Pink bollworm management and selection of BT cotton varieties. The scientists from VNMKV, Parbhani and ICAR-NCIPM, New Delhi were invited as resource persons for this seminar.

The real impact of KVM was realised in the field visits during 4-5 May 2019. It was observed that even under adverse climatic situations and continuous droughts and dry spells in the district, the farmers are very confidently engaged in farming with innovative mind. Mr. Vinay Kumar Abad, an elite and innovative farmer, has planted about one acre bamboo under contract farming facilitated by KVK. He expects an income of Rs. 3-4 lakh per acre after 4 years of plantation. KVK has formed a group and planted around 160 acres bamboo as a climate resilient crop in the district.

Mr. Prakash Ubale from Nadapur village in Jalna taluka having only 1 ha land, had developed his expertise in custard apple. By adopting proper pruning technology, he earns about Rs. 2-3 lakh per year from custard apple. In addition, he has also planted lemon and mangoes on 0.20 ha area each. Mr. Datratray Chavan and Vijay Chavan brothers from same village manage around 90 acre cultivable land in joint family of 30 members. Having about 25 acre grapes and 2 farm pond of 2.5 crore litre water storage capacity adopted appropriate pruning schedule of grapes due to which the last harvesting of grapes is done around 15<sup>th</sup> May. Mr. Yogesh Gandal from Ahankar Deulgaon village has planted custard apple on 3 acre under the guidance of Mr. Prakash Ubale (horizontal spread).

Mr. Anand Kadam from Revgaon village after undergoing training at KVK, now manage 150 goats and earns about Rs. 2.5-3.00 lakh every year. A 55 years old illiterate farmer Mr. Anil Pakhre from the same village having only 3 acre of land, maintained thousand of forest species like Neem, Subabul, Custard apple on bunds and nalas. Using waste plastic drums, damaged still pots and gunny bags, he maintained many forest species. With innovative mind, he collects and sale cow urine, takes vegetables as intercrop in maize and in between forest species and earns about Rs. 5000 additional benefit.

Mr. Ganesh Joshi, a post graduate youth in Journalism in Mass Communication from Bazar Gevrai village with 3 acres of land only, growing leafy vegetables like coriander, spinach, shepu, methi, etc on 0.01 ha area in just 1000 liters water per day and calculating as he is earning one rupee by investing 2 lit of water and trying to bring down it to earn one rupee in one lit of water. Mr. Jaikisan Shinde, a Shetinishtha Shetkari Award winner from Govt. of Maharashtra is a successful case of IFS model with sericulture, pomegranates, fishery in farm pond, goat and poultry with all types of organic manures earns about Rs. 5 lakh per year from 3 acres of land.



Source: ICAR-Agricultural Technology Application Research Institute, Pune