



Jackie -9218: a wilt resistant variety of Bengal gram for improved crop production

I am a small holder farmer and my household is dependent on agriculture. Earlier I used to cultivate Vijay variety of Bengal Gram. But due to lack of seed treatment, the crop was affected by wilt disease resulting in low production and I did not get the expected yield.

In 2015-16, as part of the Farming System for Nutrition (FSN) study under LANSAs, I got 20 kg of Jacki-9218 variety of Bengal Gram seed from the M S Swaminathan Research Foundation for sowing on one acre. This variety has been recommended by Panjabrao Deshmukh Krishi Vidyapith, Akola and is wilt resistant. I got guidance from the Foundation for seed treatment before sowing. As a result there was less occurrence of wilt. I followed the recommended practices on land preparation and ploughed the land with both tractor and bullocks, irrigated the field and then sowed the treated seed. To control disease and pest attack in the crop, the Foundation recommended use of a bio-pesticide, '*Beauveria Bassiana*'; before applying it, I sprayed neem extract and cow urine on the crop. I did the spraying in every eight days and as a result there was reduced pest attack. I also used pheromone trap for controlling pests. I was able to reduce expenses in this process because earlier, I used to spray chemicals and my expenses were high. I benefitted and understood the importance of the measures recommended. The Jackie-9218 variety is a 93 to 125 days crop. Its grains are bold and big in size. In 2016-17, I got a yield of 10 quintals per acre.

I got a good price for my produce in the market leading to higher returns. In 2016-17, I got a net profit of INR 20000 to INR 25000 per acre. Now there is availability of the pulse at home for consumption throughout the year. I have been conserving the seed every year since the past three years. The Foundation provided triple layered bag for storing the grain / seeds safely. This protects the grains/seeds from disease and pests. My annual expense on seed purchase and chemical pesticide has come down, and both production and income have increased. I have also learnt about good nutrition.

Name : Ravindar Muralidhar Dhamande

Village : Borgaon Gondi,

Block: Karanja, District: Wardha

Age : 31 years

Caste : Kalar (OBC)

Occupation : Farmer (5 acres)

Family size : 6 (4 adults, 2 children)

Written by **Manoj R. Sayre**,
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