

The Adaptation of Climate Resilient Cropping Practices Reduced the Vulnerability to Drought



To fight with the vagaries of the nature, AFARM introduced the drought resilient climate change adaptive technologies in Kuranwadi village of Ambejogai block in Beed district. To increase the adaptation of technologies by the farmers, Pilot demonstrations along with organization of Farmers Field Schools on the demonstrations in Kuranwadi was organised. These frontline

demonstrations included demonstration of CRCS practices on crops like Cotton, Soyabean, Redgram, Jowar, Greengram and Blackgram, etc. In all 14 farmers from the village were selected as frontline demonstration farmers. Ramkisan Balaji Devkate is one such farmer, who not only demonstrated the climate resilient technologies in his farm in the Kharif 2015, but also replicated the same in the Kharif 2016 season.

Ramkisan has the family of six members including 2 sons, two daughters-in-laws and four grand children besides himself and his wife. The family as a whole has four acres of agricultural land, predominantly the rainfed agriculture. He cultivates the crops such as Jowar, Bajara, Soyabean and Cotton. Before the kharif season of the year 2015, Ramkisan was practicing chemical agriculture. In the kharif season of the year 2015, MANAVLOK, a local implementing NGO elected some lead farmers for demonstration on different varieties of crops. Ramkisan Devkate was selected as one of the lead farmers for demonstration of cotton on approximately 0.75 acre of land. As a pre-sowing practice, Ramkisan used cow urine on the entire 0.75 acres. He used the local variety of cotton seed for the sowing. He did the sowing through dibbling at the distance of 60 x 30 cm. While sowing the seed, Ramkisan also sowed the vermin compost along with the seeds. After the 15 days, when the buds came out, he did the spraying of urine of cow mixed with Dashaparni Arka, which he repeated for 5 to 6 times during the entire crop cycle. After the 20 days from sowing, Ramkrishna repeated the dose of vermin compost to the crop. This is all that Ramkrishna gave to the cotton crop during the whole crop cycle. Previously he used to apply chemicals fertilizers and pesticides amounting to about Rs.7,000/- . He says that the said cost is reduced drastically.

Last year there was a severe drought after the scanty monsoon rainfall. Ramkisan said that, during that critical period, the project facilitation helped in getting access to the scheme of the Agriculture Department for the Drip Unit. This helped Ramkisan in giving protective irrigation for sixty days for cotton crop. This water was brought from the well and farm pond by Ramkisan and his family members.

Ramkisan says "I could produce 7 quintals of cotton from 0.75 acres of land even during drought last year". Another issue he highlights is that, there was the occurrence of white ant, which was controlled through Dashaparni Arka and cow dung and more importantly there was no effect of reddening in cotton which destroys the crop and drastically reduces the crop production. Another important issue is that, due to application of CRCS practices, the cotton seeds were ripe had more weight than the previous year, and ultimately that led to increase in the weight of the cotton production.

Ramkisan proudly says, "I have continued the same practice this year also. I am also applying the same practice in the other crops I am cultivating presently; Ten to twelve people in my group have started the application of some of the techniques on their farms such as, use of cow urine and vermin compost". He expressed his gratitude towards AFARM and Manavlok for the timely assistance and technical help provided to him.