

ICAR-IIOR organized Safflower and Sesame Field Day and Training for the benefit of tribal farmers 06/03/2024

The ICAR- Indian Institute of Oilseeds Research, Hyderabad organized **Safflower and summer Sesame** Field Day under TSP 2023-24 in aspirational district of Adilabad in Keslapur village on 06/03/2024.

Traditionally, farmers in Adilabad district cultivate cotton, soybean, redgram, greengram blackgram during *kharif* in black cotton soils. Farmers with access to irrigation during *rabi* cultivate bengalgram, fodder sorghum and wheat. Safflower as *rabi* crop provides an opportunity for the tribal farmers with access to one or two irrigations in black cotton soils both as sole crop, inter crop and border crop in targeted villages. Similarly, summer sesame provides an opportunity as second crop after cotton. Castor can be promoted as border crop for cotton crop during *kharif* and as pure crop during *rabi* under limited irrigation in black soils. During 2023-24, demonstrations of castor (25 acres) during *kharif*; safflower (25 acres) during *rabi*; sesame during summer (50 acres) were taken up in 100 acres. Improved seed material of safflower (ISF-764) and sesame (YLM-66) were supplied.

During the field day the team of scientists led by Dr. R.K. Mathur, Director, IIOR visited the fields of Sri Sedamathi Krishna, Keslapur village who was cultivating variety of crops in his 10 acre farm viz., cereals (wheat, maize); millets (sorghum-desi and hybrid) chilli and mixed cropping of various leafy vegetables and beans. The farmer was also encouraged to take up oilseed crops (niger, groundnut, and summer sesame). It was inspiring for others as the farmer demonstrated and was able to fallow crop diversification and make use of the crop residues/waste farm material convert it into valuable manure *ex-situ* in and reuse effectively for enhancing soil fertility.

In two demonstration plots of Sri. Kenaku Seku and Sri.Marappa Thulsiram with inter cropping of safflower +chickpea (1:10); the chickpea crop was just harvested and farmers realized average yield of 6-7 q/acre with addition of legume crop residue as mulch material/livestock feed. Safflower was found to be irrigated under sprinkler irrigation.

Earlier, Sri. Athram Sitharam farmer with 5 acres of *podu* land was growing Jowar/cotton during *kharif*. The construction of new farm pond provided him an opportunity to rise second and third crop and with the efforts of IIOR he had successfully cultivated and demonstrated sole crop of safflower (ISF-764) and sesame (YLM-66) in one acre each under sprinkler irrigation.

After the field visit, interaction meeting with farmers was organized. Dr. R. K. Mathur, Director, ICAR-IIOR Hyderabad stressed the importance of oilseed crops; their scope along with the benefits and value-added products and potential of oilseed crops as component crop in Adilabad. The need for forming into Farmers Societies was stressed for farmers benefit. Earlier, Dr. G. Suresh, Principal Scientist (Agronomy), IIOR highlighted the main objectives of the Tribal Sub-Plan Programme of Government of India and various beneficiary activities undertaken by IIOR was outlined. Dr. Mangesh Dudhe, Senior Scientist (Plant Breeding) underlined the potential of important oilseed varieties and hybrids. Dr. R.D. Prasad, Principal Scientist (Plant Pathology), IIOR Dr. Rajeshwari, Principal Scientist (Plant Pathology) ARS,

Adilabad and Dr. Antitha Principal Scientist (Entomology) ARS, Adilabad discussed important pest and diseases of oilseed crops and their effective management through bio-pesticides and other means.

Few progressive farmers viz., Sri. Meshram Venkat; Sri Meshram Jangu Bapu Sri.Marappa Thulsiram also discussed and shared their views about the problems and prospects of oilseed crop cultivation. The dignitaries of the occasion and Scientists of IIOR also distributed the battery sprayers and tarpaulins.

IIOR has also facilitated and helped in formation of Malkapur Cooperative Society where in support was provided for maintaining power weeders, brush cutters and oil extraction machine which are being utilized by the group members at a mutually agreed nominal price

The event registered a total footfall by about 225 tribal farmers.



Conversion of crop residues in vermi beds in farmer's field of Mr. Sedamathi Krishna, Keslapur village, Adilabad district (07/03/2024)



Performance of safflower (ISF-764) with limited irrigations through sprinklers Sri. Kenaku Seku
Keslapur village, Adilabad district (07/03/2024)



Summer sesame (YLM-66) Mr. Sedamathi Krishna, Keslapur village, Adilabad district
(07/03/2024)



Discussion on crop diversification Keslapur village, Adilabad district (07/03/2024)



Inter cropping of safflower +chickpea (1:10) Sri. Kenaku Seku Keslapur village, Adilabad district (07/03/2024)



Farmer-Scientist Interction Keslapur village, Adilabad district (07/03/2024)



Distribution Tarpaulins and battery sprayers to beneficiary farmers Keslapur village, Adilabad district (07/03/2024)