

National Food Security Mission; A new Hope for Better Harvest of Pulse Crops in West Bengal

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Abstract—India is the largest producer, consumer and as well as largest importer of pulses in the world. In West Bengal total pulse growing areas, production & productivity are 246.95m ha, 235.39 m ton & 953kg/ha(2014-15). But there is a huge gap (nearly 80%) between requirement & production of pulse crops in West Bengal. Where as in India main pulse growing states are MP, UP, AP, Rajasthan, Maharashtra etc. So to meet the states' domestic requirement we have to depend upon those states. Consequently the price of dal is always fluctuating. Therefore to stabilize the market price & to increase the pulse production & to energize the farmers to grow pulse crops, Central Govt. has increased the MSP of different pulses time to time. National Food Security Mission (NFSM) has been launched in the year 2007. NFSM has five components like (i) NFSM- Rice; (ii) NFSM- Wheat; (iii) NFSM-Pulses, (iv) NFSM-Coarse cereals and (v) NFSM-Commercial Crops. In West Bengal NFSM pulse programme was started from 2007 at seven districts & now presently all the agricultural districts (18) have come under this mission. Initiatives have been taken by the Agriculture department, govt. of WB for popularizing improved package of practices of pulses like use of certified seeds, seed treatment, INM, IPM, IWM, resource conservation technology, capacity building programme for farmers, conduction of demonstration centre, practice of farm mechanization, set up of dal meal & rural godowns for good post harvest management & close monitoring for timely reach of assistance to the targeted beneficiaries. During the year 2013-14 the total pulse growing areas has been moved up to 233430 ha with a productivity of 922 kg/ha (11.76% increase over 2009-10) in WB. The % of increase of productivity in the year 2009-10 was 15.06 in case of NFSM pulse district over 2006-07, where as in case non NFSM district & for state total it was 12.15 % & 11.66%. So there is a vast scope to increase pulse production in this state by using the rice fallow areas, intercropping with maize, oilseeds, other cereals, cultivating short duration varieties with single picking character emphasizing NFSM-Pulse programme in the state.

Keyword: NFSM, Pulse, Area, Production, West Bengal

Abbreviation: NFSM-National Food Security Mission

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