

Success story of Farmers Field School on Production of Rice var. RC-Maniphou-13 for enhancing production, productivity and profitability

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Abstract

The idea of a "farmer field school" involves teaching farmers new technology in their own fields or communities. During Kharif season 2024, ICAR-KVK Chandel organized a Front-Line Demonstration on Rice variety RC-Maniphou-13 on 10 hectares of land by 25 Progressive farmers in various Chandel district villages, including Unapal, Chandel Christian, Lamphoupasna, Lambung, Hnattham, Chandonpokpi, and Purumchumbang. The scientists from ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra Chandel carried out the various activities, covering the group discussion, the method demonstration on seed treatment, nursery management, and line sowing of rice, as well as the field visits and field day. Twenty-five farmers altogether participated in the Farmers Field School.

Introduction

The Farmer Field School is a specially designed intervention that supports farmers' learning and experimentation while offering a stage for showcasing contemporary farming methods. One kind of informal education is Farmer Field School (FFS). All of the learning is field-based and involves group activities. It encourages involvement, communication, and cooperative decision-making while giving farmers the independence to handle their field issues. Farmers gain new knowledge by doing tasks and continuously observing others. From planting to harvest, groups of nearby farmers gather on a regular basis to watch and talk about the ecological dynamics of the crop. Farmer knowledge of functional relationships is further enhanced by simple experimentation. Through this cycle of learning, farmers gain the knowledge necessary to decide how best to manage their crops. Special group activities improve group dynamics and communication abilities while promoting learning among teammates. Farmers' skill development and self-improvement are the main goals of the Farmer Field School methodology. By experimenting with and implementing creative ideas, farmers become specialists at modifying their farming methods to suit regional conditions. Farmers acquire knowledge and

decision-making confidence through weekly field observations, analysis, and management action. Therefore, the Farmer Field School approach turns the top-down, research-driven extension Approach and gives special consideration to farmers' traditional knowledge. Farmers are now seen as field specialists who work with scientists to identify answers that are applicable to local conditions rather than as receivers of technical packages that have already been developed.



Farmer Field School on Production and productivity of Rice.

ICAR-KVK, Chandel conducted a Production of Rice var. RC-Maniphou-13 for enhancing production, productivity and profitability Farmer Field School program in seven villages in the Chandel district of Manipur state: Unapal, Chandel Christian, Lamphoupasna, Lambung, Hnattham, Chandonpokpi, and Purumchumbang. In particular, ICAR-KVK Chandel has done a transect walk. Farmers indicated that the cost of producing rice is expensive and that the yield is low. The introduction of the "scientific package of practices including Integrated Nutrient Management" was one of the many strategies to lower production costs and boost productivity that were explored in the group. Technical discussions on Integrated Crop Management (ICM) and Integrated Nutrient Management (ICM) were conducted using LCD projection through on-campus and off-campus training programs after the need among farmers was recognized. The Subject Matter Specialist (Agronomy)

discussed scientific technical know-how and answered farmers' questions during a training session on Integrated Crop Management and Integrated Nutrient Management. Apart from the technical expertise, the successful farmers who had already adopted ICM from Chandel Christian village shared their lessons learned to inspire confidence and enthusiasm. Farmers were advised to grow the High Yielding Variety Rice, RC-Maniphou-13 and adopt line planting with the spacing of 20 x 20 cm by using ropes and the seedlings to be transplanted at 20 days old. For fertilizer application, the farmers were advice to go for Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) i.e. 50% recommended dose of N:P:K /ha alongwith FYM and Green Manuring. The cost benefit analysis of ICM and INM were also being worked out.

Through the cooperation of farmers and guidance from ICAR-KVK Chandel Expert, Subject Matter Specialist (Agronomy), a Farmer Field School was formed at Mr. Ch. Dewanso Aimol's field in Unapal village. Even though Ch. Dewanso Aimol and his family only own one hectare of land together, they are hardworking and progressive. New approaches such as the adoption of the rice crop variety RC-Maniphou-13, Integrated Crop Management, and

Integrated Nutrient Management attracted his interest. They were skeptical when KVK Chandel suggested that they participate in the Farmer Field School intervention, mostly because of the new technologies like ICM and INM, but his willingness to do something new prompted him to move forward.

In contrast to the traditional way of rice growing, Mr. Ch. Dewanso Aimol was able to obtain an average yield of 59.55 q/ha of rice, earning him a gross income of Rs. 178650, a net income of Rs. 113700, and a B:C of 2.75:1. *"What I hear, I forget. What I see, I remember. What I do, I understand"* Mr. Ch. Dewanso was very thankful to ICAR-KVK Chandel for the support and guidance in his success and the successful implementation of Farmer Field School. His success not only encouraged the surrounding farmers but also improved the work culture of the farmers as seeing is believing and learning by doing.

As a result, the intervention increased crop productivity and production. Farmers harvested a bumper yield by adopting Integrated Crop Management and Integrated Nutrient Management with High Yielding Rice var RC-Maniphou-13. in contrast to traditional cultivation methods and the use of local rice cultivars.
