

Title - Introduction of Castor as a contingency crop

- **Farming situation-** KVK village and adjoining village is a drought prone area of Baramati Tehsil, most of the cropping area depend on monsoon rain and medium black soils present in the area of KVK village
- **Climatic vulnerability-** Erratic rainfall and frequent drought conditions during crop growth stages often results in crop failures in rain fed environment. The village on an average receives mean annual rainfall of 353.60 mm in 2018-19. Jalgaon kadepathar, Jalgaon supe & Karhati village is predominated with black soils (medium to light), water scarcity, poor soil health and intermittent dry spells are limiting the productivity of crops. Farmers of the Jalgaon kadepathar, Jalgaon supe and Karhati village are following the cultivation of local varieties which are quite low in yield and yield reduction was also observed due to Dry spells during the crop growth period.
- **Problems identified-** In *Kharif* season Mr. Nimbalkar sown the sunflower and Bajra as a main crop on his land, but low rainfall received in early *Kharif* 2019. Sown varieties which are not able to stand in low water situation or they were not survive in drought condition, due to that reason all sown crops were failed. Though Mr. Nimbalkar was decided to overcome this problem and took decision to sown the Castor as contingency crop in late August. Castor has low water and care requirement in crop production period.
- **Technological intervention in brief-** Castor sown as contingency crop in the late August of *Kharif* 2019 due to low rainfall situation. Bajra & Sunflower failed two acre plot utilized for sowing of castor seed. In the field 90 x 150 cm spacing maintained & dibbling method used for sowing.
- **Efforts made by KVK / methodology followed-** KVK project started in 2011 and adopted the Jalgaon Kadepathar a KVK village but after successful review from KVK village, KVK was decided to adopt another village, those have same climatic vulnerability and in the 2014-15 KVK adopted two another villages Jalgaon Supe and Karhati. Through this project KVK supported in NRM practices, Crop production, Livestock production and conducted various trainings according to farming situation in KVK villages. KVK, Baramati provide the improved variety seed material of castor to Mr. Nimbalkar though KVK project and guided regarding whole cropping period of the castor. In the cropping period Mr. S.V.Karanje (SMS, Agronomy) visited the demo plot and few suggestions was given for better production of the castor seed.
- **Output:** During the year 2019-20 KVK Conducted demonstration of feild of Mr Nimbalkar with drip irrigation system under KVK , during kharif with limited moisture condition Bajra and other kharif season crops get failure under that situation castor crop is survive , farmers growing the castor as a main crop and getting yield 17 per /ha with net income of 34743/-
- **Outcome:** By seeing the success of this Technology more than 50farmers from of adjoining village and adjoining Satara , Solapur , district of Maharashtra was adopted this crop technology and awareness among the farmers in Maharashtra
- **Impact:** Cultivating the castor as contingency crop in kharif season and Mr. Nimbalkar getting good returns from its cultivation. Their village farmers impressed from castor yield & its returns, they are demanding to KVK, Baramati to provide Castor seed for Kharif season & around 24 farmers sown castor as a main crop in adjoined villages and total 10 hectare area covered by castor crop. For the reason of increasing the castor area KVK, Baramati procured Castor thresher machine for Custom

hiring centre, which are helpful for threshing purpose, minimise the unwanted effort for threshing purpose and also generating the extra revenue for custom hiring centre of KVK village.

Photographs-



Photographs of Demonstration of Castor as contingent crop

