

Gum Guar – A remunerative crop for dryland Agriculture



The Initiative:

In Karnataka, a total of 12.31 million hectares of land (64% of the state's total area) is cultivated mostly under rainfed conditions as only 26.5% of the sown area is irrigated. Agricultural production in rainfed areas have always remained low and unstable due to impact of climate change, erratic monsoon occurs leading to natural disasters such as drought, floods, cyclones etc. Nearly 2/3 rd of the cropped acreage is vulnerable to drought leading to severe reduction in yields and total agricultural production making the farming community economically unviable. Thus the prime objective of the RKVY sponsored project was to improve the livelihood of the dry land famers by introducing an alternate and economic crop for rainfed areas with higher productivity fetching good economic returns to the farmers.

The Beneficiaries:

Farmers of rainfed areas of Chitradurga, Davanagere, Chickmagalore and Shivamogga districts of southern Karnataka.



The Challenge:

- Guar (Cluster bean) growing for vegetable purpose was an age old practice but cultivating the guar for galactomanan (gum) was new concept to the farmers of Karnataka. So, introducing the crop in rainfed areas in the initial stages was a great challenge.
- Procurement of inputs (seeds of different varieties) from Rajasthan was cumbersome.
- Establishing market linkages between the farmers and procuring agencies was a tedious task.



The solution:

- **Trainings:** The importance of guar as drought tolerant crop and its applications in many industries which has made guar as an export oriented crop needs to be upgraded to the farmers. Thus University of Agricultural and Horticultural Sciences, Shivamogga conducted trainings for both farming community as well as officials. Total 699 participants were participated in the training programme among them 93 officers from the lined departments, 523 men farmers and 83 farm women.
- **Demonstrations:** Totally 100 demonstrations were planned of 1.0 ha (means 100 hectares) in four districts Chitradurga, Chickmagalore, Davangere and Shimoga to introduce guar in major crops and cropping systems. But we were successful in conducting 105.5 hectares of demonstrations as per the farmers demand and interest.
- **Market linkages** were developed to help the farmers to sell their produce at reasonable prices and get benefitted. Such linkages include,
 - KVK Rao, Raichur
 - Guar traders from Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan
 - Procurement rate will be equal to the existing spot prices at Rajasthan markets with less transportation and overhead charges.

- **Guar research, training and market facilitation centre** is established in University of Agricultural and Horticultural Sciences, Navile, Shivamogga to encourage the farmers growing Gum Guar in large scale by providing inputs and to disseminate relevant information on agronomic practices, advanced technologies of processing of gum, value addition and market linkages.



The Impact:

- A climate resilient crop for dry lands was emerged with good economic returns to farmers.
- Alternate option for groundnut, horsegram and minor millets in rainfed areas.
- Market facilitation to the export oriented crop was established.
- Total package for gum guar production was evolved.

