Dear Readers,

Our state have contributed a lot in terms of food grain production and have availed maximum benefits from different technologies generated since Green Revolution. Presently, Punjab among the smallest states in India (1.53% geographical area) produces ~20% wheat, 11% rice, 13% cotton, 45% mushroom, 25% honey and 10% milk of the country. With the introduction of high yielding varieties coupled with assured irrigation facilities and availability of commercial fertilizers, Punjab agriculture have registered a quantum jump in food grain production. This has become possible because of strong research and well knitted extension network in the state. In view of stagnation in agricultural growth rate and crop production, there is a further need to update the scientific knowledge of farmers, farm women, rural youth and extension functionaries of the district for making the farming a profitable enterprise.

For that, Krishi Vigyan Kendra-Roop Nagar is working as a resource and technology hub for technology transfer programme in the district. Krishi Vigyan Kendra-Roop Nagar through a team of subject matter specialists is transmitting technical knowhow generated by Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana via different extension activities viz. trainings, demonstrations, on-farm trials (OFTs), front line demonstrations (FLDs) etc. for the betterment of the farming community. This News Letter depicts the mirror image of different extension activities carried out by this centre and I wish a very good luck to the team of scientists for their future endeavors.

Dr. S.P. Saini
Associate Director (Training)
Krishi Vigyan Kendra-Roop Nagar

Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) Meeting

Scientific advisory committee meeting of Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK)-Roop Nagar was organized, on October 10th, 2010 under the Chairmanship of Dr. H. S. Dhaliwal, Additional Director of Extension Education, Punjab Agricultural University-Ludhiana. Thirty three members of scientific advisory committee including district heads of Agriculture allied departments viz. Agriculture, Horticulture, Soil and Water Conservation, Punjab Dairy Development Board, Animal Husbandry, NABARD, District Employment Officer, Lead Bank, Child Development and Project Officer, Cooperative Society, National Fertilizer Limited, IFFCO, Markfed, Farm Advisory Service Scheme (FASS) and progressive farmers and farm women graced the occasion. During the occasion, Associate Director (Training), Dr. S.P. Saini presented the Six Monthly Progress Report (2010) on different extension activities carried out by KVK in the district. He presented that KVK conducted different on-farm trails (OFTs) on resource conservation, nutrient management, IPM, fruit and vegetable cultivation. He also presented the detailed training programme conducted successfully during the period under report for farmers, farm women, rural youth and extension functionaries. The seed production programme for the proceeding Rabi (2010-11) was also presented for the kind approval of the committee.

Associate Director (T), member secretary while sharing the Action Plan (Rabi 2010-11), explained that KVK has planned to organize about fifty short duration, vocational and in-service training courses for farmers, farm women, rural youth and extension functionaries of the district. He proposed that on-farm trials (OFTs) on 8 different technologies and 20 front line demonstrations (FLDs) on oilseed and pulse crops will be conducted according to area specific situations.

Chairman of the meeting, Dr. H.S. Dhaliwal, Additional Director of Extension Education-Punjab Agricultural University-Ludhiana stressed on the need of strengthening cooperative farming system. He emphasized on the need of large scale adoption of various resource conservation technologies for enhanced crop yield and long-term sustainability of soil fertility for crop production. During the occasion, two bulletins on ‘Water Saving Techniques’ and ‘Successful Cultivation of Guava’ compiled by KVK Scientists were also released by. Dr. H.S. Dhaliwal.
EXHIBITIONS CONDUCTED

During Dr. A.M. Narula’s Visit to KVK
During SAC Meeting
During District Level Training Camp
During Kisan Mela

During SAC Meeting
During District Level Training Camp
During Training Course

During the last six months, Krishi Vigyan Kendra-Roop Nagar had organized several exhibitions of various activities and demonstration material during different programmes viz. P.A.U. Kisan Melas, District Level Farmers Training Camps, Field Days, SAC Meetings, Sponsored Training Programmes etc. These exhibitions successfully aroused the curiosity of the participants towards the models, exhibits, blow-ups and charts on various innovative technologies generated by P.A.U. for the state farmers. A lot many farmers and farm women got themselves registered for various training programmes planned by KVK in near future. The exhibitions focuses primarily on different resource conservation technologies generated by P.A.U. and on aspects related to dairy farming and women empowerment.

VIP VISITS

During District Level Training Camp
Dr. A.M. Narula’s visit to KVK
During SAC Meeting
During Technology Evaluation

Krishi Vigyan Kendra had the kind privilege of having visits of various dignitaries during the last six months. Dr. A.M. Narula, Zonal Project Director (Zone-1), Indian Council of Agriculture Research, P.A.U.-Campus, Ludhiana, Punjab visited KVK for monitoring its functioning. He also monitored the training work and performance of soil and water testing laboratory. Sh. S.S. Thandal, Chief Parliamentary Secretary (Agriculture) Government of Punjab, Dr. Gurdial Singh, Joint Director (Seed), Department of Agriculture, Government of Punjab and Dr. Harmanjit Singh Sandhu, Chief Agriculture Officer, SAS-Nagar, Mohali visited to KVK Exhibition at Community Centre, Sector-70, SAS-Nagar, Mohali during District Level Farmers Training Camp. Monitoring visits for assessing technology being tested through On-farm Trials (OFTs) and Front Line Demonstrations (FLDs) was also conducted by Additional Director of Extension Education, P.A.U., Ludhiana during the Scientific Advisory Committee Meeting. Krishi Vigyan Kendra has also being visited by Dr. H.S. Sohal, Chief Agriculture Officer, Roop Nagar during different training courses on ‘Resource Conservation’ ‘Protected Vegetable Cultivation’, and ‘Advances in Agronomy and Soil Science’.

Krishi Vigyan Kendra-Roop Nagar, Punjab Agricultural University
TRAINING COURSES ORGANIZED

To cater the training needs of farming community of Roop Nagar district, Krishi Vigyan Kendra had organized 54 training courses related to different specialized disciplines during the last six months. The training courses include short (40), and long (5) duration and in-service (9) training courses for farmers, farm women and rural youth to improve their technical skill and to enrich their knowledge regarding different scientific aspects. Besides 4 training courses also were organized to encourage the cultivation of Moong during summer season. The thrust area of these training courses has been summarized in the following table.

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<td>hangings, Soap making, Value addition</td>
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<td>hangings, Soap making, Value addition</td>
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**SPONSORED TRAINING COURSES ORGANIZED**

Krishi Vigyan Kendra-Roop Nagar, Punjab Agricultural University
ENHANCING IRRIGATION WATER PRODUCTIVITY IN CANAL COMMAND AREA

Krishi Vigyan Kendra-Roop Nagar organized 7 days training course on “Enhancing Irrigation Water Productivity in Canal Command Area” for 50 farmers and farm women from 15-22nd July 2010. The training programme was organized in collaboration with Punjab Agricultural University’s Regional Station, Bathinda. During the training course 28 resource persons from different departments viz. Punjab State Farmers Commission, State Department of Agriculture, State Department of Horticulture, State Department of Soil and Water Conservation, Indian Farmers Fertilizer Corporation (IFFCO), Farm Advisory Service Scheme, Roop Nagar and subject matter specialists of Krishi Vigyan Kendra-Roop Nagar discussed the techniques related to efficient water use in agriculture for enhanced water productivity. During the training programme the farmers were familiarized with the latest technologies viz. laser land leveling, use of pulverizing roller in paddy, irrigation water scheduling in paddy with tensiometer, bed planting of crops, drip irrigation in vegetable and fruit crops, use of mulch material in widely spaced crops and direct seeding of rice etc. Besides, the role of crop diversification in water saving, water shed development, nutritional problems of field and fruit crops were also discussed. The issues related to timely transplanting of paddy, intermittent irrigation technique in paddy were also taken up by different resource persons.

INTRODUCTION TO MICRO-IRRIGATION

Krishi Vigyan Kendra-Roop Nagar had also organized one-day training course on “Introduction to Micro-irrigation” for 50 progressive farmers of the district on 30th June 2010. The training course was sponsored by ‘Precision Farming Development Centre’, Department of Soil and Water Engineering, Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana. The training course focused primarily on introduction to drip irrigation system and use of fertilizers through this technique besides addressing issues related to successful cultivation of vegetable and fruit crops under this system. The field problems and remedial measures in drip irrigation system were also discussed by Er. Rakesh Sharda and Er. Mukesh Siag. During the training programme Dr. Dilawar Singh, Soil Conservation Officer from State Department of Soil and Water Conservation discussed with the farmers, the schemes available for providing financial assistance to the farmers for the installation of drip irrigation system.

PROTECTED CULTIVATION OF VEGETABLE CROPS

One day training course on “Protected Cultivation of Vegetable Crops” as also organized by Krishi Vigyan Kendra-Roop Nagar on 06-10-2010 for 50 progressive farmers and vegetable growers and the event was sponsored by ‘Precision Farming Development Centre’, Department of Soil and Water Engineering, Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana. The training course focused primarily on package of practices and problems associated with the Net-house cultivation of Capsicum, Cucumber, Tomato and Brinjal.

VOCATIONAL TRAINING COURSES

- Mushroom Production
- Protected Cultivation
- Bee Keeping
- Cutting and Stitching
- On-farm trials (OFTs)

OFT-1: Effect of Potassium (K) and Sulphur (S) Application in Rice (Oryza sativa L.)

On-farm trials at five different farmer field locations were conducted to evaluate the effect of K and S application on yield, yield attributes and production efficiency of Rice in sub-tropical soils. Six treatments viz. recommended NPK (T1), recommended NPK+30.0 kg S ha-1 (T2), farmer’s practice (FP) (T3), FP + 30.0 kg S ha-1 (T4), FP + 30.0 kg K2O ha-1 (T5), FP + 30.0 kg S ha-1 + 30.0 kg K2O ha-1 (T6) were evaluated at each location. Highest grain yield was obtained from plots dressed with recommended NPK+ S @30.0 kg S ha-1 (T2). The performance of crop under different treatments is shown in Figure-1.

OFT-2: Effect of Potassium (K) and Sulphur (S) Application in Maize (Zea mays)

On-farm trials at three different farmer field locations were conducted to evaluate the effect of K and S application on yield, yield attributes and production efficiency of Maize. Six treatments viz. recommended NPK (T1), recommended NPK+30.0 kg S ha-1 (T2), farmer’s practice (FP) (T3), FP + 30.0 kg S ha-1 (T4), FP + 30.0 kg K2O ha-1 (T5), FP + 30.0 kg S ha-1 + 30.0 kg K2O ha-1 (T6) were evaluated at each location. The effect of fertilizer application has been shown in Figure-2. Results revealed highest grain yield and production efficiency for plots dressed with recommended NPK+30.0 kg S ha-1 (T2).

OFT-3: Scope Assessment of Brown Manuring (Dhaincha) in Direct Seeded Rice (Oryza sativa L.)

On-farm trials at six different farmer field locations were conducted to assess the scope of brown manuring (BM) with Dhaincha on performance of direct seeded rice (DSR). Four treatments viz. conventional tillage DSR+BM (T1), conventional tillage DSR (T2), zero tillage DSR+BM (T3), zero tillage DSR (T4) and transplanted rice (T5) were broadcasted in respective treatments and was manured (defoliated) by spraying 2, 4-D (sodium salt) @ 500 g h-1 about 30 days after sowing. The performance of crop under different treatments have been shown in Figure-3 & 4. Highest grain yield and production efficiency was recorded from T5, closely followed by T4.

OFT-4: Mixed Vegetable Cropping Under Net-house Vs. Open Field Cultivation

On-farm trials at three different farmer field locations were conducted to evaluate mixed vegetable (Cucumber + Coriander) cropping under net-house (T1) in comparison to their open cultivation (T2). The crops were sown on 3 feet wide raised beds and single row of Cucumber was sown on one side of raised bed during August. Coriander was sown in two rows on raised beds. Cucumber plants were trained upward through nylon ropes under net-house as well as in open field conditions. There was about 33.6% yield increase under net-house over open field conditions.
returns to the farmers from ZT’s sowing of there was substantial saving in cost of cultivation and higher economic Likewise, an average plots where weeds were controlled with the use of chemicals, followed by plots intercropped with ration (B/C) from ZT plots was 4.56 in comparison to 4.10 in CT plots. The benefit-cost than CT plots, owing to lower cost of cultivation in ZT plots. The benefit-cost OFT-5: Role of Protein and Energy in Controlling the Problem of Anoestrous Along with minerals, protein and energy are two major nutrients which can affect animal’s reproductive performance. Four treatments viz. Mineral mixture feeding @ 60-90 g day^{-1} animal^{-1} for 30 days (T_1), Uromin lick licking (T_2), Mineral mixture + salt licking (T_3) and No mineral mixture (FP) (T_0) were compared. The results revealed that animals in T_1 treatment did not respond to the mineral feeding while 50% animals in T_2 treatment gave a positive response in alleviating anoestrous as the animals covered up their protein energy as well as mineral deficiencies through Uromin Lick. OFT-6: Economic (Low Cost) Measure for the Control of Red Pumpkin Beetle in Cucurbitaceous crops Red pumpkin beetle is a serious pest of cucurbitaceous crops, causes significant damage to vines during the initial growth stages that ultimately lead to heavy reduction in crop yield. Therefore, OFTs at six locations were conducted to assess the pest infestation in Cucumber, Bottle gourd, Bitter gourd and Pumpkin to identify low cost control measure. Five treatments viz. T_1=Dusting with cow dung ash after crop germination, T_2=Mechanical picking and destroying in dusk hours, T_3=Spray of Neem (Azadirachta sp.) oil @ 0.1%, T_4=Spray of Carbaryl @187.5-375.0 g ha^{-1} and T_5=absolute control (mechanical/chemical). Highest yield of crops was obtained from chemically controlled and lowest from mechanically controlled vines. OFT-7: Assessing the Scope of Cultural Weed Control in Kharif Maize On-farm trials at six different farmers field locations in the district were conducted to assess the scope of cultural weed control in kharif Maize. Three different treatments viz. cultural weed control with intercropping of cowpea (T_2), chemical control (pre-emergence spray of Atrazine (2.0 kg ha^{-1}) (T_3) and absolute control (T_4) were compared at each location. Highest grain yield was obtained from plots where weeds were controlled chemically, followed by plots intercropped with Cowpea and least from absolute control plots. Similarly, weed population measured 30, 60 and 90 days after sowing was least in plots where weeds were controlled with the use of chemicals, followed by plots intercropped with Cowpea and least from absolute control plots (T_0).

### FRONT LINE DEMONSTRATIONS ON VARIETY EVALUATION

Under Front Line Demonstrations scheme on oilseed and pulse crops (Rabi 2009-10), KVK-Roop Nagar had conducted 10 demonstrations on newly released Gobhi Sarson (GSC-6) and Sunflower (PSH-569) variety each at different villages of district (Table-1). On an average basis, the yield of Gobhi sarson variety (GSC-6) was 13.2% higher than local check (LC). However, the average yield of Sunflower variety PSH-569 was 18.55 q ha^{-1}, as compared to 17.02 q ha^{-1} from LC that account for about 9.0% yield gain with the adoption of newly recommended variety. Likewise, newly released variety of Gram PBG-5 sown as FLD in comparison to old variety (PBG-1) gave about 12.3% higher yield on an average basis (Table-1).

However, the yield of Maize variety PMH-1 was 44.8 q ha^{-1} in comparison to 41.8 q ha^{-1} from LC variety, that revealed an average 7.2% higher yield than LC. The comparison of Wheat variety DBW-17 with PBW-550 revealed that newly released Wheat variety (DBW-17) gave 5.0% higher yield than compared old Wheat variety (Table-1).

### FRONT LINE DEMONSTRATIONS ON RESOURCE CONSERVATION

The comparison of Moong crop sown during summer season at 5 different locations revealed that although on an average zero tillage (ZT) sowing of Moong gave 0.89% yield gain over its conventional tillage (CT) sowing (Figure-5a), but the average gross returns in ZT plots were higher than CT plots, owing to lower cost of cultivation in ZT plots. The benefit-cost ration (B/C) from ZT plots was 4.56 in comparison to 4.10 in CT plots. Likewise, an average Wheat yield from ZT plots (41.6 q ha^{-1}) was nearly the same as that of Wheat yield from CT sown plots (40.6 q ha^{-1}) (Figure-5b), but there was substantial saving in cost of cultivation and higher economic returns to the farmers from ZT sowing of Wheat.

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Krishi Vigyan Kendra-Roop Nagar, Punjab Agricultural University
FIELD DAYS

Krishi Vigyan Kendra-Roop Nagar organized two field days at different villages to demonstrate the technology tested either through FLDs or through OFTs. A field day on ‘Integrated Pest and Nutrient Management in Kharif-Maize’ was organized on 09-09-2010 at village-Asalatpur, Block-Nurpur Bedi and 29 local farmers participated in the field day. During the field day, a technical session on control of major pests and nutritional disorders of kharif-Maize were discussed. Likewise, a Training-cum-Field Day on ‘Brown Manuring in Direct Seeded Rice’ was organized at village-Fategharh Viran, Block-Chamkaur Sahib in which 27 farmers were technically guided by KVK experts. A technical session conducted during the occasion focused primarily on weed, nutrient and insect-pest management in Direct Seeded Rice.

SEED PRODUCTION

Krishi Vigyan Kendra-Roop Nagar have 25 acre seed production farm located alongside the banks of Satluj river originating from Shivaliks. During kharif-2010, KVK has produced approximately 30 quintals quality seed of Basmati Rice variety (Pusa-1121). To cater the seed demand of Summer Mash (Mash-1008), Krishi Vigyan Kendra-Roop Nagar has produced ~10 quintals seed. Likewise, Mash variety Mash-338 was also sown under seed production programme during kharif-2010 and ~18 quintals good quality Mash seed is available for sale. Through the sale of Rice variety PAU-201, KVK generated a revenue of Rs. 89,224/- in the Revolving Fund. Likewise, through the sale of Wheat seed (DBW-17) produced during Rabi 2009-10, Krishi Vigyan Kendra-Roop Nagar generated a revenue of Rs. 1,59,200/- in the Revolving Fund.

CROP SURVEILLANCE

- Minor attack of Rice stem borer and Rice leaf folder was observed at several fields in Morinda, Chamkaur Sahib blocks of the district.
- False smut and sheath blight diseases in Rice were commonly seen at several fields in all blocks of the district. The incidence of False smut was particularly seen in the fields where Nitrogenous fertilizers were applied in higher amounts than recommended rate.
- Rice variety Pusa-44 was observed to be attacked by Brown Plant Hopper that resulted in Hopper Burn at few pockets.
- Net-house grown Cucumber was observed to be severely attacked by Downy Mildew pathogen at some places. Attack of leaf curl pathogen and wilt on net-house grown Capsicum was also observed.
- In Basmati varieties of Rice, the problem of Foot Rot Pathogen was also observed in plots particularly where no seed treatment with recommended fungicides was ensured.
- Severe Iron (Fe) deficiency was seen in Direct Seeded Rice (DSR) as well as in Transplanted rice grown on light textured soils in almost all the blocks of the district.
- Sulphur deficiency was also seen on Maize grown on light textured soils in Ropar and Nurpur Bedi blocks.
- Zinc and Iron deficiency was also seen on Kinnow plants grown in floodplain areas of Chamkaur Sahib block.
- In Wheat, where Nitrogen was not applied as basal dose, Nitrogen deficiency was seen after about 20-25 days of sowing especially where Rice straw was incorporated.
- Phosphorus deficiency in Gobhi Sarson and Raya has also been observed at some fields in Roop Nagar block.
- The problem of Echinochloa crusgalli (Swanki), Echinochloa colonum (Swanki) and Caesalia axillaris (Gharilla) were the common weeds in Rice.
- The infestation of Ipomea sp. (Beal) was also seen in Sugarcane.

MORE KUDOS FOR S. GURDIT SINGH-A KVK TRAINEE

S. Gurdit Singh, who has been the role model for his unique progress in the field of fruit and vegetable cultivation has very recently been awarded with “District Level Award Under Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA)-Roop Nagar” by Hon’ble Sh. Sucha Singh Langah, Agriculture Minister, Government of Punjab. The award comprises a Certificate for Achievement from Sh. Navreet Singh Kang (IAS), Financial Commissioner (Development), Government of Punjab and a Cash Prize Worth Rs. 25,000/-. Presently, S. Gurdit Singh is a member of Punjab Agricultural University (P.A.U.) Kisan Club, P.A.U. State Level Vegetable and Fruit Growers Committee and Kisan Club Bela (Roop Nagar). He has established a net-house at his farm popularly known as ‘Harsimaran Farm’ in the district and is producing Capsicum, Cucumber, Tomato and Brinjal. He has been honored more than 20-times for his excellent farm produce particularly for fruits and vegetables in different produce competitions during Kisan Melas of P.A.U.

HONEY PRODUCTION

Krishi Vigyan Kendra-Roop Nagar have established a honey bee demonstration unit where four honey bee boxes have been placed. The Italian honey bees (Apis mellifera) have been reared in the boxes kept as demonstration unit. The expert is frequently organizing long-duration vocational training courses on Honey Bee Keeping for farmers, farm women and rural youth of the district. During the last six months two training courses of 07-10 days duration have been organized at KVK in which 29 trainees were trained. Krishi Vigyan Kendra have produced 11.0 kg quality honey that generated an amount of Rs. 1,980/- in the ‘Revolving Fund’ through sale.

KISAN MOBILE ADVISORY SERVICE (KMAS)

Krishi Vigyan Kendra-Roop Nagar has started ‘Kisan Mobile Advisory Service’ through Kisan Sanchar (www.kisansanchar.com) on 28th October’ 2010. Kisan Sanchar is an interaction platform for scientists/experts for sharing technology with farmers. Therefore, for faster horizontal spread of technology (ICT) to the farmers associated with crop production, fruit and vegetable production, dairy, bee keeping, mushroom production, the project has been initiated by KVK. Over 400 farmers throughout the district have been selected and KVK is providing information through their mobiles as SMS. So far, 35 messages (SMS) on different aspects viz. P.A.U. recommended varieties, sowing time, seed treatment, fertilizer management, irrigation schedule and plant protection measures for important crops of the district have been flashed. Besides, the recommended tips for successful vegetable and fruit production and animal health have also been conveyed at appropriate time for the purpose.

Krishi Vigyan Kendra-Roop Nagar, Punjab Agricultural University
PUBLICATIONS

The scientists of Krishi Vigyan Kendra-Roop Nagar have also made appreciable contribution towards agricultural extension works through publication of literature.

Research Papers Published (04)


Research Papers Presented (01)


Popular Articles (12)


Progressive Farming, 46: 22-23.

Extension Bulletin (01)


CAMPAIGNS/EXPOSURE VISITS ORGANIZED

Krishi Vigyan Kendra regularly organized many campaigns viz. Parthenium Eradication, Zinc Deficiency Awareness Campaign, Soil and Water Testing Campaigns and exposure visits of the participants of different training courses. During long-duration vocational training courses on bee keeping, the participants of the training were brought to the farm of successful bee keeper S. Malkit Singh, Village-Rampur Fasse, Block-Chamkaur Sahib, Roop Nagar. Likewise, an exposure visit of farmers and rural youth to the Net-house of former KVK-Roop Nagar trainee Sh. Naveen Kumar Dardi, Village-Phool, Block and District-Roop Nagar, S. Harpreet Singh, Village-Gurdaspura, Block and District-Roop Nagar and Sh. Gurdit Singh, Village-Rasidpur, Block-Chamkaur Sahib, Roop Nagar were also organized to acquaint them practically regarding cultivation of Capsicum, Cucumber and Tomato under net-houses. An exposure visit of trainees of vocational training course on ‘Dairy Farming’ was also organized to the dairy farm of S. Narinder Singh of Village-Bela, Block-Chamkaur Sahib, Roop Nagar.

METHOD DEMONSTRATIONS

Soil and Water Testing  Congress Grass Eradication  Honey Bee Keeping  Protected Cultivation

CAMPAIGNS/EXPOSURE VISITS ORGANIZED

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