

Original Research Article

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Enhancing Chickpea Productivity through Cluster Frontline Demonstration

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ABSTRACT

Keywords

Demonstration, Integrated crop management, Grain yield, Technology gap, Chickpea

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Frontline demonstration on Chickpea was conducted at 25 farmers' holdings of Dharmapuri district during Rabi season of 2017-18 to demonstrate the integrated crop management technologies for getting higher yield and income by the farmers. The integrated crop management practices including improved variety NBEG 3 were demonstrated under demonstration and it was compared with farmers practice. The results of the demonstration indicated that demonstration of integrated crop management practices along with improved variety recorded higher grain yield of 7.28 q/ha and farmers practice recorded the lower yield of 6.07 q/ha. The increase in grain yield of chickpea over farmers practice was 19.9 per cent. The extension gap of 1.21 q/ha recorded for grain yield between demonstration and farmers practice indicated that dissemination of integrated crop management practices including improved variety through demonstration is needed among the chickpea growers for achieving higher yield thereby income. Besides, demonstration of integrated crop management practices recorded higher net income of Rs.20265/ha with benefit cost ratio of 1.97 as against farmers practice wherein, the net income was Rs. 14122/ha with benefit cost ratio was 1.71 for every rupee investment.

Introduction

Chickpea (*Cicer arietinum* L.) is an important cool season pulse crop cultivated during rabi season under black soils. Its grain contains protein (22 %), carbohydrate (63 %), fat (4.5%) and appreciable quantity of minerals such as calcium and iron (Miao *et al.*, 2009). Being a legume crop, it improves soil fertility by fixing the atmospheric nitrogen upto 100 kg/ha in the root nodules through the process of symbiotic nitrogen fixation (Schwenke *et*

al., 1998). It serves as a good fodder and green manure crop (Namvar *et al.*, 2011). In India it is cultivated in an area of about 106 lakh hectares with an annual production of 11.1 lakh tonnes and the productivity of 918 kg/ha (Anonymous, 2016-17). It contributes 47% of the total pulse production and about 40% of total pulse growing area in the country. In Tamil Nadu it is cultivated in an area about 0.07 lakh hectares with the production of 0.04 lakh tonnes and with the average productivity of 649 kg/ha.

In Dharmapuri district, farmers usually cultivate the chickpea in black soils under rainfed condition during rabi season. Farmers realizing the low yield of chickpea due to use of local or old variety, reuse of their own seeds, occurrence of moisture stress, poor management practices especially no use of fertilizers and pesticides for managing pod borer and fusarium wilt disease incidence. Mehra *et al.*, (2018) reported that yield of chickpea is limited due to poor spread of improved varieties and production technologies, imbalanced nutrition, abrupt climatic changes and vulnerability to pests and diseases. Incidences of pod borer causes damage upto 30-40 per cent pods (Rahman, 1990) and root rot and wilt disease causes 10 to 25 per cent yield loss depending upon the stage of the crop (Mahendra, 1998). In this circumstance, frontline demonstration is an important extension tool through which the improved technologies along with high yielding variety can be disseminated among the farmers through seeing is believing concept. Hence, a frontline demonstration has been planned and conducted to address the constraints faced by the farmers in achieving the higher yield and income in chickpea cultivation.

Materials and Methods

To overcome the problems faced by the farmers and to create awareness among the farmers, frontline demonstration was taken up to demonstrate the potential of the drought tolerant, high yielding variety with the improved package of practices in comparison with farmers practice in the farmers' holdings of Dharmapuri district during Rabi 2017-18. Demonstration was conducted in 25 locations spread over in Palacode, Dharmapuri and Morappur blocks of Dharmapuri District. Prior to conducting demonstration the beneficiary farmers were educated and

demonstrated on the various technological interventions to be followed in the demonstration. The soils of the experimental site were clay loam in texture, neutral to alkaline in soil reaction, non-saline, low to medium in available nitrogen, medium to high in available phosphorus and potassium status. Chickpea crop was sown during October 15th to November 15th, 2017.

Each demonstration was conducted in 0.4 ha area, adjoining 0.4 ha area was selected for taking up farmers practice. The details on the technologies demonstrated in the frontline demonstration and farmers practice are given below.

Frontline demonstration with integrated crop management practices

Cultivation of new variety NBeG 3

Spacing : 30 x 10 cm

Seed treatment with biofertilizers *viz.*, *Rhizobium* and *Phospho bacteria* each @ 25g/kg

Seed treatment with *Pseudomonas fluorescens* @ 10g/kg seed and *Trichoderma viride* @ 4g/kg seed for the management of wilt disease

Nipping of terminal bud at 30 DAS

Soil drenching with *Pseudomonas fluorescens* @ 10 g/lit at the time of wilt incidence

Integrated nutrient management :

Basal application of FYM @ 12.5t/ha

Recommended dose of NPKS @ 25:50:25:20 kg/ha

Soil application of TNAU pulses micronutrient mixture @ 7.5 kg/ha

Foliar spray of pulse wonder @ 5 kg/ha at peak flowering

Integrated pest management for pod borer

Integrated disease management for wilt disease

Farmers practice

Cultivation of variety CO 4

Spacing : 15-20 x 10 cm

Seed treatment practice : not followed

Nutrient management : not followed

Foliar nutrition : not practiced

IPDM practices : not followed

During sowing of crop, initial soil samples were collected from the experimental sites and analysed for their available nutrient status. Incidence of pod borer and fusarium wilt disease was observed during the crop growth stages. At the time of harvest, the growth and yield characters such as number of branches per plant, number of pods per plant, 100 seed weight (g) and grain yield (q/ha) were recorded both under demonstration and farmers practice. Economic analysis was done by calculating cost of cultivation, gross income, net income and benefit cost ratio.

Results and Discussion

Results on the effect of frontline demonstration and farmers practice on the growth and yield of chickpea are given in Table 1. Demonstration of Chickpea variety NBeG 3 with integrated crop management practices has recorded higher number of branches per plant (14.3) and number of pods per plant (27.4). Farmers practice recorded lower number of branches per plant (9.33) and number of pods per plant (17.6). Besides, demonstration recorded higher 100 seed weight of 26.8 g and farmer practice recorded lower 100 seed weight of 25.6 g. The higher seed weight observed under demonstration might be due to the good seed filling produced by the foliar spraying of pulse

wonder during peak flowering stage which is rich in nutrients and plant growth regulator.

Adoption of integrated pest and disease management practices under demonstration recorded the lower incidence of pod borer (4.6 %), Fusarium wilt disease (5.1 %) incidence and farmers practice recorded lower incidence of 15.3 and 16.6 %, respectively. The lower pest and disease incidence under the demonstration might be due to the adoption of integrated pest and disease management strategies including seed treatment and soil drenching practices with bio control agents in chickpea.

Demonstration of Chickpea variety NBeG 3 with integrated crop management practices recorded higher average grain yield of 7.28 q/ha (Figure 1). The farmers practice recorded lower average grain yield of 6.07 q/ha. Adoption of improved variety along with integrated crop management practices increased the yield of Chickpea to the tune of 19.9 and 7.37 per cent compared to the farmers practice and state average yield, respectively. The increased yield under demonstration might be due to the combined effect of high yielding, drought tolerant variety and adoption of integrated crop management practices.

Similar results of increase in yield due to adoption of integrated crop management practices in Chickpea were reported by Kumar (2014) and Bhargav *et al.*, (2017). The extension gap for grain yield i.e., the difference between the yield obtained from demonstration and farmers practice recorded was 1.21 q/ha. It indicated that dissemination of integrated crop management practices including improved variety through frontline demonstration is needed among the chickpea growers for achieving higher yield and thereby income.

Economics

The data on economics of chickpea revealed that gross cost was higher in demonstration

with integrated crop management practices (Rs. 20722/ha) and lower in farmers practice (Rs. 19912/ha) (Table 2).

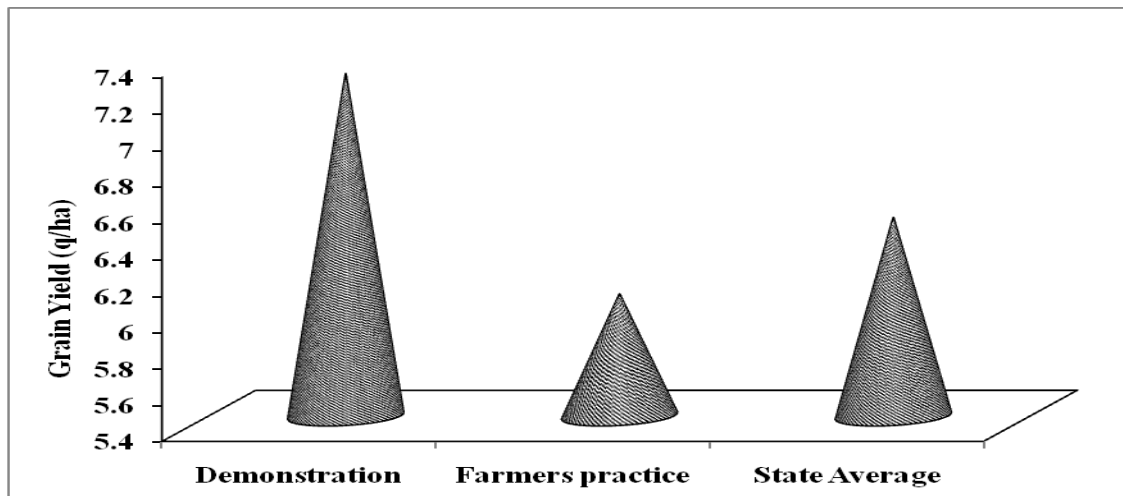
Table.1 Growth and yield parameters of chickpea under demonstration and farmers practice

Particulars	Number of branches per plant	Number of pods per plant	100 seed weight (g)	Incidence of pod borer (%)	Fusarium wilt incidence (%)
Demonstration	14.3	27.4	26.8	4.6	5.1
Farmers Practice	9.33	17.6	25.6	15.3	16.6

Table.2 Cost benefits of demonstration and farmers practice in Chickpea

Particulars	Gross cost (Rs./ha)	Gross income (Rs./ha)	Net income (Rs./ha)	Benefit Cost Ratio
Demonstration	20722	40788	20065	1.97
Farmers Practice	19912	34034	14122	1.71

Figure.1 Grain yield (q/ha) of Chickpea under demonstration and farmers practice



Farmers earned the net income of about Rs.20065/ha through the cultivation of Chickpea variety NBeG 3 with integrated crop management practices and Rs.14122/ha with farmers practice. Hence, farmers realized the higher benefit cost ratio (1.97) under demonstration compared to farmers practice (1.71). The higher net income in the

demonstration might be due to the higher grain yield recorded in demonstration of integrated crop management practices compared to farmers practice. Similar results of increase in net income through adoption of integrated crop management practices were reported by Meena (2017) in chickpea; Dhaka *et al.*, (2010) in maize.

The study concluded that, cultivation of Chickpea variety NBeG 3 with integrated crop management practices substantially increased the yield and income of the farmers. The farmers are convinced with the technological interventions demonstrated under frontline demonstration programme and motivated the other farmers of the district to adopt the new variety with integrated crop management practices in cultivation of Chickpea for getting higher income.

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