

Awareness and Training Programme Conducted under “Khet Bachao Abhiyan” at Mirjewadi

Under the Khet Bachao Abhiyan, an awareness and training programme was successfully organized at Mirjewadi village, Khed taluka, Pune on 5 June 2026 to educate farmers on sustainable agricultural practices, soil health management, environmental conservation, and improved onion production technologies. Total 78 farmers (male:60, female:18) participated in the programme.

The programme was conducted by Dr. Kalyani Gorrepati, Senior Scientist, Mr. Radha Krishna, Senior Scientist, and Dr. Sanket More from ICAR-Directorate of Onion and Garlic Research (ICAR-DOGR, Pune). The programme was also graced by Shri Bhausahab Marade, Circle Agricultural Officer, Shri Prakash Namdev Pawar, Deputy Agricultural officer, Shri Sanip Abaji Aher, Assistant Agricultural Officer, Shri Sharad Subhash Shirsat, Village Panchayat officer, the village Sarpanch Smt. Savitha Pokharkar including more than 100 stakeholders from the village.

The team explained the objectives and importance of the “Khet Bachao Abhiyan” in detail, emphasizing the need for sustainable farming practices to enhance farm productivity while conserving natural resources. Coinciding with World Environment Day, the experts highlighted the importance of protecting the environment for future generations through the conservation of soil, water, and air resources. Farmers were encouraged to adopt environmentally friendly agricultural practices that contribute to long-term sustainability.

The scientists provided detailed guidance on onion bulb and seed crop cultivation with minimum dependence on chemical fertilizers and pesticides. The importance of adopting drip irrigation systems, mulching techniques, and integrated crop management practices for successful onion production was explained. Farmers were also encouraged to adopt the “One Village – One Variety” concept for onion seed production to maintain varietal purity and improve seed quality. The experts discussed the selection of suitable onion varieties according to the growing season and explained various pre-harvest and post-harvest management practices for minimizing storage losses and improving the shelf life of onion bulbs.

The State Government had previously conducted soil sample analysis of the village, and the reports were reviewed and interpreted by the experts. Farmers were informed about nutrient deficiencies identified in the soils, with particular emphasis on sulphur deficiency, which is critical for onion crop productivity and quality. Individual soil health reports were distributed to the participants.

With the onset of the Kharif season, the state Government Agricultural officers conducted practical demonstrations on various seed treatment methods, seed germination testing techniques, and the use of simple and cost-effective light traps for white grub management.

