

## **Report on Khet Bachao Abhiyan Awareness Programme**

**Date: 08 June 2026**

**Village:** Kondhaval, Ambegaon Taluka, Pune District

Under the nationwide “Khet Bachao Abhiyan” (Save the Farm Campaign) launched by the Hon’ble Union Minister for Agriculture & Farmers Welfare and Rural Development during 1–30 June 2026, a scientific team from ICAR-Directorate of Onion and Garlic Research (ICAR-DOGR), Pune, comprising Dr. Amar Jeet Gupta, Principal Scientist (Horticulture) & Nodal Officer (TSP); Dr. Shailendra S. Gadage, Principal Scientist (Agricultural Extension) & Nodal Officer (SCSP); and Dr. Bhushan Bibwe, Senior Scientist (ASPE), organized a Training-cum-Awareness Programme at Kondhaval Village, Ambegaon Taluka, Pune District, Maharashtra under the Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) scheme.

The programme aimed to create awareness among farmers regarding scientific onion cultivation, balanced nutrient management, judicious use of agricultural inputs, plant protection measures, and sustainable farming practices. The programme was attended by 42 farmers, including 5 women farmers, along with village representatives and progressive farmers.

The programme commenced with a welcome and introduction by Mr. Dinkar Wabale (Ex-Sarpanch). Prominent dignitaries present included Mr. Ganpat Wanghare, Chairman, PESA Gram Panchayat; Mrs. Savita Kokate, Sarpanch; Mr. Santosh Wanghare, Vice-Sarpanch; Mr. Namdeo Kondhavale, Gram Panchayat Member; and progressive farmer Mr. Kantaram Lohkare.

During the programme, Dr. Amar Jeet Gupta delivered a lecture on scientific onion production technologies, emphasizing the adoption of improved ICAR-DOGR onion varieties, seed treatment, balanced fertilizer application, Integrated Nutrient Management (INM), and soil health management. He also demonstrated scientific soil sample collection techniques and highlighted the importance of soil testing for efficient nutrient management.

Dr. Shailendra S. Gadage briefed the participants on the objectives of the “Khet Bachao Abhiyan” and emphasized the need for balanced and need-based use of fertilizers and agricultural inputs for sustainable crop production. He also highlighted the activities and benefits of the Scheduled Caste Sub Plan (SCSP).

Dr. Bhushan Bibwe discussed the importance of balanced nutrient management, scientific crop production practices and post-harvest management in onion and garlic cultivation. He highlighted the adverse effects of indiscriminate use of fertilizers and pesticides on soil health, the environment and human health.

Subsequently, field visits were conducted to assess crop conditions and provide location-specific scientific advisories to farmers on nutrient management, plant protection, and improved crop management practices. Awareness was also created regarding scientific onion storage practices and the avoidance of unauthorized chemical powders during storage. Farmers and Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) were encouraged to utilize the facilities available at ICAR-DOGR, Pune, including agri-business incubation and value-addition services.

The programme concluded with an interactive discussion session during which farmers shared their experiences and sought clarification on various production and management issues. The participants appreciated the scientific guidance provided by the ICAR-DOGR team and expressed their willingness to adopt the recommended technologies for sustainable onion cultivation.





