

Report on Khet Bachao Abhiyan Awareness Programme

Date: 10 June 2026

Village: Jaulake Khurd, Khed 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. Hem Raj Bhandari, Senior Scientist (Plant Breeding), Dr. Rajiv B Kale, Senior Scientist (Agricultural Extension), and Dr. K. Jayalakshmi, Scientist (Plant Pathology), organized a Training-cum-Awareness Programme at Jaulake Village, Khed Taluka, Pune District, Maharashtra.

The programme aimed to create awareness among farmers regarding scientific onion cultivation, balanced nutrient management, judicious use of agrochemicals, plant protection measures, and sustainable farming practices. The emphasis was placed on replacement of chemical inputs by botanical alternatives. The use of green manure crops, enriched/fortified compost, vermicompost, poultry manure, biocontrol agents, rhizobium etc. were emphasized to reduce the use of synthetic fertilizers, pesticides and insecticides, while maintaining the quality of food produce, sustaining the crop yield and reduce the environmental degradation. The programme was attended by 32 farmers, including 5 women farmers, along with village representatives and progressive farmers.

The programme commenced with a welcome and introduction by Mrs Vaishali Midgule, assistant Agriculture Officer. Prominent dignitaries present included Mrs. Sangita Borhade, Sarpanch, Jaulake Kurd Gram Panchayat; Mr. Balasaheb Rale ex. Sarpanch.

At the onset, Dr. Rajiv B Kale 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), irrigation management and soil health management.

Dr. Hem Raj Bhandari 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 emphasized on sustainable agricultural practices for improving the food quality, reducing the use of synthetic fertilizers and reducing the environmental degradation. Dr. K. Jayalakshmi made the farmers aware about treatment of seeds with bioinoculants like Rhizobium, Trichoderma, Azotobacter etc. She also emphasized on proper curing and efficient post-harvest practices of onion for improved storability.

The programme concluded with an interactive discussion session during which farmers shared their experiences and problems. From the discussion it emerged that the incidence of insect-pest is the major problem in cultivation. The farmers were aware of use of Trichoderma in onion. The participants were suggested to use Trichoderma in other crops also. The farmers appreciated the scientific guidance provided by the ICAR-DOGR team and expressed their willingness to adopt the recommended technologies for sustainable onion cultivation.



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