

Report of MGMT Team, ICAR- DOGR, Pune

Date: 11 June 2026

Under the *Khet Bachao Abhiyan*, a training cum awareness programme on “Science-Based Nutrient Management and Other Input Management for Balanced Fertilizer Use” was organized on 11 June 2026 at Pimpri Budruk village, Khed Taluka, Pune District. The programme aimed to promote the judicious and balanced application of fertilizers for improved soil health and to educate farmers on reducing excessive fertilizer use. Total 35 farmers including 30 male and 05 female farmers participated in the programme.

The programme was organized by ICAR-Directorate of Onion and Garlic Research. The team comprising three scientists, namely Dr. Karuppaiah V, Senior Scientist (Entomology), Mrs. Ashwini Benke, Scientist (Genetics) and Dr. Yogesh Khade, Senior Scientist (Vegetable Science), visited the village and conducted awareness programme and also briefed the farmers about the various government schemes available to farmers.

The team from ICAR-DOGR explained the improved cultivation practices of onion. Emphasis was given to undertake soil testing before the commencement of the kharif season and to follow soil test-based fertilizer recommendations. Various alternatives to reduce synthetic chemical usage like use of *Trichoderma* in seed treatment, use of botanicals as insecticide and fungicide, and use of green manuring as an alternate source of nutrients ways to reduce the use of agrochemicals in onion cultivation were highlighted. It was observed that farmers in the region often apply excessive quantities of mineral fertilizers. Therefore, they were advised to reduce the indiscriminate use of mineral fertilizers and adopt Integrated Nutrient Management practices for sustainable crop production.

The scientists emphasized the importance of integrated nutrient and pest management involving the judicious use of mineral fertilizers along with biofertilizers, green manuring, crop rotation, crop residue incorporation, and drip fertigation. The farmers were made aware of various bio-control agents to be used in plant protection schedule. The farmers were suggested to use bio-agents like *Trichoderma* and *Verticillium* and neem-based formulations for controlling seed borne diseases, foliar diseases and pests in *kharif* onion.



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