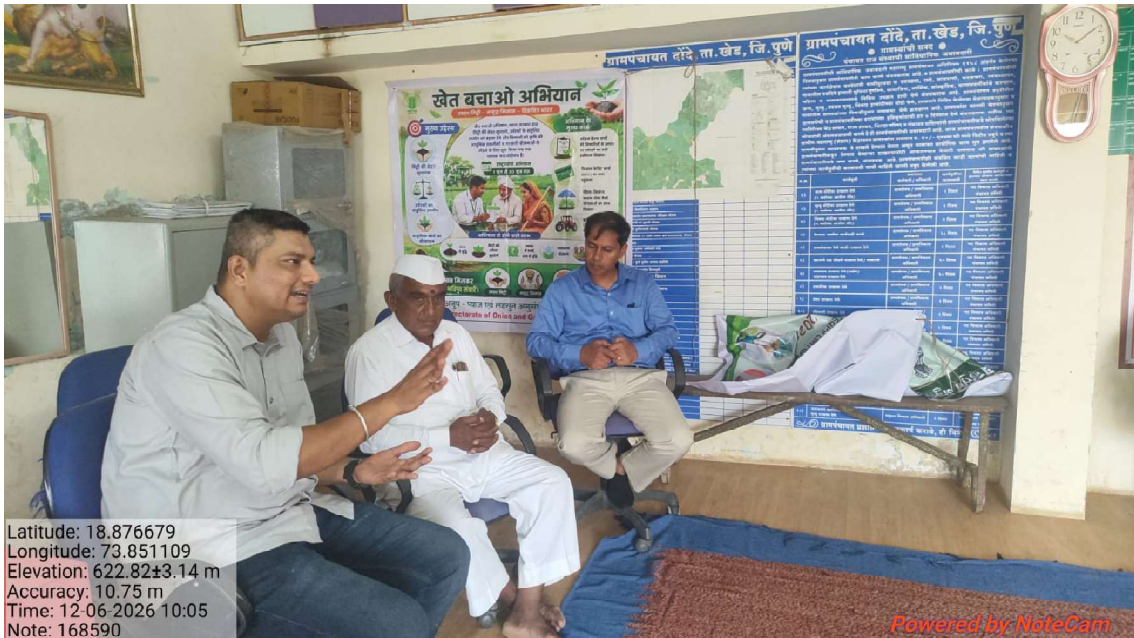


Report

As part of the **Khet Bachao Abhiyan**, a nationwide campaign launched by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) under the Department of Agricultural Research and Education, focusing on balanced fertilizer use and sustainable farming to protect soil health, a scientific team from ICAR-DOGR visited Donde village in Khed Taluk, Pune, to sensitize farmers on judicious use of fertilisers, improve soil fertility and lower cultivation costs. The team held an awareness meeting with over 30 participants, including 5 women farmers, along with Mr Hanumant Kadam, a Gram Panchayat Body Member and former Sarpanch of Donde, and Mr Jaywant Kohinkar, a progressive farmer from Donde.

During the session, they showcased various technologies developed by ICAR-DOGR and explained how they can improve onion production. The team stressed the importance of judicious fertiliser use and discussed issues such as soil degradation, increased pest vulnerability, health risks, and environmental problems resulting from over-application of chemical fertilisers. To promote more sustainable farming, farmers were encouraged to replace heavy synthetic NPK fertilizers and pesticides with integrated nutrient management practices. Organic options like farmyard manure, vermicompost, and bio-fertilizers such as Azotobacter and Phosphate Solubilizing Bacteria (PSB) were recommended to enhance soil health while sustaining bulb yields. Farmers received guidance on onion cultivation, emphasising the choice between the bulb-to-seed method, which maintains varietal purity through bulb selection, and the faster seed-to-seed method for high-quality output. They were advised to maintain an isolation distance of 1,000 metres to prevent cross-pollination and to keep cool temperatures during flowering for successful seed production. Additionally, farmers were encouraged to implement the 'one village, one variety' approach in seed production. For bulb crops, mulching with black polyethene or biodegradable films was recommended to suppress weeds and reduce the need for herbicide and pesticide applications. Farmers were sensitised to the need for sulphur application to enhance onion quality. Pre-harvest and post-harvest practices, such as selecting the appropriate variety, raising nurseries with seed priming using *Trichoderma* sp., consistent drip irrigation, and proper curing after harvest, were discussed to reduce storage losses in onions. Since farmers frequently depend on chemical powders to prevent losses during storage, it was advised to avoid chemical use during storage and to follow safe management practices before and after harvest.





Latitude: 18.876655
Longitude: 73.851134
Elevation: 622.82±2.5 m
Accuracy: 10.07 m
Time: 12-06-2026 10:05
Note: 168590