

Report on Khet Bachao Abhiyan Awareness Programme

Date: 15 June 2026

Village: Pabal, Taluka: Shirur, District: Pune

Under the nationwide “*Khet Bachao Abhiyan*” (Save the Farm Campaign) being implemented from 1–30 June 2026 under the leadership of the Hon’ble Union Minister for Agriculture & Farmers Welfare and Rural Development, a Training-cum-Awareness Programme was organized at Pabal Village, Shirur Taluka, Pune District, Maharashtra by a scientific team from ICAR–Directorate of Onion and Garlic Research (ICAR-DOGR), Pune. The team comprised Dr. Hem Raj Bhandari, Senior Scientist (Plant Breeding), Dr. Rajiv B. Kale, Senior Scientist (Agricultural Extension), and Dr. Bhushan Bibwe, Senior Scientist (AS&PE).

The programme aimed to create awareness among farmers on scientific onion cultivation, balanced nutrient management, judicious use of agrochemicals, plant protection measures, sustainable farming practices, and improved storage technologies. Special emphasis was placed on reducing dependence on chemical inputs through the adoption of botanical and eco-friendly alternatives. Farmers were encouraged to use green manure crops, enriched/fortified compost, vermicompost, poultry manure, bio-control agents, Rhizobium, and other biological inputs to minimize the use of synthetic fertilizers, pesticides, and insecticides while maintaining crop productivity, improving food quality, and reducing environmental degradation. A total of 40 farmers, including 23 women farmers, participated in the programme.

At the outset, Dr. Rajiv B. Kale delivered a lecture on scientific onion production technologies. He highlighted the importance of adopting improved ICAR-DOGR onion varieties, seed treatment, balanced fertilizer application, Integrated Nutrient Management (INM), efficient irrigation practices, and soil health management for sustainable onion production. Dr. Bhushan Bibwe educated the farmers on proper harvesting, curing, and improved onion storage practices. He also drew attention to the indiscriminate use of chemicals in traditional storage methods and emphasized the need for safer and more scientific storage approaches. Dr. Hem Raj Bhandari briefed the participants on the objectives of the “Khet Bachao Abhiyan” and stressed the importance of balanced and need-based application of fertilizers and other agricultural inputs. He highlighted sustainable agricultural practices aimed at enhancing food quality, reducing dependence on synthetic fertilizers, and mitigating environmental degradation.

The programme concluded with an interactive discussion session, during which farmers shared their experiences and field-level challenges. It emerged that the limited availability of green manure crop seeds was a major constraint in adopting sustainable farming practices. The discussion also revealed that many farmers were unaware of the benefits and application of Trichoderma in onion cultivation. The participants were therefore advised to use Trichoderma in onion as well as other crops for improved disease management and soil health. The farmers appreciated the scientific guidance provided by the ICAR-DOGR team and expressed their willingness to adopt the recommended technologies and sustainable practices for enhancing onion productivity and profitability.





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