

Report of MGMG Team, ICAR- DOGR, Pune

Date: 26 May 2026

Under the *Intensive Awareness Campaign for Adoption of Science-Based Nutrient and Other Input Management*, a training cum awareness programme was organized through TSP on 26 May 2026 at Gohe Budruk village, Ambegaon Taluka, Pune District. The programme aimed to promote the judicious and balanced application of fertilizers and to educate farmers on reducing excessive fertilizer use.

The programme initiated with a formal introduction by Mr. Vinayak Dangat, Member, Gram Panchayat, who facilitated interaction between the villagers and the ICAR-DOGR team. The participants were welcomed and felicitated by the Sarpanch, Mr. Ramesh Shelake. Several village dignitaries were present in the programme. Total 35 male farmers actively participated in the programme.

Dr. Shailendra S. Gadge, Principal Scientist (Agricultural Extension) and Nodal Officer (MGMG & SCSP) briefed the participants on the objectives of the awareness campaign and emphasized the importance of balanced and judicious use of fertilizers and agricultural inputs in onion and garlic cultivation. He elaborated various technologies developed for improved onion production and nutrient management. He encouraged farmers to adopt need-based and sustainable nutrient management practices for enhancing productivity while maintaining soil health. He also highlighted the activities and benefits of the Scheduled Caste Sub Plan (SCSP) scheme for farming communities.

Dr. V. Karuppaiah, Senior Scientist (Agricultural Entomology) delivered a lecture on plant protection technologies developed by ICAR-DOGR for onion cultivation. He elaborated on integrated pest and disease management practices and discussed the adverse effects of indiscriminate use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides, including soil degradation, increased pest incidence, environmental pollution and health-related concerns.

Dr. Amar Jeet Gupta, Principal Scientist (Horticulture) and Nodal Officer (TSP), spoke on scientific onion cultivation practices, including the selection of season-specific improved varieties, seed treatment, balanced fertilizer application and sustainable crop management approaches. Farmers were advised to adopt Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) practices through the use of FYM, vermicompost and biofertilizers such as *Azotobacter* and phosphate-solubilizing bacteria (PSB) for improving soil health and sustaining crop productivity. Dr. Gupta further interacted with the farmers regarding ongoing TSP activities and discussed the positive impact of the scheme in Gohe village. He demonstrated the proper method of soil sample collection for soil testing and emphasized the importance of soil testing for judicious fertilizer application and efficient nutrient management.

Farmers' field visits were also conducted after the training-cum-awareness programme to assess the ongoing crop conditions and to provide need-based scientific advisories to the farmers. The ICAR-DOGR scientists interacted directly with farmers in their fields and offered recommendations on nutrient management, plant protection and improved crop management practices for enhancing onion productivity and sustainability. Awareness was also created on scientific onion storage practices, discouraging the use of chemical powders during storage and promoting safe and natural alternatives. Farmers, farmer groups and Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) were encouraged to visit ICAR-DOGR, Pune to avail facilities such as agri-business incubation centres and custom hiring services for onion processing and value addition.





