Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Kanker  
Indira Gandhi Krishi Vishwavidyalaya, Raipur

Success story of Paddy drum seeder

Kanker District is located in the southern region of the state of Chhattisgarh. The total area of the district is 5285.01 square kilometres. Rice is main crop in the district. Uttar Bastar Kanker is tribal dominated area with less resource availability in sense of agricultural enterprises adoption & productivity. Annual average rain of the district is 1492 mm, 90% of which fall during the period of June to October. Erratic monsoon behaviour also affects the grain production, especially in rainfed areas; the rainfall over last ten years was highly fluctuating.

The district has a cultivated area of 2.34 lakh ha, out of which 1.70 lakh ha area is under rice crop, 70% of the total rice area has been sown by broadcast method. After inception of Krishi Vigyan Kendra, line sowing of paddy with tractor drawn seed cum fertilizer drill was introduced and presently about 20% area of paddy is under by line sowing method. But in kharif 2013, due to continuous rains farmers unable to sow rice crop by seed cum fertilizer drill. In that situation farmers practiced lehi method (In this method sprouted paddy seed broadcasted in puddled fields). Transplanting is another method of paddy cultivation but it is very costly and time consuming methods. Due to shortage of labourers during peak season paddy cultivation become costlier.

To overcome this problem Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Kanker introduce the drum seed for sowing paddy in line. The farmers shown greater interest in adopting direct paddy seeding technology due to shortage of labours during peak season. The 8 row paddy seeder was demonstrated in Aurod (village), District Kanker for direct sowing paddy in 5 acres in kharif season of 2013-14. The direct sown paddy through drum seeder has attracted all categories of farmers due to easy operation, less weight, line sowing with less seed rate (10 kg / acre) more tillers, etc., apart from savings in transplanting cost. The line sowing of paddy has also helped the farmers to utilise ambika weeder for weeding. Based upon the success, farmers from nearby villages want purchased drum seeder for their use.
Sowing of paddy with drum seeder in puddled field

Paddy crop after 35 days

(Field condition of Devkaran Patel, (Village- Auraod)) (Field condition of Ramdev Patel, (village - Auraod))

Matured paddy crop sown with drum seeder