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Front line demonstration performance of pearl millet variety MPMH-17 and technology dissemination

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Pearl millet is one of the most important millets or nutritious coarse grain cereal crops and provides staple food for the poor people. Pearl millet is the most drought and heat tolerant among cereals, and it has highest water-use efficiency under drought stress. In order to increase the production and productivity of pearl millet, introduction of varieties and improved technologies are essential. Front-line demonstration is to demonstrate the genetic production potential of improved crop varieties and to disseminate latest technologies of production among the farmers with a view to reduce the time between technology generated and its adoption. Performance of the front-line demonstration (FLD) of pearl millet variety MPMH-17 and technology dissemination was conducted during 2015-17 on farmers' fields in seven villages, i.e., Lewera Kalan, Khedapa, Palari Ranawata, Jelu, Rohicha Kalan, Dhandhaniya and Uttamber of Jodhpur district in kharif season through KVK, CAZRI, Jodhpur. The purpose of these FLDs was to know the yield gap between FLDs and farmers' fields, and to find out the reasons for low yield and specific constraints with the small farmers.

The improved variety MPMH-17 was evaluated against local variety. A number of demonstrations of improved variety MPMH-17 were conducted during 2015-17. It was observed that the improved variety MPMH-17 recorded highest grain yield (21.2 q ha^{-1}) compared to local seed (13.1 q ha^{-1}). The percentage increase in the yield over local check was 62.1 in the year 2016. The improved variety performed significantly better over local checks. The results revealed that conducting FLDs on farmers' fields help to identify the constraints and potential of pearl millet in that specific area in realizing the food security as well it helped in improving the economic and social status of the poor farmers.

