

## KHARIF ONION PRODUCTION IN VIDARBHA



*Kharif* onion production is not a tradition in Vidarbha region of Maharashtra. The farmers of Vidarbha generally cultivate *Rabi* onion. But due to the factors like shortage of water, irregular electric supply, high temperature *rabi* onion production is also becoming less profitable. Keeping these constraints in view, Shri. Namdeorao Adhau, a progressive farmer of Patur, Akola of Vidarbha region (Maharashtra), decided

to cultivate *Kharif* onion in his field. He was advised on *Kharif* onion production technology developed by DOGR for growing onion crop on Broad Bed Furrows (BBF) with micro irrigation and provided with technical bulletins and CDs published by DOGR. First he planned for 4 acre and used variety Bhima Super developed by DOGR and raised his nursery on raised beds with sprinkler irrigation and transplanted seedlings on BBF with sprinkler irrigation in the first week of August. He has followed fertilizer doses and plant protection recommendations as per DOGR guidelines. He harvested onion after 95 days and got 10 ton marketable onion per acre and sold right at the field @ Rs.30 per kg which gave him total income of Rs. 3 lakh per acre. His cost of cultivation for onion was Rs.40,000 per acre.

Paradoxically in the *Kharif* season in Maharashtra, there were yield losses to the tune of 30-60%. Yield level was 2-4 t/acre planted in flat beds while raised bed planted recorded yield of 10t/acre. DOGR has popularized "Kharif Onion Production Technology". *Kharif* onion plays an important role in supply chain management from October to January all over the country.