

***Jal Brahmi* for commercial cultivation in low-lying rice-wheat cropping systems**

Farmers of central Gujarat face water logging problems, especially during the rainy season, which limits cultivation of traditional crops. Therefore, introduction of new crops, which are feasible as well as acceptable in such areas was required. Directorate has suggested the *Jal Brahmi* as a suitable medicinal plant for such areas to an innovative farmer interested in MAPs cultivation. Through a field level demonstration, we were able to convince farmers, which gave fruitful results under low lying troubled fields.

Objective: To work out suitable crops for cultivation under waterlogged condition during the rainy season, which limits cultivation of traditional crops.

Twenty front line demonstrations and experiments were conducted at farmer's field and Directorate, respectively. The *Jal Brahmi* elite DBM-4 was selected decisively due to its richness in bacoside-A content for FLDs as compared to check (CIM Jagriti). The crop was harvested three times during March, July, October 2017–2022. DBM-4 proved to be the most promising accession that emerged from the entire trial and thus can be recommended to the farming community of low-lying areas as a viable alternative (Fig. 1).

Jal Brahmi was found suitable for commercial cultivation in low-lying rice-wheat cultivation systems and farmers can get good net return. Now our progressive farmers are getting ₹ 2-4 lakh/year/ha over traditional rice wheat cropping system (nearly ₹ 1.40 Lakh/year/ha). Therefore, *Jal Brahmi* has all potential to establish itself as a sustainable substitute for stakeholders with input-output ratio over cost C_2 as 1:3.14. Brahmi growers are not only fetching the remunerative income from this enterprise, but are also providing employment opportunities to the rural unemployed youth round the year (Fig. 2). Farmers were also under certification for organic cultivation which will give premium price for their produce enabling them to earn extra income.

Commercial potential: Doubling farmer's income by cultivating *Jal Brahmi* as a suitable option for low lying rice-wheat cropping systems.

For further interaction, please write to:

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Fig. 1. FLD at farmers' field



Fig. 2. Drying of herbage at farmers' field