



Increasing Productivity & Profitability of Pulses in Pakistan

Quality Seed Transforming Farmers Lives

Concerns

- Farmers recognize poor quality seed as one of the main reasons for low yields and low areas sown to pulses.
- Farmers are using planting seed of mixed grain from informal sources . This low-quality seed has poor resistant to disease and pest incursions.
- Seed of the newly released, higher yielding varieties with improved pest and disease tolerances is not available to the bulk of farmers .

Actions

- Chickpea, lentil and groundnut varieties were selected by farmers for planting seed after 2 years of trials for 14 chickpea, 4 lentil and 3 groundnut varieties across all 6 sites.
- Training on seed management, growing and marketing provided.
- Linkages to other small landholders established .
- Women, who's role is as "seed security" guardians, were made responsible for saving this grain as planting seed for the following season.
- Training was delivered on post-harvest management and storage.
- Seed production and distribution activities established through private sector.

Benefits

- Old varieties are being replaced by lines with higher yields and better pest and disease tolerance.
- An improved avenue for breeders to get their varieties grown in the field.
- Grain buyers presented with a more uniform and hence valuable product at harvest.
- Yields were increased by 10–15%.
- Price for grain received for ground nut rose from Rs.5000/40 kg to Rs.7000/40 kg after post-harvest, value adding.

Impacts

- Yield increased.
- Livelihoods and profits improved.
- Areas sown to pulses will rise.
- Benefits to the economy (imports of pulses could decrease).
- Use of pesticides should decrease.

