

## Success Story

The KVKs are the down-to-earth institutions committed to vocational training, transfer of latest technologies, on farm research and thus, serving as the light house for overall rural development in the district. The activities of the KVK include technology assessment, refinement and transfer, aiming to bridge the gap between the technology developed at the research institutions and its adoption at the field level by the farmers through demonstration of technology/ products etc. and training of farmers, rural youths and extension personnel. Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Bhaderwah (Doda) is engaged in organizing various activities and catering the extension need of Doda district as per the KVK mandates. Availability of good and sufficient quantity of green fodder for stall feeding during the winter months has been a problem in J&K state in general and temperate areas in particular. In plain areas of Jammu province, Berseem (*Trifolium alexandrinum*) is very popular winter season fodder crop but can only be grown under irrigated conditions. To overcome the shortage of green fodder during the winter months, KVK Doda started Frontline Demonstrations on Oat (*Avina sativa* L.) in Doda District. FLD's on Oat (Varieties: Kent and Sabzaar) was introduced to find alternative forage for rain fed hilly areas. The Oat has potential of providing good quality nutritious forage for a long duration. The good quality protein and nutritional components are suitable for maintaining animals and milk production. Oat grain has good potential as food supplement, baby food as well as animal feed. Most of the cultivated fields in Doda district formally remained barren in winter because of the severe winters, snowfall and uncertainty of rains in winter, which compel the farmers to avoid uncertain labour and resource intensive food crops and switch towards alternative professions in winter, especially making of handicrafts. In spite of extensive research and extension, availability of excellent cultivars and easy cultivation, Oat has not only become very popular in temperate areas of Doda District, but also has improved the economic conditions of farmers, particularly small scale and marginal farmers. Therefore, large scale FLD's on Oat crop were conducted throughout the district by Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Doda in order to have better wide spread impact of the demonstrated technologies on the farmers field by involving Field Level Extension Functionaries.

The cultivation of Oat was carried out during Rabi season of 2008-09 to 2012-13 in 33 villages across 04 blocks of Doda District of J&K. In all, 95 Frontline Demonstrations (FLD's) on Oat crop were carried out in an area of 21.0 hectares with the active participation of the farmers with the objective to demonstrate the latest technology of Oat production. The

results of the study revealed that the average yield of Oat (green fodder) under FLD plots varied between 369.52q/ha to 403.13q/ha, whereas, under the farmer's practice, it varied between 270.88q/ha to 297.50q/ha (Table 1 and Table 2). The increment in yield of Oat crop under Frontline Demonstrations was due to dissemination of improved and latest technology viz: high yielding varieties, seed treatment, recommended seed rate, balanced fertilization and plant protection measures. It is concluded that FLD programme is an effective tool for increasing the production and productivity of Oat crop and changing the knowledge, attitude and skill of farmers. The per cent increment in yield of Oat crop to the extent of 35.20 to 42.48 in FLD's over the farmer's practice created greater awareness and motivated the other farmer's to adopt improved package and practices of Oat developed by SKUAST-Jammu. These developments also build the relationship and confidence between farmers and scientists. The beneficiary farmers of the FLD's also play an important role as a source of information and quality seeds for wider dissemination of the high yielding varieties of Oat for other nearby farmers and villages.

**Table 1: Differences between technological intervention and farmers practices for Oat crop**

Particular Practice	Demonstration Package	Farmer's Practice
Variety	Sabzaar and Kent	Local Variety
Seed Rate	100kg/ha	160-200 kg/ha
Farming Situation	Rain fed	Rain fed
Method of Sowing	Line sowing (20cms)	Broadcasting
Fertilizer dose	80:40:20 (NPK kg/ha)	Irrational use of nitrogenous fertilizers
Seed treatment with fungicide	Vitavax @ 2g/kg	Nil

**Table 2: Performance of Oat under front Line Demonstration and Farmer's Practice**

Under FLD Programme				Average Yield (q/ha)		Increase in yield (%)	B:C ratio
Year	Variety	Total Area (Ha)	No. of Demonstrations	Demonstration	Farmer's Practice		
2008-09	Sabzar	05	25	369.52	270.88	36.41	1:3.04
2009-10	Sabzar	05	21	386.80	280.30	38.0	1:2.12
2010-11	Sabzar	05	19	378.90	280.20	35.20	1:2.05
2011-12	Kent	03	15	403.13	282.93	42.48	1:2.29
2012-13	Kent	03	15	401.10	297.50	34.80	1:2.18
Total/Average	-	21	95	387.87	282.36	35.61	2.34



## KRISHI VIGYAN KENDRA-DODA

**Increasing fodder yield by FLD on Oats in Doda**

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