

# Watermelon: A profitable Rabi crop

**Thematic area:** Crop Diversification

**K.V.K :** Boudh (Odisha)

## **Background Information:**

- Paddy-Paddy and Paddy-Green gram are two major cropping sequences in the irrigated land.
- Sri.Manoj Kumar Pradhan of Vill- Lambakani, Block- Harabhanga was cultivating Paddy in 6 ha during Kharif and Green gram in 2 ha during Rabi season.
- He was getting a net profit of Rs 60,000 from Paddy and Rs 12,000 from Green gram which is insufficient for his livelihood support.
- He was in search of cultivating some profitable crop during Rabi season.
- After being trained on Watermelon cultivation he was motivated and started Watermelon cultivation in Rabi season since 2010.

## **Description of Technology:**

- Use of hybrid seed Black Magic
- Transplanting of 15 days old seedlings raised in poly bags
- Foliar application of Ethrel @ 4 ml/10 lit in alternate row at 2 and 4 true leaf stage
- Application of RDF , NPK@ 120:60:100 kg / ha
- Application of herbicide quizalofop ethyle@ 1000 ml/ha at 15 days after transplanting.
- Foliar application of Boron @ 1000 gm/ha at flowering and fruit setting stage
- Need based application of insecticide and fungicide
- Judicious and timely irrigation to prevent fruit cracking

## **Dissemination Process:**

- Training on improved package of practices of watermelon
- FLD on transplanting technique in watermelon
- FLD on application of ethrel in watermelon
- Field day, Field visit, Diagnostic visit
- Agro- advisory services and extension literature on watermelon cultivation

**Institute Involved:**

Sl. No	Name of Institute	Role
1	KVK, Boudh	Technological support through training, FLD, field day, field visit and diagnostic visit
2	Horticulture Dept, Boudh	Supply of micro nutrient and pesticides
3	Jai Matadi Farmers Producer Company Ltd. Boudh (NGO)	Supply of seed and marketing of produce

**Success Point:**

- Transplanting of watermelon reduced plant mortality, weeds infestation & increased yield.
- Ethrel application resulted in more female flower & more yield.
- Uniform fruit size and more yields due to Boron application.
- Herbicide application save labour cost in weeding.

**Outcome:**

By investing Rs 86,200 in 2 ha of watermelon cultivation, he got gross return of Rs 1,72,900 with net profit of Rs 86,700. So his net income in Rabi season is increased from Rs 12000 in Green gram to Rs 86,700 by cultivation of Watermelon.

Year	Cost of cultivation (Rs.)	Production (qt)	Gross return (Rs.)	Net Return (Rs.)	BC ratio
2010-11	68200	474	142200	74000	2.08
2011-12	68600	468	140400	71800	2.04
2012-13	86200	494	172900	86700	2.00

**Impact:**

- His social standard has been improved. He set an example as a progressive farmer in his locality.
- His economic condition has been improved. Now he has constructed a Pucca house, bought a motorcycle and is able to provide better education to his children.
- Seeing the success, other farmers of his village started cultivation of Watermelon.
- Now Watermelon is cultivated in 30 ha area in his village & around 800 ha area in the district.

## *Action Photographs*

