

Multi-cropping yields good harvest at Sonertari



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Nibirakash Baruah 26 June 2013 8872 views

Earning a livelihood through agriculture has never been easy in Assam. But, in a welcome departure from tradition, farmers of Sonertari village of Barpeta district have opted for multiple-cropping and are harvesting three different crops a year.

Currently, with the help of agriculture department of the state, the tillers are busy in harvesting 270 hectares of paddy field where they have grown the hybrid variety 'Arize 6444' and are reaping a rich harvest.

When asked, a farmer Hakim Ali who has been doing farming for the last 50 years, he said that prior to Arise 6444 he used to cultivate with Chinese Iri which yielded for about 600 to 800 kg per *bigha* but the yield has almost doubled he switched for Arise 6444 variety with a produce of around 1200 to 1400 kg per *bigha*.

According to him, despite the high price for Arize seeds which costs around Rs 300 per kg compared to the cheaper varieties costing around Rs 200, Arize is far more profitable. “First, because with Arize it requires just one kg seed per *bigha* while on the other hand the other seeds require around 5 kg seeds for the same area. The hybrid varieties also require less water for irrigation which saves the cost of diesel and less labour for sowing,” he said.

The agricultural department has been ably supporting these farmers by providing them training and assistance for cultivating hybrid rice. On Monday, the department in collaboration with the economics and statistics department organized a crop cutting experiment at Sonertari village as per norms of National Statistical Survey Organization (NSSO) where they found the per bigha crop yield to be 1320 kg.

Speaking on the occasion, agriculture director K Barkakoti said that the entire country at present is looking towards eastern India for meeting the demand of rice production because the output in other states like Punjab and Haryana are going down. “Hence it is now the responsibility of the eastern India to feed the country and for that we will have to increase our food output with the help of hybrid crops under the Bring Green Revolution to Eastern India (BGREI) scheme.

BY NIBIRAKASH BARUAH

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