

Khet Bachao Abhiyan by ICAR-DOGR

Date: 22 June 2026

Under the nationwide “Khet Bachao Abhiyan” (Save the Farm Campaign) launched by the Hon'ble Union Minister for Agriculture & Farmers Welfare and Rural Development during 1–30 June 2026, a scientific team comprising Dr. Amar Jeet Gupta, Principal Scientist (Horticulture) and Nodal Officer, TSP; Dr. Shailendra Gadage, Principal Scientist (Agricultural Extension) and Nodal Officer, MGMG & SCSP; and Dr. Bhushan Bibwe, Senior Scientist (ASPE), ICAR-Directorate of Onion and Garlic Research (DOGR), Pune, visited Bhorgiri village of Khed Tehsil, Pune district. The programme was organized under the TSP and SCSP schemes with the objective of promoting scientific and efficient input management practices among farmers.

An awareness programme was conducted with the participation of total 75 farmers (Male: 54, Female: 21). The programme commenced with the introduction of the ICAR-DOGR scientific team by Mr. Suresh Kathe, a progressive farmer and member of Gram Panchayat of the village. Among the dignitaries present were Mr. Suresh Kathe, Mrs. Archana Wanghare, Secretary of the Women Self-Help Group, and Mr. Lakshman Kathe, Chairman of the Gram Society. Notably, the programme witnessed appreciable participation of women farmers, reflecting their active involvement in agricultural decision-making and capacity-building activities.

During interaction, the scientific team explained the objectives of the campaign and highlighted the importance of balanced and judicious use of fertilisers, climate-resilient farming practices, weather-based agricultural advisories, and improved access to mechanization and government schemes. The discussions also focused on location-specific advisories related to crop selection, crop diversification, risk mitigation, and suitable alternatives under conditions of water scarcity and climatic uncertainties.

Dr. Amar Jeet Gupta emphasised scientific cultivation practices, including selection of season-specific improved varieties, seed treatment, balanced fertiliser application, integrated nutrient management, and sustainable crop management approaches. He also highlighted suitable crop and management options for mitigating risks associated with climatic variability and water scarcity.

Dr. Shailendra Gadage elaborated various technologies and extension initiatives developed by ICAR-DOGR for improved onion production and management. He also interacted with the participants regarding ongoing SCSP activities and created awareness about the benefits of the scheme for farming communities.

He Dr. Bhushan Bibwe briefed the participants on scientific onion storage technologies and post-harvest management practices for reducing storage losses and maintaining produce quality. Farmers were advised to avoid the use of chemical powders during storage and adopt safe and natural alternatives. Farmer groups and FPOs were encouraged to visit ICAR-DOGR, Pune, to avail facilities such as agri-business incubation centres and custom hiring services for onion processing and value addition.

Various technologies developed by ICAR-DOGR for improved onion production, crop management, and productivity enhancement were presented during the programme. The participants showed keen interest in discussions on balanced fertiliser use, integrated nutrient management practices, and scientific cultivation technologies. Farmers actively interacted with the scientific team and sought technical guidance on improving productivity while ensuring long-term soil health and sustainability.

