

Report on Khet Bachao Abhiyan Awareness Programme

Date: 24 June 2026

Village: Dinghore, Jummar Taluka, Pune District

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 from ICAR-Directorate of Onion and Garlic Research (ICAR-DOGR), Pune, comprising Dr. Hem Raj Bhandari, Senior Scientist (Plant Breeding) and Dr. Rajiv B Kale, Senior Scientist (Agricultural Extension) organized a Training-cum-Awareness Programme at Dinghore Village, Junnar Taluka, Pune District, Maharashtra.

The programme was aimed at creating awareness among farmers regarding the practices related to good agricultural practices while maintaining the yield and profitability in different agricultural systems. Deliberations were made on scientific onion cultivation, balanced nutrient management, judicious use of agrochemicals, plant protection measures, and sustainable farming practices. The emphasis was placed on reducing the use of chemicals by botanical/ecofriendly alternatives. The use of crop rotation, green manure crops (sunhemp, dhaincha, cowpea etc.), enriched compost, vermicompost, poultry manure, biocontrol agents, rhizobium etc. were emphasized to reduce the use of synthetic chemicals, while maintaining the quality of food produce, sustaining the crop yield and reduce the environmental degradation. The programme was attended by 20 farmers along with village representatives and progressive farmers.

The programme commenced with a welcome and introduction by Mr Dattatreya Lohate, a progressive farmer of the village. The programme started with the deliberation by Dr. Rajiv B Kale who delivered a lecture on scientific onion production, emphasized the adoption of improved ICAR-DOGR onion varieties, seed treatment, balanced fertilizer application, Integrated Nutrient Management (INM), irrigation management and soil health management. Dr. Hem Raj Bhandari briefed the participants on the objectives of the “Khet Bachao Abhiyan” and emphasized the need for balanced and need-based use of fertilizers and agricultural inputs for sustainable crop production. He emphasized on regular soil testing for making mindful application of fertilizers, simultaneously improving the food quality, and reducing the environmental degradation. It was followed by an interaction with farmers where they enquired about the availability of quality seeds of improved varieties of onion. Farmers were interested in the use of biofertilizers and bioinoculants for improving the efficiency of agricultural system. Some farmers indicated that they follow crop rotation, while a few farmers adopted fallow system. The farmers appreciated the scientific guidance provided by the ICAR-DOGR team and expressed their willingness to adopt the recommended technologies for sustainable onion cultivation.

