

Awareness Programme under “Khet Bachao Abhiyan”

Date: 30 June 2026

An awareness programme under the Khet Bachao Abhiyan was organized on 30 June 2026 at Pur village, Khed taluka, Pune district, to promote soil health management, soil test-based nutrient management, scientific onion seed production, and value addition through onion processing.

The programme was conducted by Dr. Kalyani Gorrepati, Senior Scientist, Mr. Radha Krishna, Senior Scientist, Dr. Sanket More, Senior Scientist from ICAR-Directorate of Onion and Garlic Research (ICAR-DOGR), Pune. The programme was attended by 25 members.

Scientist from ICAR-DOGR emphasised the importance of maintaining soil health through regular soil testing, balanced fertilizer application, integrated nutrient management, and the use of organic inputs for sustainable crop production. Farmers were also informed on scientific onion seed production, including selection of healthy mother bulbs, maintenance of isolation distance, rouging, and adoption of the “One Village – One Variety” approach to ensure varietal purity and quality seed production.

Special emphasis was given to seed treatment and scientific nursery management for the kharif onion crop. A field demonstration on nursery bed preparation, seed treatment, sowing techniques, and early crop management was conducted to provide practical exposure to the participants.

The programme also focused on onion processing and value addition to enhance farmers' income and reduce post-harvest losses. As most participants were women from Self Help Groups (SHGs), they were encouraged to establish small scale enterprises for producing value added onion products such as dehydrated flakes and onion powder, with guidance from ICAR-DOGR on processing, packaging, branding, and marketing.

