

NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY MISSION: A NEW HOPE FOR BETTER HARVEST OF PULSE CROPS IN WEST BENGAL

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ABSTRACT

India is the largest producer, consumer and as well as largest importer of pulses in the world. In West Bengal total pulse growing areas, production & productivity are 246950 ha, 23539 ton & 953kg/ha (2014-15) respectively. But there is a huge gap (nearly 80%) between requirement & production of pulse crops in west Bengal. So to meet the states' domestic requirement we have to depend upon those states. Consequently the price of *dal* is always fluctuating. Therefore to stable the market price & to increase the pulse production & to energize the farmers to grow pulse crops, Central Govt. has increased the MSP of different pulses time to time. In West Bengal NFSM pulse programme was started from 2007 at seven district & now presently all the agricultural districts (19) have come under this mission. Initiatives have been taken by the Agriculture Department, Govt. of WB for popularizing improved package of practices of pulses. During the year 2013-14 the total pulse growing areas has been moved up to 233430 ha with a productivity of 922 kg/ha (11.76% increase over 2009-10) in WB. The % of increase of productivity in the year 2009-10 was 15.06 in case of NFSM pulse district over 2006-07, where as in case non NFSM district & for state total it was 12.15 % & 11.66% respectively. So there is a vast scope to increase pulse production in this state by using the rice fallow areas, intercropping with maize, oilseeds, other cereals, NFSM-Pulse programme in the state.

KEYWORDS: NFSM, Pulse, Area, Production, West Bengal