

## **Report of the Jagsi Visit by CSSRI Team**

A team consisting of the following scientists visited the Jagsi village on 17.7.2009 where a subsurface drainage project is being implemented by the Haryana Operational Pilot Project :

Dr. S.K.Gupta            -        Coordinator  
Dr. Ram Ajore  
Dr. J.C.Dagar  
Dr. S.K.Singh  
Dr. S.Kumar  
Dr. R.L.Meena

Sh. Mohan Lal from HOPP accompanied the team. He in turn managed a team from the office of the ASCO, Which arranged a meeting with the farmers. Sh. Ram Kumar, Sarpanch, Jagsi led the farmers. About a dozen farmers were present. Dr. S.K. Gupta, while interacting with the farmers recalled the visit of Dr. Gurbachan Singh, Director and assured full support from CSSRI, Karnal. He specifically outlined the objective of the team to identify sites for the following activities:

1. Multi-enterprise agriculture
2. Demonstration of salt tolerant rice varieties
3. Plantations of Tamarix, other plants



**Photo: Team interacting with the farmers**

### **Multi-enterprise agriculture**

Sh. Pratap Singh and Sh. Balwan S/o Sh. Giani Ram were present during discussions. They agreed to provide their existing pond for this purpose. Later, they accompanied the team to the site. Dr. S.K. Singh and Dr. S. Kumar agreed that the site is suitable. However, agreement of Dr. Kamra was needed. They agreed to discuss the issue with Dr. Kamra and finalize the site. Farmers were quite interested and were of the view that the work should start immediately. If rains start, no machine would be able to enter the

field. An MOU needs to be signed between the farmers and CSSRI. Another site on Panchayat land was also seen. However, it required further investigations and support from Panchayat.

### **Demonstration of salt tolerant rice varieties**

Seeds of salt tolerant rice varieties have been distributed to several farmers by Dr. Ram Ajore. He inspected the sites along with Dr. Gautam. Dr. Gautam desired that he would like to demonstrate/test few varieties on farmers' field. Field of Sh. Dharam veer S/o Sh. Maha Singh was identified for this purpose. Soil samples from the site were brought so that initial benchmarking is available before rice transplanting.



**Photo: Seedlings of salt tolerant variety being prepared by the farmer from seeds distributed by CSSRI (Plot No. 1 from front)**

### **Plantations**

Dr. Dagar and Dr. Meena looked for some sites for this purpose. It was decided to put plants on field boundary. Sh. Mohan Lal indicated that plants may be put on field dykes parallel to the laterals as otherwise roots may choke the system. This issue would be kept in view. Dr. Dagar and Dr. Meena visited few other locations also and sites were finalized. It was also decided that initially it would be on a lesser scale and it could be upscaled next year.

### **Other Issues**

#### **Pumping from the Drainage System**

Lack of pumping by the farmers is often cited as an issue of low efficiency of reclamation after drainage. It was seen that one of the farmer was pumping water from a manhole to irrigate his fields for rice cultivation. It was a good attempt and has set an example to

other farmers. The sample of the sump water was obtained so that its usefulness for irrigation could be established/recommended. The water had an EC of 2.6 dS/m, SAR of 7.7 with RSC as nil. EC is just at the dividing line of rice tolerance and hence careful application of this water should be made in the first year. The application of this water should not pose any problem to irrigate the wheat crop. The quality of water might improve in future so that it could be used for rice cultivation.



**Photo: Pumping from the drainage manhole for watering during rice transplanting**

### **Groundwater Salinity**

Sh. Jagbir S/o Sh. Hawa Singh approached Dr. Gupta for rice seedling as his tube well water was saline. He has 18' deep bore. If he goes deeper, the water is even more saline. On drinking, water was not as saline as may affect the rice crop. Therefore, a sample was taken from his bore for analysis. Once the results are available, farmers' would be advised to take up needed management options including seed of wheat variety.

### **Training**

Dr. Gupta proposed that farmers need some training on rice cultivation in saline/sodic environment, use of drainage water etc. The matter was discussed with the team. Sarpanch agreed that farmers would be willing to participate. The proposal would be discussed with the Director and finalized.

(S K Gupta)  
Coordinator