

CULTIVATION OF POTATO IN CHHATTISGARH: A BRIGHT FUTURE

Shri Narayan Bahi Chawda
Chawda Farm

Chhattisgarh farmers think that potato is the crop of north India only. In our region, it cannot be cultivated successfully.

In this region, after growing potato successfully for 3-4 years, this has been proved that climate of Chhattisgarh suits the cultivation of potatoes. We can take even higher yield of potatoes by adopting scientific technologies than farmers of north India. Chhattisgarh farmers have been blessed with the advantage in the farming of potato that no frost occurs in this region.

Duration of winter required for potatoes in this region is less than north India. Only two months fall under cool temperature, still here in this region we don't find much difference much reduction in the yield of potato. Central Potato Research Institute, Simla has developed such varieties of potatoes for plain regions, which mature in relatively less time.

Main problem in our region is the availability of truthful seed of potato. For this, we depend upon, hilly regions of north India. To procure seed by purchasing from hilly regions cost of cultivation becomes so high that farmers do not want to involve into potato cultivation. If, truthful seed of recommended variety is easily available in this region, no doubt, the farmers of Chhattisgarh will easily adopt the potato cultivation.

Some farmers, who raise potato on their fields, generally use the varieties Red Patna, Phulwa, Up-to-date, Dhakari and Sathhu etc. These varieties are quite old and degenerated from their original characteristics. Central Potato Research Institutes, Simla has developed many new varieties in place of these old one, for example- Kufri Sinduri, Kufri Chamatkar and Kufri Chandramukhi etc. These varieties have very high yielding potential and are well suited for the climate of plain regions.

Last year, on a farm almost all varieties were studied and was found that aforesaid all the three new varieties are well suited from climate and yield point of view in this region.

To solve the problem of seed some trials were done. Last year in 20 decimal area seed-plot-technique was followed. Central Potato Research Institute, Simla has developed this special technique to prepare the seed of potato in plain regions. We produced about 50 mounds of potato seed of Kufri Sinduri and kept it in cold storage.