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## MY EXPERIENCE WITH POTATO CULTIVATION

For getting high yield of potato I liked Kufri Sinduri variety. Although Kufri Chandramukhi and Kufri Chamatkar were also good, but in my fields, due to attack of virus, the plants got damaged, Kufri Sinduri escaped the attack of wilt. It can be taken in those fields. Where the crop generally suffers from wilt, Kufri Sinduri should be taken. But after paddy, Kufri Chandramukhi is an excellent variety since it is early the tubers of Kufri Chamatkar variety has some shinning, hence it fetches higher price in market. The tubers of Kufri Chamatkar are very near to roots and. in the form of clusters due to this, it can be taken out easily while digging.

Generally, more than half of the yield of potato gets damaged due to heat. The tubers having thickness of one and half to two inches should be separated and fully used for sowing rather than its cutting. If the tubers are too small then it will be more susceptible to virus.

It is experienced that if the tubers are planted at one and a half ft. row to row distance, and 9 inches distance from plant to plant, the maximum yield can be obtained.

In one field where laborers had planted tubers in 11 to 12 inches distance, the yield got reduced to one-third. Hence, for maintaining 9 inches distance for planting 1 to 1½" thickness tubers, 25 munds potato can be sown in one acre.

Potato tubers should only be sown after getting it germinated. I have experimented and found the difference in yield by sowing non-germinated tubers and germinated tubers i.e. 115 munds and 238 munds respectively.

The germinated potato plant emerges within 10 to 15 days while if, non-

germinated potatoes are sown it takes a long time. For getting potato germinated for sowing, I keep tubers in an Airy room. The layers should not be more than 3-4 potatoes.

Before keeping potato to germinate for sowing purpose, I treat it with 'Agalol' and dry it. The well-leveled field is used for planting but on 12<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> days interval the soil between the rows is used for earthing and simultaneously the weeding should also be done. It is very necessary to do earthing. I could do this work only two times as the whole field was covered with plant growth.

It is essential to give cow-dung manure in potato cultivation. In addition to this I gave 300 kg super-phosphate and 100 kg murate of potash at the time of field preparation. Later on 250 kg Ammonium Sulphate was given in the interval of 20 and 40 days. Since my fields are mostly sandy, I do not give Ammonium Sulphate at the time of sowing, since it may leach out. However, I shall try to experiment by giving Ammonium Sulphate and to reduce the dose of Super-phosphate at the time of sowing during this year.

Last year, I had taken potato in 3 acres. The cost of cultivation incurred was Rs. 2000/- per acre and I got an average net profit of Rs. 1000 per acre. The maximum profit of Rs. 2500/- was received from that plot where the production I received was 375 munds/acre.