

TITLE: BOOSTING PRODUCTION OF OILSEEDS USING TORIA VARIETY TS-36

Category: A significant achievement in area expansion under Toriavar. TS-36.

Challenge: Toria is the most important oilseed crop grown by the farmers of Nalbari district. The present area under Toria is 6851 ha with an annual production of 3826 tons. However, the average productivity of Toria is about 5-6 q/ha, which is considerably low.

TS-36 is newly developed toria variety with higher yield potential and higher oil content as well and thereby increases the total oil yield of the crop. The total deficit of mustard oil in Nalbari district is 9.96 tons as against the total requirement of 12.56 tons. Therefore, the seed production programme on toria var. TS-36 was initiated in less than 10.0 ha area during 2006-07 and as on date the seed production of that variety is enough to meet the total requirement of the farmers of the district.

Initiative: Keeping the fact in mind and realizing the importance of quality toria seeds, KVK Nalbari had been implementing several Front Line Demonstrations, training programmes, farmer-scientist interactions *etc.* to popularize the variety TS-36 with financial support from ICAR, under the programme– “Demonstration of Oil seeds and pulses” since 2005. Having seen the result yielded by such programmes and to mitigate the deficiency of oil seed in the district, KVK, Nalbari under the programme ‘Technology Showcasing’ under RKVY has launched a large block demonstration of the variety TS-36 with an aim of producing foundation seed covering an area of 75 ha. And, as such the longitudinal effort of the KVK has become instrumental in expansion of area under of Toria variety TS-36.

Key results: A summarized picture of the increasing popularity of the variety TS-36 is reflected in the table below.

Year	Area (ha)	Productivity (q/ha)
2006-07	08	8.10
2007-08	25	8.50
2008-09	75	8.20
2009-10	240	8.90
2010-11	552	7.80
2011-12	2012	8.20

Impact: The toria variety TS-36 has become the most popular variety of that crop and has been successful in replacing the locals as well as the old HYVs like M-27. The entire process of expansion has shown a considerable elevation in the income level of the participating farmers up to 15-20 per cent.

Lessons learnt: Timely showing of Toria crop has been a challenge all the time as people do not want to lose from the primary crop *i.e.* Rice as variety Ranjit, the most popular HYV of rice, takes about 150-155 days for harvesting and thereby delays the sowing of next crop. The toriavar. TS-36 should be shown at the earliest possible during Rabi season for achieving a fair yield and hence people initially were reluctant to accept the variety. However, later the potentiality of the variety was successful to convince the farmers and made its place firmly.

Quotes: The initiatives were highly successful in terms of area expansion as well as making quality seeds of oil seed crops available in the district. The same has been depicted by various news papers including “The Assam Tribune”.

