

Research Note :

A SUCCESS STORY OF BER BUDDING IN 'AMRAJI-KA-GUDA' OF UDAIPUR DISTRICT (RAJASTHAN) (A CASE STUDY)

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A SUCCESS STORY OF BER BUDDING—A CASE STUDY :

The changes in the agricultural scene viz. the scarcity of water and consequent difficulty in cultivating water-intensive crops has forced farmers to seek alternatives.

Our southern part of Rajasthan State is known as "ARAWALI REGION", AND Udaipur District is situated in this area and maximum part of this District is surrounded by hills. Ber *Zizyphus mauritiana*, custard apple, (*Anona Sp.*) and Kezri (*Prosopis Scenaria*) are main trees of this region and these are drought resistance trees.

It is truly said "Ber is the fruit of poor", "Custard apple is the apple of Rajasthan", "Kezri is the Kalpavraksha of our State".

Ber is the fruit of poor, because it is available free of cost in this region to poor villagers, But the quality of fruit is very poor. Fruits of deshi variety Ber are very small in size, less attractive, less nutritive and less pulpy.

A case study was conducted on a success story of Ber budding in the village of "Amraji Ka Guda" in Udaipur district, Rajasthan.

A progressive farmer Mr. Premshanker Palival adopted ber budding practice for improvement of Deshi Ber on his farm for the first time in the village. He is educated upto the 5th class. He has one son, three daughters and a wife (Hansibai). His son has completed study up to 10th class and working as a

Salesman of cloth at Surat District of Gujarat. All the three daughters and his wife are illiterate and the daughters are married. Mr. Palival and his wife are involved in agriculture and allied activities. Mr. Palival has two bullocks and they are used for cultivating their land and lifting water by persian wheel. Besides this, he also has four buffaloes, out of which two are milk yielding.

He has 30 bighas of land (12 acres) and out of which 10 bighas are irrigated and 20 bighas are hilly area. This hilly tract is covered with Deshi Ber trees. According to him the number of trees would approximately be 500.

He grows crops like coriander, potato, groundnut, maize, wheat and rape seed, mustard etc. he sells all the surplus for which, he earns about Rs. 40,000 per annum. He is really passing through quite a pleasant phase in his life.

He once had the opportunity to visit the Horticulture farm in Rajasthan College of Agriculture, Udaipur. He was very pleased on seeing the umran plants variety and its leaves and fruits. At that time a bright idea came in his mind, why not I improve my Deshi Ber and produce more fruits and earn more? He is really a self-motivated farmer.

First of all he met the Agricultural supervisor of his Gram Panchayat and discussed how to improve his deshi ber. The Agriculture Supervisor suggested to him that he can improve the deshi ber by budding practices.

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The ber budding practice was initially practiced by the Ag. Supervisor in the presence of Mr. Paliwal. He got buds of improved Umram variety from R.C.A. Udaipur and this budding process was completed on 100 trees of Mr. Paliwal's farm. But unfortunately out of 100 trees, only 40 trees could survive. After 2 years of budding the tree bore fruits which were well shaped, in larger quantities and attractive. This has developed spiritual confidence in Mr. Paliwal.

This success of budding practice of improved umram variety on deshi ber was visited by the ICAR team, many agriculturists of R.C.A. Udaipur and the nearby villagers to see the success and they praised Mr. Paliwal due to which Mr. Paliwal felt immense pleasure. After this instant success he found a good social position in his community as a progressive farmer and he became highly respected by not only his own village farmers, but also by the farmers of other villages, where he visits.

Because of his interest he used the budding practice at his relative's farm also on 20 trees and all the plants were a grand success. He had learnt of the ber budding practice on observing it when it was being adopted at his farm. He did not get any formal

training of budding and he has proved the idiom "LEARNING BY DOING TO BE ISSUE".

He also wants to exercise the ber budding practice at his farm on the remaining trees and wants to earn more profit. The people of his village are also interested to learn and employ this practice at their farm.

PROBLEMS :

The problem experienced by Mr. Paliwal before and during the ber budding were-

1. Firstly he realised that as to whom he should contact for gaining knowledge about ber budding.
2. From where the experts of ber budding would be available.
3. From where the buds of Umram variety will be available for budding of deshi ber and how much expenditure would be incurred.
4. He was completely unaware about the budding practice.
As such a suspense was created in his mind that in what way the bud will make a tree so fruitful.
5. Initially some labour was required for cutting of old ber trees and other sprouts of deshi ber and in the care of new or improver bud.