



Farmer Developed crop varieties-Kudrat Seed

Prakash Singh Raghuvanshi

Tadiya village, Varanasi/ Uttar Pradesh



Shri Prakash Singh Raghuvanshi (60 years) is a small farmer but with a big heart and a keen eye for oddity. He selects odd plants from among the millions in the field, and then through recurrent selection, develops new varieties and shares them widely. He owns just three and a half acres of agricultural land on which he does research on wheat, paddy and pigeon pea.

Developed crop varieties-Kudrat Seeds. His village had no improved variety of seeds and all farmers were dependent on costly hybrid seeds. He was very unhappy due to the low yield of many crops and high cost in agriculture. In spite of his poor eyesight; in the year 1995, he started his search for high yielding variants in the fields of paddy, wheat, pigeon pea and mustard. He did not give



up despite initial setbacks. He approached (Late) Prof. Mahatim Singh, former Vice Chancellor, G.B. Pant University of Agriculture and Technology (GBPUAT); who motivated him for improvement of crop variety through his own selection criteria. Shri Raghuvanshi borrowed money from banks & colleagues to carry out his experiments and started 'Beej Daan Mahadaan' campaign for free distribution of indigenous seeds, to the needy farmers. He was in debts because of this campaign. Finally, he succeeded in his efforts which brought him fame due to an improved paddy variety *Kudart-5*. He faced lots of ups and downs during his journey of crop improvement. However, now, he has developed a number of improved high yielding wheat, paddy, mustard and pigeon pea varieties, which are tolerant to major pests & diseases and have good aroma, higher yield, better quality and taste. He developed these varieties from traditional varieties through mass selection based on various specific traits. He is also working for the conservation of over 100 varieties of paddy, wheat, mustard, pigeon pea, green gram, bottle gourd, etc.

Benefits: The improved variety seed has been distributed in more than fifteen states. Among outstanding



performers are Kudrat-5 and Kudrat-1 for paddy, Kudrat-9,17 for wheat, Kudrat-3 pigeon pea and Kudrat Geeta for Mustard crop. GIAN tested Kudrat variety of wheat in Gujarat and got exceedingly positive results. Further, encouraging results in Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Punjab, Bihar and Haryana have been evident in the recent years. Till now more than one lakh farmers all over the country have benefited by the varieties improved by him.

Awards & Accolades: NIF identified his talent in the year 2007 and awarded him for the same. He has been NIF's National Awardee and was also given the Plant Genome Saviour Recognition Certificate (2010-11) by PPV & FRA. He was the first farmer to be registered in PPV & FRA. He has received many other awards and accolades. NIF also supported him technically and financially for business promotion activities for his improved varieties. A private seed company, The Arati Seeds and Research Pvt. Ltd. was given non-exclusive rights for production and marketing of three potential Kudrat varieties in Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka state. अपनी खेती, अपना खाद / अपना बीज, अपना स्वाद (Our Field/Our Fertiliser. Our Seed/Our Taste) :- **Prakash Singh Raghuvanshi**