



## **S**mall Drops, Big Impact

### **PIPIP** **Feature Story**

**A**lthough there are many other reasons to enjoy winter in the Punjab but nothing epitomises as much as peeling, quartering and savouring a distinctly sweetest Pakistani Kinnow in the cold but pleasant sunny weather. If you have missed that sweetness, you have missed one of the most savoury taste of the nature. Though, Sargodha is an emblematic tract in the Kinnow's history but TobaTek Singh is also becoming popular for Kinnow production, being second largest Kinnow producing district in the Punjab.

Mr. Naeem Tahir, a progressive Kinnow grower, who owns 10 acres of land along the road that links TobaTek Singh to the nearby major town of Pir Mahal. He has sold fruit of his 7 acres citrus orchard to a contractor fetching net profit of Rs. 200,000 (US\$ 1,439) per acre. He is one of those innovators who have got drip irrigation system installed under the World Bank assisted "Punjab Irrigated-Agriculture Productivity Improvement Project (PIPIP)" on five (5) acres for cultivation of citrus.

**Net Profit**  
**PKR 200,000 (US\$ 1,439)**  
**per acre**

While sharing his experiences, he told that "actually, drip irrigation facilitates to apply agricultural inputs equally and directly to the plant root zone resulting into very healthy crop stand and uniform fruit size leading to higher yield per plant.



Before installation of drip irrigation, it was very difficult to irrigate my whole land properly owing to shortage of canal water and brackish groundwater resulting into poor plant growth and less production. I found this technology best option to solve my water shortage problem and now I can irrigate all of my land according to crop water requirement with limited available canal water".

He added that "the biggest advantage of drip irrigation is application of soluble fertilizers to plants through fertigation, which is not only helping to maximize water & fertilizer use efficiency and reduce production costs but also increase crop yields".

According to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, Pakistan is the world's 10th largest producer of citrus. It is need of the day to increase its production as well as establish global linkages, create better environment for export of fresh oranges besides encouragement of local industry for its value added products.

Mr. Ghulam Shabir, Deputy Director Agriculture (OFWM), T.T. Singh pointed out that "Drip irrigation is oxygen for the farmers of the TobaTek Singh district because they have very limited canal water while brackish groundwater is not fit for irrigation. The limited canal water is very precious & valuable for them and they should use it drop by drop through drip irrigation to get higher yields per acre".

While discussing the success of drip irrigation technology, Malik Muhammad Akram, Director General Agriculture (Water Management), Punjab indicated that "the key objective of the PIPIP project is to introduce high efficacy irrigation systems to the farmers of Punjab for enhancing water & crop productivities. It is encouraging that many farmers are adopting this innovative technology and getting huge benefits not only in terms of agricultural inputs savings but also earning higher economic returns".



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