



# DRIP IRRIGATION Cherish Every Drop of Water



Haji Ghulam Akbar, Chak Bikhari Kalan  
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**G**rapes and Plum are lucrative/ profitable summer fruits having high prices even in the local markets due to their unique taste. A few years back, there was no perception to grow Grapes and Plum on commercial scale and some progressive growers used to grow these fruits in their personal gardens only. The farmers are now attracted towards long term lucrative crops due to fluctuating prices of conventional crops in the market. The researchers have proved that these fruits can be grown easily in the Punjab due to favorable climactic conditions and such crops are becoming attractive cash crops for progressive farmers of the province.

Haji Ghulam Akbar is one of those farmers who decided during 2013-14 to grow Grapes on 11 acres and



subsequently Plum on 4 acres during 2016-17 under drip irrigation and got the system installed on cost sharing basis under technical guidance of OFWM staff from the World Bank assisted PIPIP.

He shared his experience as **“Before drip irrigation, I used to grow wheat and peanut crops which were totally dependent on rain as I was not having enough water for irrigating these crops through flood irrigation. Sometimes, it was not possible to get any income from these crops due to less/ insufficient rain fall. I learnt about the government scheme which supports the farmers to install drip irrigation system. So, I decided to get benefit from the government subsidy scheme and installed drip irrigation system for growing high value crops. I planned to grow Plum and Grapes and shifted from rainfed farming to drip irrigated agriculture. This experience remained so successful that I got 3500 kg/acre yield and recovered all expenses on drip system installation from income of the first fruiting of Grapes”**.

While sharing his experience about the benefits of drip irrigation, he told that **“Drip irrigation enabled me to irrigate the plants according to water requirement. Moreover, growing high value crops like grapes with drip irrigation required less water as compared to traditional crops grown on flood irrigation. Similarly, fertigation with drip system helped me to save about 50-60% fertilizer as it provides more output with less input through efficient use of fertilizer and other inputs”**.

He further shared that **“Grapes and Plum cultivation with drip irrigation has created livelihood opportunities for local people as labor force for harvesting and other farm operations due to increased farm output. Presently, twelve (12) men are working as permanent workers”**.

At the end, he suggested that **“government should provide small processing units to the farmers for preparing high value products for supply directly in the market. It will motivate the farming community to grow high value crops commercially and help them to get maximum profitability from their crops”**.

