DRIP IRRIGATION
MORE YIELD WITH LESS INPUT

Mian Muhammad Anwar
Tehsil Samundri,
District Faisalabad
Pakistan

Mian Muhammad Anwar had much excitement when he was talking about his aize yield @ 96 maunds per acre with drip irrigation. He abjured the traditional irrigation practices and adopted the most efficient irrigation method for maize crop awaiting the day of happiness for about four months.

Mian Muhammad Anwar is a resident of Chak No. 477/GB, tehsil Samundri, ditrict Faisalabad where canal supply water is very limited and groundwater is brackish. Moreover, the sandy soil reduces the irrigation application efficiency leading to decreased irrigated area with available canal water supplies. He was obliged to pump brackish groundwater to cover shortage of canal water which was degrading his soil with salinity. He was unable to get sufficient economic returns from his land inspite of much hard work consequently and he fed up from the traditional farming. He learned about numerous benefits of the drip irrigation system and decided to opt this modern and efficient irrigation system for profitable farming as it gives huge production with less input cost.

He shared his experience that “the drip irrigation system is a real salvation for me because it did not only enhance water and fertilizer use efficiency but also reduced weeds. It used to take three to four hours to irrigate only one acre with available water, but now forty to fifty minutes are required to irrigate the same with drip irrigation. Moreover, fertilization is more effective with this new irrigation method than the traditional flood irrigation because nutrients are applied directly to the plant roots. As such, the costs on fertilizers, weedicides, pesticides etc. have also been reduced after installation of drip irrigation system.”

While comparing his per acre yield with neighboring farmer, he shared that “I spent only Rs.5,680 on fertilizer for obtaining 96 maunds per acre yield with drip irrigation while my neighboring farmer spent Rs.13,500 to get only 56 maunds of corn per acre with furrow irrigation leading to huge saving on fertilizers under drip irrigation.” He highlighted that there was also a huge saving in energy with drip irrigation. With adoption of drip technology, I spent just Rs.1,296 while my neighbor spent Rs.5,500 on the tubewell operation for flood irrigation to mature one acre of maize crop. His success in reaping a good harvest this year will set an example for other farmers in the area who are much impressed with bumper crop.

45% more yield
55% less input

Mr. Anwar excitedly shared that “enhanced farm income provided me more money to improve my living standard. My children go to better schools now to get quality education and enjoy a healthy life.”

He was of opinion that it is very important now to use available water resources wisely and irrigate the fields intelligently as water scarcity is increasing day by day and groundwater is becoming more brackish and unfit for agriculture. It is encouraging fact for the OFWM staff that Mr. Anwar is not only satisfied with drip irrigation method but also motivates other maize growers facing water shortage to abjure the traditional irrigation practices and adopt the most efficient irrigation method to get higher yield and make farming a profitable business.

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