



IMPACT STORY

SPRINKLER IRRIGATION: Traditional Farming To Lucrative Agriculture



**Mr. Mazhar Hussain, Chak Murrala,
Tehsil & District Mandi Bahauddin**



According to agricultural experts, sprinkler irrigation method is need of the day to tackle the water scarcity challenge in the country as it provides many benefits:



effective use of water for irrigation, water saving, increase in cultivated area, better crop growth, protection of crops from heat and frost damage etc. Actually, sprinkler systems offer elimination of water conveyance channels, thereby minimizing water loss, distribute water more evenly across cropped area resulting uniform crop stand and conducive environment for plant growth.

About three years ago, Mr. Mazhar Hussain, a progressive farmer of Chak Murralla, tehsil & district Mandi Bahauddin installed sprinkler irrigation system on 15



acres to irrigate different crops including Potatoes, Wheat, Melons, Citrus, Guava, vegetables, fodder etc. and benefitted from impacts of high efficiency irrigation system.

He shared his pleasant experience about efficient and modern method of irrigation (sprinkler irrigation) as, **“sprinkler irrigation provides more even application of water to crops and creates conducive environment for crop growth. Moreover, soluble fertilizers are channeled through the system for easy and even application”**. He further added that **“vegetables, citrus orchard and other fruits can be protected from frost and heat damage very easily with this latest irrigation method. Yield of potatoes and wheat has been increased by 25-50 % with even application of water and fertilizers to the crops while production of these crops has increased due to enhancement in irrigated/ cultivated area at the farm as compared before installation of sprinkler irrigation system”**.

While sharing his other experiences, he indicated that **“sprinkler irrigation system facilitates to protect crops from the attacks of insect pests particularly Jassid and Aphid significantly due to showering on the leaves, fruits and stems that leads to healthy crop without any insecticide spray and saving of cost on chemicals”**. He added that **“risk of soil erosion is also reduced because the sprinkler irrigation causes least soil disturbance, which can occur in light soils with flood irrigation”**.

He excitedly shared that **“apart from other major benefits, an important advantage is ease of its operation as no labor is**

required most of the time to irrigate even different crops on 15 acres land”.



Sprinkler irrigation technology can be adopted for large range of soil topographies and suitable for all types of soils, except heavy clay. In addition, sprinkler irrigation can provide protection to plants against harsh weather conditions. It also helps to improve crop and water productivity resulting in higher farm/ economic returns. As Punjab government is providing



significant financial assistance (60 % of total cost) for promotion of efficient irrigation systems in the Punjab under the “Punjab Irrigated-Agriculture Productivity Improvement Project (PIPIP)”, the farmers may get benefit from this facility/ subsidy for installing high efficiency irrigation systems like sprinkler irrigation systems at their farms, get higher farm returns for better livelihood and contribute in national economic growth and food security.