



Producing More with Less

Story of Vegetables Cultivation with Drip Irrigation

PIPIP

Feature Story

“It gives me immense pleasure to share that we are one of those trailblazers who installed Drip Irrigation system in the beginning of the PIPIP and since 2013-14, we are benefitting from this technology. This was proudly shared by Mr. Zia-ul-Haq and his uncle Khalil Zia, progressive growers of Toba Tek Singh district. While endorsing success of drip irrigation system, the Zia brothers told that “Very honestly, it is the best technology of modern era having huge potential to change the landscape of irrigated as well as Barani agriculture”.

They are successfully growing different vegetables with drip irrigation for last five years and have practical information about comparative difference in growing crops with flood irrigation vs drip irrigation in terms of rationalizing inputs and enhancing crop yields.

Sr. No.	Vegetables	Yield (Kg/Acre)	
		Flood Irrigation	Drip Irrigation
1	Capsicum	22,400	28,000 (25 %) ↑
2	Cucumber	37,500	55,000 (46 %) ↑
3	Bitter gourd	14,000	21,000 (50 %) ↑



Mr. Zia-ul-Haq
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Mr. Zia-ul-Haq very excitedly indicated that “we got installed drip irrigation system on eight (8) acres with financial & technical assistance of the OFWM and afterwards extended it on 12 acres, adding 4 more acres with my own resources. Before drip irrigation, we used to grow wheat and cotton, which are high delta crops and had less market value as compared to vegetables. Now, we grow Cucumber, Capsicum and Bitter gourd with drip irrigation and get **better returns due to higher yields and good quality produce**. Drip irrigation not only increases per acre yield but also helpful for enhancing the efficiency of agricultural inputs and reducing production cost. Actually, drip irrigation applies agricultural inputs especially water and fertilizer directly to the roots of plants, very precisely as per requirements of the plants. According to a rough estimate based upon our own experience, there is about **40% & 60% saving of water and fertilizer**, respectively with drip irrigation”.

Responding to a question about quality of the vegetables grown with drip irrigation, Mr. Zia shared that “the vegetables produced under drip irrigation system are more healthy & nutritious and hence fetch better prices in the market leading to higher economic returns to the farmers. This technology **created livelihood opportunities at my farm for many jobless people especially females** of the nearby villages”.

Water Saving
40 %
Fertilizer Saving
60 %

Mr. Ghulam Shabir, Deputy Director Agriculture (OFWM), T.T. Singh opined that “vegetables are cheaper natural source of all essential nutrients i.e. minerals, vitamins, carbohydrates and salts, necessary for the human health. According to an estimate **per capita consumption of vegetables in Pakistan is about 51 kg/ annum against the world average of 73 kg/annum**. There is a dire need to increase the production of the vegetables to fulfil the requirement of the exponentially growing population. Drip irrigation with tunnel farming is helping farmers of the Punjab to increase the area under vegetables as well as their production”.

