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Agriculture Department

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PUNJAB IRRIGATED-AGRICULTURE
PRODUCTIVITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT



Drip Irrigation: Perfect Solution for Vegetable Growers

Mr. Mufti Asim-ud-din is a progressive farmer of Pakpattan district and growing different crops like Potato, Maize, and orchards including Papaya, Grapes etc. with drip irrigation. A few years ago, he learnt about the drip irrigation technology and contacted OFWM staff to get more information about the technology. He shared that OFWM staff told me about numerous advantages of drip irrigation over conventional method, requirement of less agricultural inputs including water, fertilizer, pesticides, labor etc. and easy management of cropped area. They convinced me to adopt this latest technology on my farm for better farm returns.

In the light of benefits explained to me and the performance of drip irrigation system observed at the farm of another farmer, I decided to do an experiment on my farm. I selected two acres of my productive land having same fertility level for the experiment and cultivated potato on one acre with conventional flood irrigation method and drip irrigation system on other one acre. I applied same amount of all the agricultural inputs to both fields as per relevant recommendations.

The results showed that there was a huge difference between the input costs and production of both fields. The potato crop grown with **drip irrigation** required about **80 % less fertilizer** and water than the traditional method. Moreover, I was able to get **24 maunds per acre more production** with drip irrigation than the traditional flooding.

He added that "I used to grow Potato and Maize crops on my farm even before installation of drip irrigation system. It was, therefore, very easy for me to compare the input costs and production with traditional flood irrigation method and drip irrigation system".

bumper yield of Maize crop due to uniform crop stand, proper vegetative growth that resulted in more yield and **ultimately more economic returns**".

Mr. Mufti excitedly narrated that "considering huge benefits and success of drip irrigation at my farm leading to increased income, I have **planned** to grow high value crops in **tunnel with automated drip irrigation system**".

Due to successful experience, Mr. Mufti advised other farmers of the area to install drip irrigation system to reduce agricultural input costs and enhancing crop yields for obtaining higher farm returns. At the end, he concluded that "seeing is believing" as observing the successful drip irrigation on another farm and experiences of the fellow farmer motivated me to adopt the drip system. **I, therefore, suggest other farmers to visit my farm and see the miracles of drip irrigation system.**



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