



IMPACT STORY

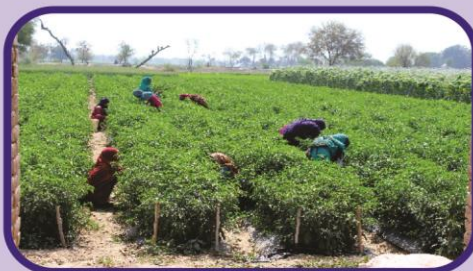
Drip Irrigation - Generate Multiple Outputs with Less Inputs

Like other districts of the Punjab, the farmers have small landholdings in Toba Tek Singh district. Majority of the farmers are growing conventional crops using century old agricultural practices and irrigation methods with their stereotype mindset. There are, however, some



innovative farmers who are ready to adopt modern farming techniques for use of their lands effectively. Such farmers realize the importance/value of precious canal water for irrigation because of brackish groundwater of the area which is unfit for irrigation. They are, therefore, motivated to adopt modern and efficient irrigation technologies like drip and sprinkler irrigation.

Mr. Imtiaz Ahmed, a native of Chak 180/G.B., tehsil Gojra, district Toba Tek



Singh is an innovative farmer, who installed drip irrigation system three years ago to overcome water shortage

for the cultivation of vegetables. He now grows different vegetables using drip irrigation on seven (7) acres. He indicated that his water and fertilizer use have come down by almost sixty (60) percent and crop yields have increased more than fifty (50) percent.

While sharing his pleasant experience with drip irrigation, he told that “drip irrigation is the only option to enhance per acre yield and reduce the cost of production. The water saved from drip irrigation (more than 60 per cent) can be used to irrigate additional area. Another benefit is the reduction of weeds because under drip irrigation method, water is applied directly to the roots of crops while most of the land remains un-

Cultivation of vegetables with drip irrigation created livelihood for local people particularly females of the surrounding area as workers for sowing, harvesting and other farm operations.

irrigated leading to almost negligible weeds. Before adoption of drip irrigation, weeds were eradicated with weedicides spray and manual hoeing”.

He shared excitedly, “**drip irrigation enabled me to construct a new house in the city for residence purpose which has facilitated me for enjoying improved living facilities of the city and better education of my children**”.

Mr. Imtiaz Ahmed also shared that “**vegetable cultivation with drip irrigation has created livelihood opportunities for local people particularly females of the nearby**

villages as labor force for sowing, harvesting and other farm operations. Presently, four (4) men and twelve (12) women are working as permanent workers earning ten thousand rupees (Rs.10,000)/person/month at a small farm of only seven acres”.



Due to its huge benefit, adoption rate of drip irrigation especially for vegetables is very fast in Toba Tek Singh district. As the government is providing subsidy for installation of drip irrigation, the farmers are shifting on drip irrigation for high value agriculture including vegetables and new orchards with limited canal water resources. It is considered that this shift will be a major step towards resolution of Pakistan's water and food security issues.



**Mr. Imtiaz Ahmed,
Chak 180/G.B., Tehsil Gojra,
District Toba Tek Singh**

