

and be as close as possible to the borrower.

Kanpur Farm Varsity Evolves New Varieties

Kanpur : The Chandra Sekhar Azad University of Agriculture and Technology, Kanpur, has evolved a new high-yielding jowar strain to replace the T-22 variety grown in the Agra and Bundelkhand divisions of Uttar Pradesh.

Farmers in the Agra and Allahabad division, the prominent bajra growing areas, have been advised to substitute the Mainupur variety of bajra developed by the university. According to Prof. Kailash Nath Kaul, Vice-Chancellor, the University has many promising varieties of rice in the pipeline. It has recently released a new variety of safflower which contain 35 per cent oil against 20 per cent in local varieties. This, he claimed, was a breakthrough in increasing oil productivity of this crop.

Better Profits from Fertilizer

For maximising profit from fertilizers, farmers should ensure a fuller utilization of the same by their crop plants. Nitrogen should be applied in two to four split doses, especially if there are several rounds of heavy showers. Phosphorus and potassium can be applied in one dose, but nearer to the root zone.

For row crops, follow band placement of fertilizers, about 5 cm below and away from the seed. Avoid contact with the seed below. Otherwise the chemical will scorch the seeds.

Fertilizer like urea should be drilled below the soil surface as otherwise it will get lost through evaporation. Do not leave ammoniacal fertilizers on the surface of alkali soils.

For top-dressing, urea should first be mixed with slightly moist soil and kept for 24 hours before use. Broadcast the mixture when the foliage of the crop is

dry, but the soil should be wet.

If both urea and CAN are available with the farmer, urea may be used for pre-sowing and CAN for top-dressing.

For water-logged soils as in paddy fields, both urea and ammoniacal fertilizers are a better choice than nitrates.

Under dry farming conditions, use all the fertilizers at sowing. Place them in the moist zone below the seed. Give a spray of urea at a later stage, if required.

Fertilizers that Groundnut Needs

It is true that being a legume, groundnut is capable of converting atmospheric nitrogen for its own use. So there is no need to give high doses of nitrogenous fertilizers. However, the crop can do better with a small helping of nitrogen in the beginning. Legumes are, however, quite heavy in their demand for phosphorus and potassium. Phosphorus is essential for proper root development. In some areas, particularly in light soils potassium will also be required to be given after a soil test.

The addition to sulphur is said to increase the oil content of the seeds. It also improves the nodulation resulting in better utilisation of nitrogen by the crop plants. Fertilizers containing sulphate can meet the need for this nutrient. For a rainfed crop 12 kg. of nitrogen, 24 kg. of phosphoric acid and 12 kg. of potash per hectare is usually recommended. The dosages may be doubled in the case of an irrigated crop.

Year's Achievements Spectacular: Jagjivan Ram

Union Agriculture and Irrigation Minister Jagjivan Ram has described the achievements of the year after the announcement of the 20-point economic programme as "spectacular" but has warned against any return to the kind of situation that prevailed earlier.