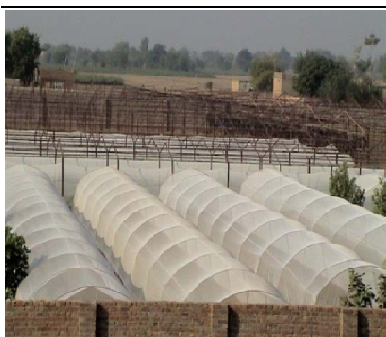


PARC Promotes the Off-Season Vegetable Production Using Plastic Tunnels



Tunnel Structure



Tomato Crop under Plastic Tunnel



Cucumber Crop under Plastic Tunnel

Contributors:

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AJK: Ch. M. Sadiq, Sheikh Atta Ullah

Challenge

- The shortage of summer vegetables during late winter to early summer attributes to escalated prices.
- Farmers' earnings remain at stake during summer especially due to production glut.
- Challenge was to provide farmers the protected cultivation technology for off-season vegetable production, to ensure sustained supply of vegetables to consumers at affordable prices on one hand and to increase farmers' income on the other.

Intervention

- In 1986, PARC initiated research for off-season vegetable production technology under the expert guidance of Turkish, Dutch and Italian consultants.
- In 1988 Agricultural Development Bank of Pakistan funded the installation of tunnel structures at NARC.
- During 1988-1992, PARC evaluated hybrids of three crops (Tomato, Cucumber & Pepper) under plastic tunnel structures, fabricated from different materials (Bamboo and G.I Pipe).
- Different experiments were done to develop a protocol for the off-season production technology of tomato, cucumber and pepper.

Outcomes

- Information generated about the performance of hybrids of tomato, cucumber & sweet pepper was extended to several seed importing companies.
- More than 50 training courses on off-season vegetable production were executed for end users and created a cadre of 1500 skilled farmers.
- During 1992 to 1995 & 1996-1999, on-farm demonstration of technology was carried out throughout the country under two consecutive development projects.
- PARC's intervention helped the technology adoption over an area of more than 45,000 acres in Punjab & Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Way forward

- Minimizing the production cost of off-season vegetables to popularize the technology
- Expediting the indigenous development of hybrids
- Evaluating off-season production of other crops for diversification
- Minimizing the disease incidence through better cultural practices