

## ***Utilization of upland fallows for cultivation of Maize for increased income, food and nutritional security in Bastar region***

In Bastar region, the uplands are mostly left fallow or used for cultivation of less remunerative crops like millets, niger or horsegram. Most of the farmers leave their land uncultivated due to poor economic condition.

Under NAIP sub project “Sustainable Integrated farming system, models for improving rural livelihood security in disadvantaged districts of Chhattisgarh (Proponent: IGKV, Raipur)” the farmers were promoted for cultivation of rainfed maize in upland fallows in the region. Seeds of improved varieties / hybrids (JM 216, Kargil, 30R77) and balanced fertilizer were provided. One women group was also promoted for its cultivation. In all the clusters, 300 farmers were included covering 120 ha area.

### **Performance**

Through adoption of this technology farmers achieved maize yield in the range of 45 to 63 q/ha. It is 3 to 4 times higher than the average productivity of maize in Bastar region and the farmers obtained gross return of Rs 38000 to 53000 /ha and net income of Rs 18000 to 33000/ha. After harvesting of such a bumper crop, the farmers were prompted to hire maize thresher for community threshing of maize. Small farming women were provided hand maize sheller to reduce drudgery.

The farmers were very happy by bringing fallow lands under rainfed cultivation and diversification from less remunerative crops. It was taken on those areas which were often left uncultivated by the farmers. This will help in increase in the rainfed cultivated area and economic and nutritional security to the tribal farmers. Farmer *Nilkanth S/o Shobha*, village Bhataguda says that “*we have never ever thought that our unused fallow land can also be so productive*”. Another beneficiary *Vasudev S/o Sadharam* says that “*I am now strongly committed and motivated to have a large area under maize cultivation from next year*”. The farmers of Cluster-Pedawada formed a marketing group

on their own to store the produce and sell later on when market prices go up. *Sh Chetan* says, “*this will help them in fetching premium price and more profit and our group is thinking of processing it for poultry feed*”.

### **Impact and Up scaling**

This technology will have very large impact on net income, food and nutritional security of tribal farmers. During the forthcoming years processing of maize for poultry feed may also be started and subsequently area under this crop would further increase. The technology is suitable for Bastar, Narayanpur, Dantewada, Bijapur and Kanker districts of Chhattisgarh where the landscape is undulating and uplands are 55% of TGA.

**Upland rainfed maize cultivation in different clusters- Kharif 09**



Row planted Maize,  
Cluster - Turenar



CEO Jila Panchayat visiting  
maize cultivation, Cluster - Bolbola



Women busy in threshing  
Cluster - Tahakapal



Sh Govind Nag happy with bumper harvest  
Cluster - Turenar