

## Agricultural Research Station, Hagari



Bellary district receives an annual rainfall of 531 mm, 60% of which is received during September – October months in about 13 days, total rainy days in a year being 39. Mean monthly maximum temperature and mean monthly minimum temperature being  $38.5^{\circ}\text{C}$  in April and  $14.4^{\circ}\text{C}$  in December months of the year. Thus growing of crop in such an arid tract is a gamble. Frequent scarcity years and famines are common. To meet such adverse vagaries of rainfall research under rainfed condition was the primary need of the area. The then Imperial Council of Agricultural Research took up this aspect and started 5 Research Stations in India. Ars, Hagari was one of them. Other 4 Research Stations were Sholapur, Bijapur, Raichur and Rhotak. Later on in 1943 the Research Station was asked to take up work on the Regional Agricultural Problems. In 1965 the Agricultural Research Station, Hagari was transferred to the University of Agricultural Sciences along with the other Research Stations in the state. Earlier workers like Sri. Vijay Raghvachari, Dr. A. Subba Rao, Sri. P. Krishna Rao and others did dedicated work and prepared a research base for further work.

## Accomplishments

Some of the Research accomplishments of the Hagari Station are as under.  
1906-1956

1. Basic studies on rainfall, annual and seasonal rainfall distribution, probability of occurrence, their confidence limits, frequency of drought years, rate of infiltration, amount of soil erosion and soil moisture status in different layers of soil in relation to crop growth stages have been systematically made on this farm.
2. Compartment bunds and scooping as good practices for soil and moisture conservation have been developed.
3. Tillage management for breaking hard layer of soil at the first 9 to 10" depth has been found to be another good tillage practice.
4. Agricultural implements such as blade harrow, bund former, ridger and scoopers have been developed at the Research Station.
5. The Variety W-1 (Westerns cotton) was released from the Research Station during 1927 for general cultivation. The farm is proud of the W-1 cotton variety for its stabilized yield level. Even the developed promising strain DB-3-12 has its origin to Hagari Research Station.
6. The improved varieties H1, M-35-1, Muguthi, GS-23, Rabi Jowar have been released from this station.
7. Hagari-1, Hagari-2, HMT-100-1 and HN-46 setaria have been released from this Research Station.
8. Agronomic practices such as date of sowing, spacing, tillage practices, mixed cropping, plant protection methods for important crops of the region have worked out.

**Highlights of important research findings during the period 1956-2020 are as under:**

1. Fertilizer requirement, method and time of fertilizer application for Jowar, Cotton and Setaria.
2. Mixed farming with components viz., dairy and poultry farming along with crops is more profitable.
3. "Muguthi and GS-23" is found to be a better rabi Jowar variety than M-35-1 and M-35-1 is found better variety than Hagari-1.
4. Fodder crops like Lucerne and fodder maize are found suitable under irrigated condition.
5. Early sowing of cotton and Jowar is more profitable.
6. Safflower is a better substitute for poor yielding desi cotton crop.
7. RS-118 and K-221 setaria strains yield higher than the earlier varieties.
8. Bad effect of saline irrigation water may be corrected by application of gypsum.
9. Onion is a profitable crop under irrigation.
10. A seed cum-fertilizer drill has been developed.

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