



# Impact Analysis of Front Line Demonstration on Tomato under Mid Plain Agro-Climatic Zone of Uttar Pradesh, India

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## Authors' contributions

This work was carried out in collaboration among all authors. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

## Article Information

DOI: 10.9734/IJECC/2023/v13i102767

## Open Peer Review History:

This journal follows the Advanced Open Peer Review policy. Identity of the Reviewers, Editor(s) and additional Reviewers, peer review comments, different versions of the manuscript, comments of the editors, etc are available here: <https://www.sdiarticle5.com/review-history/105599>

Original Research Article

Received: 20/06/2023

Accepted: 23/08/2023

Published: 25/08/2023

## ABSTRACT

**Aims:** Tomatoes benefit local farmers because of their excellent storage and truck-gardening capabilities. Because of local demand, tomatoes are a prominent commercial vegetable production in the Bhadohi area. A Frontline demonstration was held to cover the aforementioned possibility and impact of increase farmer earnings.

**Place and Duration of Study:** The current study was conducted by ICAR-IIVR - Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Bhadohi for five years in a row from 2018–19 to 2022–23 in the farmers' fields in various areas of the district using front-line demonstration.

**Methodology:** Over the investigation's five years, a total of 112 demonstrations were held at farmer fields on 5.0 ha of land. Each frontline demonstration was set up on 0.1 ha of land, with the nearby

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0.3 ha serving as the comparison control (farmer's practice). KVK scientists gathered information on yield, production costs, and returns from farmers' practice plots (control plots) and front-line demonstration plots. Finally, the formulas proposed by Samui et al. [1] was used to calculate the extension gap, technology gap, and technology index.

**Results:** Under the five-year FLD program, the average extension gap was 140.9 q/ha, the technology gap was 184.74 q/ha, and the technology index was 30.79 percent. The benefit cost ratio of tomato ranged from 5.02 to 7.44 in demonstration plots and from 3.99 to 5.74 in farmer's practice plots during five years of demonstration with an average of 2.60 in demonstration and 2.09 under farmer's practices.

**Conclusion:** Front-line example shows how new technology may boost output and profit. The Bhadohi districts of Uttar Pradesh's mid plain have improved vegetable production, consumption, nutritional security, and overall livelihood security as a result of the productivity gain under FLD over existing tomato cultivation practices. This has increased awareness and inspired other farmers in the district to adopt the demonstrated technologies for tomato production.

*Keywords: Tomato; front line demonstration; yield; economic; technology index.*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The tomato (*Solanum lycopersicum* L.), is a plant of the Solanaceae family that grown both outdoors and inside for its fruits. It is one of the most important vegetable crops in the world [2]. Tomatoes can contribute significantly to a healthy diet and can be eaten raw in salads, cooked like vegetables, and as a component of other prepared dishes. A sizable portion of the world's tomato production is used by processing firms to make products including tomato juice, puree, paste, ketchup, and dried pulp [3]. Lycopene, potassium, iron, folic acid, and vitamins are just a few of the phytochemicals and minerals that are rich in tomatoes [4]. It is renowned as a food that is both protective and productive. Since tomatoes provide better yields and may be grown in a variety of cropping systems as they have a high economic value. Tomatoes, a warm-season vegetable crop, are especially vulnerable to frost and killed in subfreezing temperatures. Previously, tomatoes were only cultivated during specific seasons, but this has changed over the last few decades. Tomatoes are, now grown all year long. Tomatoes are India's third most important crop, behind potatoes and onions. India is the world's second-largest tomato producer, producing over 21195 thousand MT of tomatoes each year in an area of approximately 813.00 million ha. In Uttar Pradesh, tomatoes are grown on around one million hectares of land, yielding 951 thousand MT / ha, sharing 4.68% of all tomatoes produced in India during the fiscal year 2021-2022 [5]. Because of local demand, tomatoes are a prominent commercial vegetable production in the Bhadohi area. One such effective technology transfer technique that demonstrates how new

technologies can boost yield and profit is front-line demonstration. Because tomatoes make great storage and truck gardening crops, they are advantageous to local growers. Front line demonstration was organized to cover the aforementioned possibility and boost agricultural income.

## 2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

One such efficient method of transferring technology is front-line demonstration, which demonstrates how new technologies may raise yield and profit. From 2018–19 to 2022–23, the ICAR–IIVR–Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Bhadohi, performed the current study employing front line demonstration in the fields of selected farmers in various parts of the Bhadohi district. The average temperature in this region is 31.4°C, and there is 700 mm of rainfall on average per year. In general, the sandy to sandy loam soils in the study area had medium to low fertility levels. Over the investigation's five years, 112 demonstrations were carried out at farmers' fields on 5.0 ha of land. Each front-line demonstration was set up on 0.1 ha of land, with the nearby 0.3 ha serving as the comparison control (farmer's practice). From 2018–19 to 2022–23, ICAR-IIVR – Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Bhadohi performed the present study employing front line demonstration in the fields of farmers in various parts of the district. Leaf curl resistant variety Kashi Aman was presented at ICAR-IIVR, Varanasi, incorporating all recommended practices like nursery management, raised bed planting, recommended fertilizer rate and integrated pest management to grow better crops. Traditional practices were taken as a control. Field days were also held in each cluster

**Table 1. Distinctions between the demonstration package of practices and farmer practices**

Crop operations	Demonstration	Farmer's practices
Improved Variety	Tomato leaf curl resistant Var. Kashi Aman	Kajla (local)
Seed rate	200 gm/ha	400 gm/ha
Seed treatment	Seed was treated withBovistin @ 2 gm/ kg seeds	Not in practice
Nursery Raising time	First week of August	Second Fortnight of September
Nursery Raising	Nursery Raising on ridge bed and line sowing	Nursery raising on flat bed and broadcast method
Transplanting method	Raised bed transplanting with plant spacing of 60 cm & 45 cm apart	Flat bed transplanting with plant spacing of 90 cm & 60 cm apart
Transplanting time	Last week of September	First week of October
Fertilizer dose	Recommended dose of fertilizers @ 100 Kg N, 80 Kg P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> and 100Kg K <sub>2</sub> O/ha	Imbalance application, generally no use of K <sub>2</sub> O
Weedicide Application/ dose	Pendimethalin @ 3.2liter/ha was applied 48hrs within transplanting.	No weeding/Hand weeding
Pesticide Application/ dose	Need base use of pesticide application at recommended dose	Injudicious and repeated spray of pesticides

to exhibit farmers from the same village and other villages, the outcomes of front-line demonstrations. Data on yield / ha, production costs, and returns was recorded by KVK scientists from front-line demonstration and farmers' practice plots. Finally, data calculated for the extension gap, technology gap, and technology index according to the formulas given in Samui et al. [1].

Increase in yield (%) =  $\frac{\text{Demonstration yield} - \text{farmer's practice yield}}{\text{Farmer's practice yield}} \times 100$

Technology gap = Potential yield of varieties - Demonstration yield

Extension gap = Demonstration yield - Yield under existing farmer practice

Technology index =  $\frac{\text{Potential yield} - \text{Demonstration yield}}{\text{Potential yield}} \times 100$

### 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

#### 3.1 Yield Interpretations

According to the data in Table 3 and the graph in Fig. 1, over the five-year research period, the average yield in farmer practice plots varied from 260.4 to 287.7 q/ ha, whereas it ranged from

385.3 to 457.1 q/ ha in demonstration plots. Farmers' practice plots produced 274.36 q/ha whereas the subsequent five-year average yield of the demonstration plot was determined to be 415.26 q/ha. The increment in yield ranged between 33.92 to 67.0 percent. The percent increase in yield over farmers' practice was the highest (67.0) during 2018-19. The increase in farmer practice in those same years was 51.82 percent. However, variations in the yield of tomatoes in different years might be due to variations in soil moisture availability, rainfall, and changes in the location of demonstrations every year.

These results demonstrated that the full execution of the practices specified in Table 1 as well as the knowledge acquired through training and interactions with the scientists, had an impact on the demonstration plots' higher average yield over time compared to farmers' practices. As a result, the production of tomatoes might be enhanced compared to the yield gained using farmers' traditional methods of growing tomatoes. The findings shown here are comparable to those of Singh et al. [6]. Similar to this, Mishra et al. [7], Kumar et al. [8], Mishra et al., [9], Meena et al. [10], Srivastava et al. [11] and Meena et al. [12] documented yield increase in several crops in frontline demonstrations.

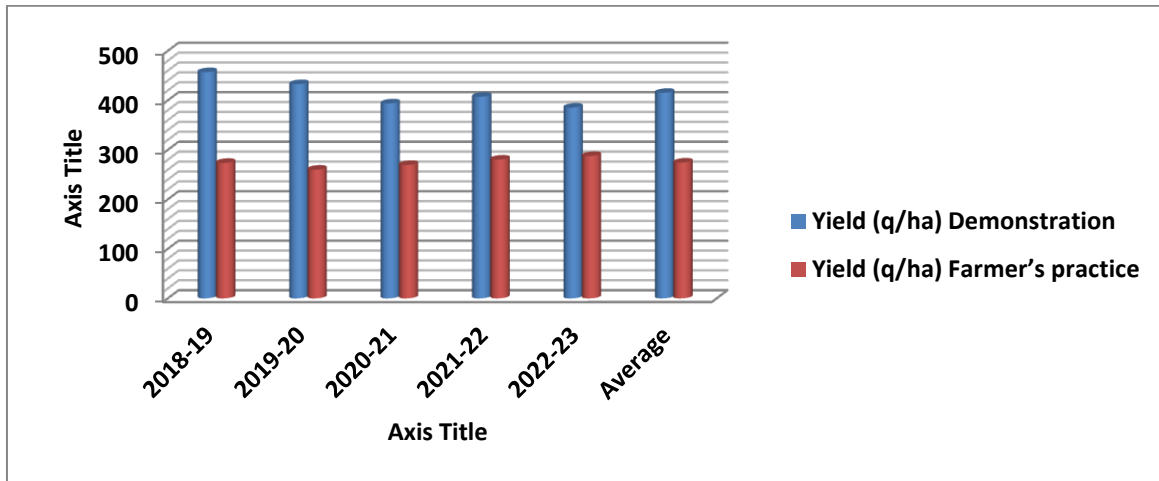


Fig. 1. Bar graph showing Yield Interpretations

### 3.2 Economic Interpretations

To assess the economic feasibility of the demonstration technologies over the control, a number of economic measures, including the cost of cultivation, net return, and B: C ratio, were determined. The economic viability of improved, tested technology over farmers' practice was calculated and expressed in the form of a B: C ratio (Table 2 and Fig. 2) based on the current price of inputs and outputs costs. During the five-year studies, the gross cost of cultivation varied from Rs. 71,650 to 83,900/ha and Rs. 68,600 to 80,200 in demonstration plots and farmer practice plots, respectively. In the same years, the average cost of cultivation for farmer practice was computed at Rs. 62,872; whereas, the average cost of cultivation for front-line demonstration was Rs. 78,710. The demonstration's increased cost was mostly brought on by the need to purchase extra fertilizer, seed, IPM techniques, and labor.

Tomato production employing improved technology produced higher net returns of Rs. 292,910, 3,61,150, 3,90,260, 5,27,050, and 5,33,630 per ha in the years 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020, 2021, and 2022, respectively, with an average net return of Rs. 4,21,000/ha compared to farmer's practices (Rs. 1,12,768). The B: C ratio was recorded to be higher under demonstration against control during all the years of study. The benefit-cost ratio fluctuated from 5.02 to 7.44 in the demonstration plots and from 3.99 to 5.74 in the farmer's practice plots during the course of the five years of the demonstration, with an average of 2.60 in the demonstration and 2.09 under farmer's practices (Table 2 and Fig. 2). This might be as a result of new technology

producing higher yields and better marketing prices than traditional farming methods. The results of Singh et al. [6], Mishra et al. [9], Meena et al. [10], Srivastava et al. [11], Meena et al. [12] and Singh [13] in the case of tomatoes and other crops are comparable to this conclusion.

The scientific approach of tomato production can significantly minimize the technological gap, resulting in higher tomato yield in the area and, in turn, better economic conditions for the producers. Furthermore, extension organizations in the district must give sufficient technical assistance to farmers through various educational and extension approaches in order to close the extension gap for greater tomato production in Uttar Pradesh's mid-plain area.

### 3.3 Extension Gap

During the years 2018–19, 2019–20, 2020–2021, and 2022, respectively, an extension gap of 183.4, 172.8, 129.2, 126.9, and 97.6 q/ha was noted. Under the five-year FLD program, the average extension gap was 140.9 q/ha (Table 3). This highlighted the necessity to inform farmers about the adoption of better agricultural production technology using a variety of strategies in order to counteract the trend of the vast extension gap. This frightening tendency of the galloping extension gap will be changed if the most recent production methods are used more and more in combination with high-yielding varieties.

### 3.4 Technology Gap

In the years 2018–19, 2019–20, 2020–2021–2022, respectively, the technology gap and the disparities between the potential yield and yield

of demonstration plots were 142.9, 167.2, 206.2, 192.7, and 214.7 q/ha. Under the five-year FLD program, the average technology gap was 184.74 q/ha. Similar results have been reported by Singh et al. [6] and Mishra et al. [9]. This can

be a result of the region's meteorological circumstances, the productivity of the soil, and individual farmers' skills in management. Therefore, to close these gaps, location-specific suggestions are required.

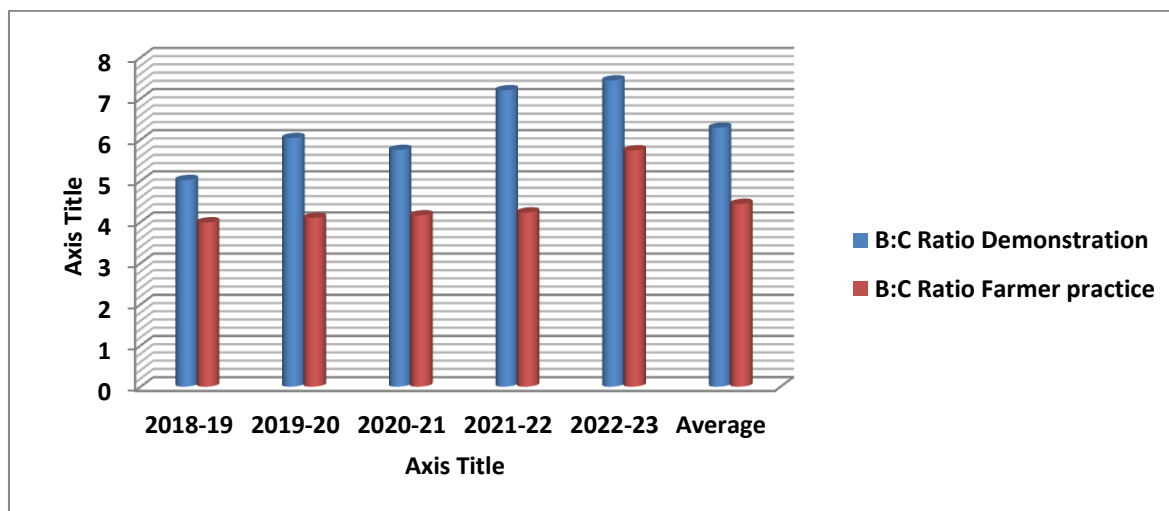


Fig. 2. Bar graph showing economic interpretations

Table 2. Analysis of economics of tomato under FLD and farmers practice during 2018-19 to 2022-23

Year	Economic of Demonstration (Rs)				Economic of FP (Rs)			
	Gross Cost	Gross Return	Net Return	B:C	Gross Cost	Gross Return	Net Return	B:C
2018-19	72850	365760	292910	5.02	68600	273700	205100	3.99
2019-20	71650	432800	361150	6.04	69800	286440	216640	4.10
2020-21	82300	472560	390260	5.75	77850	323520	245670	4.16
2021-22	83900	610800	527050	7.20	79650	336480	256830	4.23
2022-23	82850	616480	533630	7.44	80200	460320	380120	5.74
<b>Average</b>	<b>78710</b>	<b>499680</b>	<b>421000</b>	<b>6.29</b>	<b>62872</b>	<b>336092</b>	<b>260872</b>	<b>4.44</b>

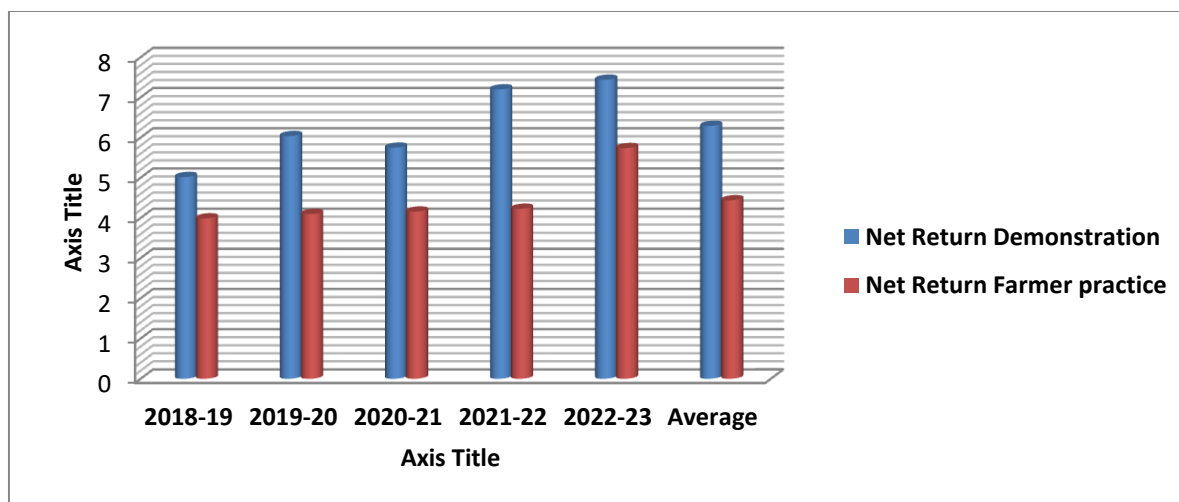


Fig. 3. Bar graph showing net return demonstration and farmer practice

**Table 3. Productivity, technology gap, technology index and extension gap in tomato under FLD during 2018-19 to 2022-23**

Year	Area (ha)	No. of farmers	Yield (q/ha)			% Increase in yield	Extension gap (q/ha)	Technology gap (q/ha)	Technology Index %
			Potential	Demo	FP				
2018-19	1.0	32	600	457.1	273.7	67.0	183.4	142.9,	23.81
2019-20	1.0	23	600	432.8	260.0	66.21	172.8	167.2	27.86
2020-21	1.0	19	600	393.8	269.6	46.0	129.2	206.2	34.36
2021-22	1.0	25	600	407.3	280.4	46.0	126.9	192.7	32.11
2022-23	1.0	23	600	385.3	287.7	33.92	97.6	214.7	35.7
Average	1.0	24.4	600	415.26	274.36	51.82	140.9	184.74	30.79

### 3.5 Technology Index

The technology index demonstrates the viability of the technology used in the farmer's field. According to Table 3, the technology index ranged from 23.81 to 35.70. During the FLD program's five years, an average technology index of 30.79 percent was noted, demonstrating the efficiency of technological interventions. This quickens the implementation of tried-and-true technological solutions to boost tomatoes' 23.81, 27.86, 34.36, 35.7, and 30.79 percent yield performance. According to Singh et al. [6] and Mishra et al. [9], these results are consistent.

### 4. CONCLUSION

The productivity and profitability gain reflected under FLD over existing tomato cultivation practices has raised awareness and motivated other farmers in the district to adopt the demonstrated technologies for tomato production, which helps to improve vegetable production, consumption, nutritional security, and overall livelihood security in the districts of Uttar Pradesh's mid plain belt. This should alleviate some of the limits on Uttar Pradesh's present technology transfer system in the Bhadohi district's mid-plain region. As a result, a targeted training program on enhanced vegetable production technology, as well as repeated demonstrations, are necessary to increase producers' knowledge and abilities, which aid in technology adoption.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The subject subject matter specialists at the ICAR-IIVR, Krishi Vigyan Kendra are all acknowledged by the writers for their support and encouragement. We appreciate the assistance provided by the Director of the ICAR-Indian Institute of Vegetable Research (IIVR), Varanasi, the Coordinator of KVKs, and the Head of Krishi Vigyan Kendra (ICAR-IIVR), Bhadohi, during the study.

### COMPETING INTERESTS

Authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

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