

Sunflowers cultivation rate increasing in Ishwardi

Ishwardi (Pabna) Correspondent

Ishwardi's soil and climate are suitable for sunflower cultivation. Sunflower farming has immense potential to be profitable with less investment of time and money. Oil, oil and fuel are obtained from sunflower flowers. But the problem is the origin of the birds and squirrels said Agriculture office.

Flower lovers flock to the sunflower garden throughout the day. Tamalika Jahan, a

flower breeding seed production. Cultivated five bigha of land in Ishwardi for production of breeding seeds of sunflower. We will supply the seeds produced from here to BADC. BADC will distribute these seeds in their agricultural land and among the affiliated farmers. The country's edible oil deficit will be met through extensive plantation of new sunflowers of Bari-3 variety.

Upazila Agriculture Officer
Agriculturist Mita Sarkar said that seed



visitor who came to see sunflowers, said that they come here to get some free air from the city's confinement and to see the garden full of flowers. But the natural environment looks very beautiful. So everyone is capturing this beautiful scene in the frame of the camera.

To meet the shortage of oil in the country, the government has taken the initiative to cultivate sunflowers, said Regional Agricultural Research Center station in-charge and chief scientific officer Dr. Altab Hossain. He said, we get best quality edible oil from sunflower seeds.

To reduce the import dependence of edible oil we have taken up the project of sun-

and fertilizer incentives have been given to farmers for sunflower cultivation. Seven bighas are being cultivated. Sunflower oil contains antioxidants. Which plays a role in preventing cancer. It is very beneficial for preventing female infertility and brightening the skin due to its high vitamin E content. That is why we have taken initiatives to spread the breed at the farmer level. We are working on various initiatives to expand sunflower cultivation in Ishwardi. But parrots may destroy seeds that's why we have to guard day and night, she said. Otherwise, the production is greatly reduced. That is why farmers are not showing much interest.

Mustard cultivation surges to meet edible oil demand

Chuadanga Correspondent: In the past five fiscal years, mustard cultivation has surged in four upazilas of Chuadanga district to meet the growing demand for edible oil, particularly through incentive programs. Farmers in these areas have increasingly opted to plant mustard in the gap between Aman and Boro paddy seasons, anticipating favorable yields.

Responding to the increased interest, farmers are advocating for expanding the incentive scheme to encompass more participants and offer higher rewards for mustard cultivation. According to data from the Chuadanga Agricultural Extension Department for the fiscal year 2023-2024, mustard cultivation covered 310 hectares in Chuadanga Sadar Upazila, 2,485 hectares in Alamdanga Upazila, 310 hectares in Damurhuda Upazila, and 410 hectares in Jibannagar Upazila. A significant number of farmers in these areas received financial incentives for their mustard cultivation efforts.

Notably, farmers have predominantly favored Tori-7, Bari-9, Bari-13, and Bari-14 mustard vari-



eties, which typically take 85 to 90 days to mature. Agricultural experts like Amirul Haque, an Assistant Agriculture Officer in Chuadanga Sadar Upazila, highlight the region's conducive soil conditions for mustard cultivation, projecting promising yields ranging from 3 to 9 tons per bigha, depending on the variety.

Individual farmers, such as Taju, Azizul, and Fazlu, share their experiences and expectations, indicating the profitability of mustard cultivation on fallow lands. They express optimism about

future prospects and the importance of governmental support in scaling up production.

Officials like Bivas Chandra Saha, Deputy Director of Chuadanga Agricultural Extension Department, acknowledge the positive trend in mustard cultivation, attributing it to government incentives and ongoing efforts to promote the crop. They stress the potential for increased oil production domestically, thereby reducing reliance on costly imports. Additionally, the government has implemented various measures and provided support to farmers, aiming to enhance coordination and maximize yields. Different varieties of mustard yield varying amounts of oil upon crushing, with Desi mustard yielding 250-300 grams per kg and Bari-8 to 14 varieties yielding 430-500 grams per kg. Overall, mustard cultivation not only utilizes fallow lands effectively but also contributes to meeting the local demand for edible oil. Farmers believe that further expansion of incentive programs and broader participation could significantly boost edible oil production in Chuadanga district.