

Impact

# Impact - A Better Life



Every member at Spectrum International, whether at the HQ or at the ground level is consistently researching, strategising and bringing into play a number of ways in which the social, environmental and economic position of the farmers improve on a daily basis. While certain aspects cannot be measured, savings on the farm through better land preparation, better seed choices and optimum sowing techniques have had a positive impact on the farmers' lifestyles.

## Accountable improvements for the farmers

An important aspect before starting the cultivation of cotton crop, the farmers usually practice 4 to 5 tillage operations during preparation of land before sowing, and inter-culturing after sowing (for weeding), which leads to loosening of soil and hence increasing the chances of soil erosion and soil compaction at the lower layer of the soil. With our intervention, we were able to reduce 1 to 2 tillage operations, which while not affecting the yield, saves the cost of Land Preparation for the farmers by 15 to 20% (one tillage operation costs about INR 700-800). Apart from saving on the cost of production, this leads to preservation of the soil texture & structure hence bettering the environment with minimum disturbance to the soil (reducing Soil erosion) for better long term impact.

**Selection of seeds** plays a crucial role not just in the crop quality but also long term savings for the farmer on various parameters. As per the general practice, most farmers try to source the

cheapest seed available in the market, that compromises the quality of the seed input which leads to lower germination and poor vigour followed by susceptibility to various diseases and pests, eventually leading to a lower yield. Through our training programmes, we are bringing about a change in the mindset of the farmers who have started using good quality



seeds of the reputed company. This adoption has led to a spurt in the germination and the highly vigorous seeds contribute to lower insect - pest incidence, ultimately increasing the yield, and boosting their income levels by 10 – 15 %.

While **Sowing the seeds**, farmers traditionally maintain a wider spacing of about 5 ft X 1.5 ft (rows X plants) as a general practice. With our training we are proposing and helping the farmers to reduce the spacing to 4 ft X 1.5 ft (a common practice followed by



our farmers in Maharashtra and few other states) which will directly lead to increased number of plants per acre, and an estimated growth in the yield by about 12 to 15%, which will have a positive impact on their income levels and a better social life.

