



## CONSOLATION PRIZE- PLANT VARIETY

### **RICHA-2000 Pigeon Pea Variety**

Rajkumar Rathore  
Sehore, Madhya Pradesh

Shri Raj Kumar Rathore (54) is a progressive farmer, he resides in Jamoniya Tank of Sehore district, Madhya Pradesh, and he was born on 1<sup>st</sup> August, 1967. He studied upto class 12<sup>th</sup> and his interest in farming encouraged him to work in field. At present, he has eighteen acres of land; he grows wheat and soybean on fifteen acres, on another two acres is his horticulture garden where he grows mango, strawberry, litchi, etc. and the remaining one acre he grows the pigeon pea for seed production. He is the eldest of the six siblings, three brothers and sisters. He lives with his wife, a son and a daughter. His son assists him in farming and daughter studied up to bachelor degree. His wife has always been a source an inspiration and pillar of support throughout.

Shri Rajkumar on a routine round on his pigeon pea (ICPL 87119) field observed a unique plant which attracted his attention, different features were bigger flowers that had two colours, leaves were long, and he also found that the plant remained green for a longer duration. Further its pods grew at the top and in bunch. Noticing the features he thought of increasing the yield by increasing the pod bearings and number of branches in the plant.

After observing the few unique plants in Pigeon pea field, he harvested the plant separately in the next season seeds harvested from selected plant were sown in separate filed to observe the growth and the various characters, which fascinated

him. In the observation he founded that the plants bore very few branches and hence tried out many things like using growth promoters available in the market to increase the number of branches, this also failed. Then he tried cutting the top a day prior weeding to facilitate better growth, to restrict further vegetative growth and enhance branching. Six branches emerged as a result. He repeated the practice of clipping/topping twice (45 and 90 DAS) and observed that total of 12-14 branches emerged from the plant.



Picture: Richa 2000 plant

He repeated this for three crop seasons thereby standardizing the technique and multiplying seeds to a sufficient number by

the year 2000. He named the variety as on the name of his daughter 'Richa' and since it was developed in the year 2000, he named the variety as 'RICHA 2000' He faced many difficulties in the initial stage of variety development he submitted the seeds for trial in various formal sectors got no responses from any of the places, however he got very encouraging feedback from farmers wherever he has sent the seeds.

#### **Distinctive features of the variety:**

- Perennial variety which can be harvested twice in a year
- More number of pods per plant
- Higher Yield of 18-24 q/ac
- Length of the pod is 3.0 – 4.0 inches
- More number of seeds per pod (5-6)
- Disease tolerant



Picture: Richa 2000 seed pods and pulse

NIF has facilitated the evaluation and registration of the variety under PPV & FR Act 2001. For his outstanding effort in variety development he was appreciated at state and national level. He was also awarded in 4th National Grassroots Innovation Awards of National Innovation Foundation- India (NIF).



Picture: Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam and Rajkumar Rathore

NIF also provided him the Micro Venture Innovation Fund (MVIF) support for Seed Production and Trial Marketing. MVIF is unique as it is the first and only-of-its-kind micro-venture risk fund in the world, which extends financial support to grassroots innovators under a single signature on a simple agreement of understanding, without any collateral or a guarantor. With the support of NIF the seeds of RICHA 2000 have been disseminated to farmers of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. Presently Rajkumar distributes about 4-5 quintal of seed every year.