

Introduction :

Niger locally known as *Kharsani* and *Ram Til* is tribal's main oil seed crop in rain-fed situation in Gujarat specially in hilly region of Panchmahals, Bharuch, Surat, Valsad and Dangs districts, which are high risk areas. It is mainly used for cooking purposes and partly for illumination and other domestic purposes. Its oilcake goes as cattle feed particularly for milch animals. Niger oil is good quality edible oil. Its average yield varies from about 100 kg/ha in Maharashtra, to more than 800 kg/ha. This indicates ample scope for improvement in yield. Experiments conducted during last five years indicated that Niger crop has good potential and scope even as a *Rabi* oilseed crop. *Rabi* niger crop has given 5 to 6 times higher yield than *kharif* season crop with limited irrigation with very low cost of production and reduced risk as compared to summer groundnut. Looking to scope of the crop there is need to strengthen the present research work going on in niger which is presently having insufficient manpower and facilities.