Bidi Tobacco Variety DTV 9 (NBD-316) for Northern Transition Zone of Karnataka

DTV 9 (NBD-316) is a high-yielding *bidi* tobacco developed through the pedigree method by crossing NPN 30 and Vedaganga-1 at the Agricultural Research Station, Nipani, and AINPT center under UAS, Dharwad, and Karnataka. This variety was specifically bred for the Northern Transition Zone (Agro-climatic Zone 8) of Karnataka, where *bidi* tobacco cultivation plays a vital role in the local agricultural economy.

One of the key features of DTV 9 (NBD-316) is its high yield potential, producing more than 3000 kg/ha cured leaf yield. It has recorded 54%, 44%, and 43% higher mean leaf yield compared to the national and popular check A-119. Furthermore, DVT 9 has exhibited 3.4%, 13%, and 53% higher mean leaf yield over the recently released check NBD-209. The variety possesses an **enhanced cured leaf yield potential of about 30%**, with **quality parameters comparable to the popular check variety A-119**. Owing to its higher productivity and desirable leaf quality, DTV 9 **(NBD-316)** is gaining rapid popularity among the **farmers and traders**, and is currently **cultivated over an area of about 500 ha**. This significant yield advantage makes it a commercially attractive option for tobacco farmers seeking better productivity.

DTV 9 (NBD-316) has a thick parrot green leaf color, which is preferred by farmers and traders. It contains moderate nicotine (2.67%), lower chlorides (0.98%), and higher reducing sugars (5.76%) compared to NBD-209, making it highly suitable for smoking.

Another notable advantage of DTV 9 (NBD-316) is its resistance to major tobacco diseases and insect pests. It exhibits field resistance to fungal diseases such as frog-eye leaf spot, brown leaf spot, as well as viral infections including leaf curl, and tobacco mosaic virus (TMV), along with tolerance to aphids and leaf-eating caterpillars, which are common threats in tobacco-growing regions. Beyond disease and pest resistance, DTV 9 (NBD-316) exhibits adaptability to challenging environmental conditions such as tolerance to water logging and aphid infestation makes it relatively more resilient to current climatic extremities in the *bidi* tobacco region. This broad-spectrum disease and pest resistance minimizes the need for chemical control measures, thereby reducing production costs and lowering the risk of crop losses.

The release of DTV 9 (NBD-316) marks a major advancement in improving *bidi* tobacco yields in Karnataka. With its high yield potential, strong disease resistance, and desirable leaf quality, it has become a preferred choice among farmers in the irrigated/rainfed tobacco-growing areas of the state. DTV 9 (NBD-316) thus presents a promising variety for achieving higher productivity and superior leaf quality in *bidi* tobacco cultivation.

Field crop of DVT 9 (NBD-316)