

Success Story on Natural Farming

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A Kodandapani is farmer of K Gollapalli village, Renigunta mandal, Tirupati District, Andhra Pradesh. He has been incurring the huge investment for cultivating paddy, vegetables and tuberoses and getting less returns. To achieve the higher returns, he adopted Natural farming practices with support of RASS KVK and APCNF. In this context, the success story is furnished hereunder.



Practices adopted

- Adopted natural farming since last 7 years with desi cow based bioproducts
- Cultivated Paddy, Bhenidi, Brinjal and Chilli under multiple cropping using Paddy Siddasannaalu variety, traditional Bhenidi, Brinjal varieties and Chilli G5 variety
- Used desi cow based organic infusions like Ghanajeevamruth, Jeevamaruth following dose of ghanajeevamrutham @2500kg/ha, neem cake powder @ 200kg/ha as basal application along with solid bio-fertilizers like Azospirillum & PSB @5kg/ha
- Practised application of drava jeevamrutham@3000lit/ha three to four times at 15-20days interval from 10DAT through irrigation water for nutrient management
- Used to spray Panchakaya @ 12.5litres/ha at 15 days interval from 15 DAT upto fruiting stage for improving plant growth and development
- Practised three hand weedings at 20-25 days interval after sowing or transplanting
- Placed Pheromone traps @ 10/acre, yellow and blue sticky traps each@ 20/acre
- Used to spray Neem seed kernel extract @ 1.5litre/ha from 10DAT at 10days interval
- Practised application of cow based organic infusions like Brahmastra@, Agniashtra @ 12.5litre/ha, Vavillakashaaya @ 25 litres/ha and Dasaparnikashaaya @ 25litre/ha at 7-10 days interval from 40DAT for pest and disease control depending upon the pest severity
- Followed need based application of biopesticides like Bacillus thuringensis @ 1.0litre/ha and Beauveria bassiana @ 1.0litre/ha
- Executed direct marketing of paddy through selling to the consumers at higher price
- Sold out all vegetables in the local markets

Comparison between Natural Farming and Conventional Farming

Parameters	Natural farming					Conventional farming				
	Paddy	Chilli	Bhendi	Brinjal	Mean	Paddy	Chilli	Bhendi	Brinjal	Mean
Cost of cultivation (Rs/ha)	25000	108000	110500	154500	99500	62500	159500	151000	210750	145937.5
Production (Q/ha)	37.50	4.2	116.0	214.0	92.93	56.25	7.8	172.0	310.0	136.53
Gross returns (Rs/ha)	140000	189000	232000	321000	220500	105000	351000	344000	465000	316250
Net Returns (Rs./ha)	115000	81000	121500	166500	121000	42500	191500	193000	254250	170312.5
B:C Ratio	5.60	1.75	2.10	2.08	2.22	1.68	2.20	2.27	2.21	2.17

Benefits and achievements

- Altogether, the cost of cultivation was lower in the Natural farming (Rs.95000/ha) compared to Conventional farming (Rs.145937.5/ha)
- Pest and diseases were manageable without harmful effects on natural enemies
- No pesticidal residues in the produce giving priority to the health hazards
- The net returns were higher in conventional farming (Rs.170312.5/ha) when compared to natural farming (Rs.121000/ha) due to the higher crop yields
- However, the benefit cost ratio was higher in the natural farming (2.22) compared to conventional farming (2.17)

Photographs

