

Success story - P.Saravanan

ORGANIC CUCURBITACEOUS VEGETABLE CULTIVATION

Farmer photo



Th.P.Saravanan

S/o. Th.K.Periyasamy

Muthuvel thottam,

Ariyagoundampatti,

Rasipuram (Taluk),

Namakkal District .

Age: 50 Years

Education: HSC

Land holding: 4.5 acres

Farming Experience: 35 years

Crops grown:

Cucurbitaceous vegetables: 1 acre

Turmeric:1.5 acre

Groundnut:1 acre

Fodder: 1 acre

Livestock:

Desibird – 20 Nos

Dairy cow – 5 animals

Goat – 10 Nos

Duck – 5 Nos

Recognitions

Best Farmer Award received from KVK, Namakkal during 2013

Scientific verification:

A team (Deputy Director of Horticulture and Professor and Head, KVK, Namakkal) headed by District Collector & also Dept of organic certification, Coimbatore verified the technology.

Funding support: No

Whether registered/ patented: certified organic farm

Problem/ challenge addressed

Th.P.Saravanan started Groundnut cultivation in one acre under rainfed and Tapioca under drip as monocropping in an area of one acre during 2006. He has harvested 25 bags of groundnut & sold @ Rs.2500/bag and got a net profit of Rs.38010/- In tapioca, he obtained 131 bags of tuber yield & sold @ Rs.404/bag and got a net profit of Rs.41,501/-Then he slowly converted the entire farm in full organic mode. That time he did not know the quantity of organic fertilizer application, cultivation of vegetables in fully organic mode with available resources and also pest and disease control by organic way. By knowing the importance and value of organic agriculture and his bad experiences in pesticide usage towards control of pests in the crops, he slowly converts the farming practices in organic way.

Description of innovative practice/technology

- In 2008 he constructed vermicompost production unit with a size of 50 x 20 feet and producing 5-6 tonnes of vermicompost/year till date.
- In 2010 he started organic cultivation of Turmeric in an area of 20 cent. Then he extended the area of cultivation in turmeric up to 1 acre in 2011.
- He applied 18 tonnes of FYM, 1.25 tonnes of vermicompost as basal & each 100 kg of Neem cake, Pongamia cake, Castor cake, Illuppai cake and 70 kg of Groundnut cake in 2 split doses viz., basal as well as top dressing at 5 months after planting.
- In turmeric, he obtained 3 tonnes of dried rhizome/acre & sold @ Rs.10,000/Quintal. He spent Rs.98,000/acre as expenditure & got the net profit of Rs.136000/acre in 10 months.
- In 2015, he applied organic certification for his farm.
- Then he started to cultivate cucurbitaceous vegetables viz., Bitter gourd, Ribbed gourd and Snake gourd in an area of 1.5 acres.
- He applied diluted solution containing Castor cake 20 kg, Neem cake 6 kg and Groundnut cake 5 kg, which was soaked in water for 5 days. Then dilute it with water in 1:5 ratio and applied @ 1 litre/plant. This practice is followed @10 days interval for all cucurbits.
- Applied each 200 kg of vermicompost/ 25 cent as basal and top dressing was carried out @ 20 days interval.
- Planted Neerium as a border crop to absorb pollutant gas and also sown Agathi & Maize around the field as a barrier crop to prevent the entry of pest.
- For the management of disease in cucurbits he applied the solution containing each 50 ml of Beauveria, Verticillium and Metarhizium + 1 litre of Panchakaviya + 500 ml of butter milk through foliar spray @15 days interval.
- For the management of pest he installed pheromone traps (@ 12 Nos/acre), fruit fly traps (@ 10 Nos/ acre), light traps (@ 2 Nos/acre) and water traps (@ 10 Nos/acre) to attract the pest.

KVK Contact details:

Krishi Vigyan Kendra
Veterinary College and Research
Institute Campus, Namakkal
Tamil Nadu -637 002

- In addition to this, a paste containing each 250 gram of ginger, garlic & chillies along with 50 ml neem oil + 200 gm of khadi soap as sticking agent was prepared by him & diluted with water and applied as a foliar spray @ monthly interval for the control of pest & disease.
- In August 2016, he got organic certification for his farm and produce from Department of Seed and Organic Certification, Coimbatore.
- He directly marketed the organic vegetables at Rasipuram Uzhavar santhai.

Practical utility

It is very easy to follow the technology and the practices like vermicomposting, usage of bio inputs for various management practices by the fellow farmers.

Source of information

KVK, Namakkal, TNAU, Coimbatore & Directorate of Seed certification and Organic farming, Coimbatore.

Economics/Profitability of innovative practice

	Gross income	Net income	B:C ratio
Ribbed gourd	80,000	47,700/25 cent	2.5
Bitter gourd	1,60,000	92,000/25 cent	2.4
Snake gourd	67,500	53,625/25 cent	4.8

Potential : Acceptance level, horizontal spread of innovation and number of farmer adopting

175 farmers from Namagiripettai block started organic vegetable cultivation & applied for organic certification.