

IFS Makes the farmer Happy – Combination of Technologies

Background

Mr. R.Ilango living in sawyerpuram village near Thoothukudi, a botany graduate created a model for others in integrated farming system. He cultivates crop like **banana, paddy, vegetables, baby corn** and **green fodder** in 3 acre land completely under organic method using **drip and fertigation** method.



Twelve years before He was an inorganic fertilizer trader who won awards for his efforts from the fertilizer companies. But because of the continuous loss from his farm he discontinued the usage of inorganic and turned into partial organic farmer after the advice from the KVK and within 2 years he boldly converted his farm into completely organic, once his integration of animals set in

Intervention process

Ilango is an active participant of monthly farmers meeting conducted at KVK where in the the possible solutions are given for the existing problems of the farmers through training and demonstrations, field visits, exposure tour etc.,



Intervention technology

Ilango participated in several training programmes conducted by KVK like, Organic input production and usage, Integrated farming system, rabbit rearing, poultry rearing, goat rearing, dairy farming, Banana cultivation, Paddy cultivation, bio fertilizer production and usage, vaccinating the poultry birds, milking machine usage, honey bee rearing, biogas production and usage, vermicomposting, baby corn cultivation, vegetable cultivation, chilli cultivation, use of drum seeder for paddy cultivation, SRI method of paddy cultivation, drip and fertigation, precision farming, etc..

Impact Horizontal spread

From his successful farm model several fellow farmers visit his farm every day and adopt the practices what he uses like Vermicomposting (25), Panchakavya preparation(18), milking machine usage(3), in situ mulching(55), drum seeder usage for paddy cultivation(15), vaccinating the backyard poultry birds (75), integrated farming system model (25), drip and fertigation for banana (125)



Impact on economic gains

He cultivates crop like **banana, paddy, vegetables, baby corn** and **green fodder** in **3 acre land** completely under organic method using **drip and fertigation** method. We can have the feeling of walking on the meadow in his fields and also find plenty of earthworms in any part of his field. Such a rich organic content built up in soil made it possible because of continuous addition of crop residues and cow dung. He never agrees to take even a waste leaf out of his farm, all the **crop residues were mulch in situ** and composted in situ by his army of earthworms. He never forgets to add **Panchakavya** once in ten

days that is prepared on his farm premises using the cow dung, urine, ghee, fruit waste, palm jaggery, and sprouted pulse. He maintains **10 cattle** out of which six are in milking at anytime and sells milk at his door step at the rate of Rs.45 a liter directly to his customers when others are selling at Rs.25 a liter. His farm milk is having such a good flavor and taste, customers find it difficult to taste the milk from other vendors or producers all because of feeding organic fodder (cumbu napier hybrid, subabul, hedge Lucerne) paddy straw, and minimal concentrate feeding. He converts the cow dung into **biogas** using a portable balloon model and cooks food every day for his family with that. With this biogas unit he could save the purchase of 9 LPG cylinders in the last one year. He converts the cow dung into **vermin compost** and find it easier for transport to the farm and application to the field.

He also maintain **10 goats, 50 backyard poultry, 2 bee hives, 6 rabbits, 2 geese**, and a small **fruit orchard**. He says that his banana crop matures early, evenly and makes him possible to have two ratoon crops in two years while his counterpart who use inorganic fertilizers alone can have only one ratoon crop in 2 years as their banana bunches are not maturing uniformly and takes 12 months for one crop. He has proved that his banana yield is almost the double from his neighbors. His crop remains healthy and gives good yield though at some time faces the problem of pest and diseases his healthy plants were able to overcome these and never fails him. **Is it not good news for others to emulate rather than seeking government subsidies for the crop cultivation and loss.** He could earn the net return of Rs. 3.9 lakhs/annum with the benefit cost ratio of 1.83 from his 3acres of IFS model. With this income he could provide best education for his children at district head quarters. He feels confident in agriculture and takes pride in saying that he is a farmer.

Impact on employment generation

Two members of his family are continuously engaged round the year in the farm besides he employs one labour round the year and 120 labourers for intercultivation operations. By this IFS model 1215 men days of employment is generated in the rural village.

