

## Organic farming in Vegetable cultivation

### Background:

Shri Maria Francis and his four brothers, Chinnandipatti village, Kadavur block, Karur district are involved in vegetable cultivation for over 20 years. He owns 6 ha of land. He cultivates Vegetable crops such as Ridge gourd, snake gourd, bitter gourd, drumstick, brinjal, bhendi, lablab in his field.

### Interventions

#### Process:

He has been using high dose of chemical fertilizers and pesticides for his vegetable crops. During 1.08.14 he attended training organized by Department of Horticulture, in which our KVK experts participated and gave lecture on Improved Production technology in vegetable crops. In this training, he participated and clarified his doubts. This was followed by several follow up activities as given below:

S. No	Name of the activity	No. of Visits
1	Diagnostic visit	5
2	Field visit	4
3	Advisory service	40
4	Training	2
5	Demonstration	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>52</b>

### Technology:

He cultivated Cucurbitaceous vegetables in 2 acres. The KVK experts made diagnostic visit on 28.08.14, observed leaf caterpillar on ridge gourd. Another diagnostic visit to brinjal field was made on 7.10.14, gave advisory for IPM measures. A diagnostic visit to bitter gourd field was made, observed leaf hopper incidence in ridge gourd and serpentine leaf miner on bitter gourd, fruit borer on brinjal, gave advisory to set up light trap, apply neem cake and neem based botanical insecticide. On 7.11.14 method demonstration of yellow sticky trap on brinjal was conducted and types of pests attracted in light trap were shown. A diagnostic visit was made on 29.11.14 to gourds field infected by downy mildew and powdery mildew, advisory given to apply recommended fungicides. Subsequent field visits were made for providing advisory on mosaic disease management in gourds. The farmer also participated in the training programme on Advanced Production technologies in vegetable cultivation organized by KVK. Gradually the farmer reduced the use of chemical fertilizers

and pesticides and started using organic inputs like Panchakavya, Fish amino acid, fermented fruit extract, coconut milk+butter milk mixture and Bio pesticides. He also applied Bio fertilizers and biocontrol agents viz., *Pseudomonas fluorescens* and *Trichoderma viride* to vegetables. He participated in Front line Demonstration on High yielding Onion variety Co (On) 5 and Integrated Farming System Programme conducted by KVK. Regular follow up visits, Advisories were given by KVK experts on the preparation and use of organic inputs made the farmer to reduce his cost of cultivation up to Rs.10,000 per 0.4 ha. As the farmer changed his approach towards organic farming, field visit by Joint Director of Agriculture, Assistant Director of Agriculture and Organic Certification Inspector was organized to show his farming activities as a Model farm. He got Achiever Farmer Award for the year 2015-16 from KVK. KVK also facilitated linkage with Bio input producers for sourcing such products.



### Impact

**Horizontal Spread:** The farmer shared his experience in AIR, Trichy and Makkal TV.

S. No	Date	Name of the activity
1	8.10.15	All India Radio Recording, Trichy
2	28.01.17	Video recording, Makkal TV

He has been referred by KVK to other vegetable farmers of Karur district to get his feedback on organic vegetables cultivation technology.

**Economic gains:** He got profit of Rs.1, 00,000 to 1, 50,000 from 0.4 ha

**Employment Generation: Nil**