

Precision Farming in Brinjal – a profitable venture

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Mr Prabhakar of Melapudupatti village, Thogaimalai block, Karur district is a progressive vegetable farmer who has harvested 23 MT of brinjal from 1.4 ac. He shares about his success:

I have completed Teacher training course, but opted for agriculture due to my keen interest in agriculture. I participated in a 15 days training programme on Precision farming organized at KVK, Karur and learnt about the modern techniques in vegetables cultivation. Also, I participated in the exposure visit organized by KVK Karur to Krishnagiri district and observed brinjal cultivation through precision farming and also interacted with those farmers. This made me interested to take up brinjal cultivation through precision farming.

I took up planting of brinjal (Manaparai local variety) in an area of 1.4 ac during 10th November 2012. In that field I had taken up green manuring with *Tephrosia purpurea* and incorporated thoroughly in the field. I started monitoring the field regularly and initially after seeing little leaf affected plants, I sought the advice of the KVK Scientists. Based on the adoption of the advice, I was able to reduce the incidence of the little leaf disease to an extent of 75%. I also took up foliar application of IIHR Vegetable Special (a micronutrient mixture containing growth regulators) on 30th day after planting and after that for every 15 days till final harvest. This had led to increased flowering and better fruit setting.

Timely fertigation enabled me to harvest double the yield as compared to neighboring farmers. As the brinjal plants grew taller, it became difficult for me to do inter-cultivation operations, hence, I took up pruning of the plants to a certain height. Twenty five days after pruning, the plants again started flowering. I also took up a ratoon crop in brinjal and I am harvesting fruits from the second crop. In the first crop, I could get a yield of 23 MT from 1.40 acres. Normally farmers were able to harvest a yield of 12-13 MT from 1.4 ac.



