

Case study on Influence of ZBNF Training (Basmati - SRI):

My name is Bangaru pothalaiah. I live in thopudurthi village of Atmakur mandal. I have 7 acres of cultivable land and a bore well which irrigate part of my land. My wife Nagalaxmi and two daughters help me in agricultural works. I also have two bullocks and a local breed cow which helps me in completing agricultural operations in time.

In the last 10 years the investments in agriculture have shot up like anything. The investments kept on increasing while the yields were decreasing every year. My debts increased year after year and I left 4 acres of my land fallow as I could not raise sufficient money for investment. I was so frustrated and wanted to leave farming forever.



At this time I have attended Subhash palekar's workshop on Zero budget Natural Farming (ZBNF) organized by AF - EC. I am very much inspired by the teaching of subhash palekar that agriculture can be done without any cost. I understood that Green Revolution model of agriculture is not in benefit of the farmer and Farmer has to take care of soil by mulching, Jeevamrtham application and proper aeration. Soil is Annapurna (rich in nutrients) and it doesn't require anything from outside. I resolved to do Zero budget Natural Farming.



In Kharif 2011, I started the experiment in 1/2 acre. I have cultivated Basmati paddy in SRI method with a traditional seed variety. I have never used any chemical fertilizer or pesticide. I applied only Jeevamrutham as per protocol. To my astonishment, the crop grew very well; there was no pest or disease attack. Though I could not give proper Irrigation due to power cut problem the yields were very good. All my neighbours are surprised and praised me for growing gold.

The Economics of the crop is as below:

Expenditure		Income	
Seed - 2kg	200	22 quintals x Rs 4000	8800
Nursery (own labour)	1000	Fodder	1200
Transplantation	600		
Weeding with weeder (own)	1000		
Jeevamritham (6 times)	1000		
Buttermilk spray (own)	200		
Harvesting costs	1000		
	5000		10000

I will practice Natural Farming in my remaining land also. I will also motivate my neighbours to try Natural Farming practices and reduce cost of cultivation.

