

Cost of cultivation reduced with practice of LEISA :

Mr. Siva Naik, is a poor tribal farmer from a village 'Yelagalavanka thanda' in Beluguppa Mandal. He has 6.15 acres of dry land, in which he is growing sweet lime trees in 2 acres, groundnut in 3.5 acres and Jowar in 0.5 acre. Till last year (2011 Kharif) he was using lot of chemical Fertilizers and pesticides on his land. Every season he was spending Rs. 9,200/- @ Rs. 1,500/- per acre on chemical pesticides and fertilizers.



During the last season he noticed that, the groundnut crop became yellow and gradually dried up. The sweet lime plants also had stunted growth, the leaves slowly turned yellow and gradually dried-up. Some neighbour farmers suggested him to use costly fertilizers which he could not afford. So he was in despair and lost hope of saving his groundnut, Jowar crops and sweet lime plants.

AF staff has visited his field at that time and explained him that his crops are drying up because of nutrient deficiency. He educated Mr. Siva Naik about LEISA practices (Low External Input Sustainable Agriculture) and explained him how other farmers are benefitting from them. Then Mr. Siva Naik decided to try LEISA practices on Groundnut and sweet lime crops. With the guidance of AF staff, he immediately prepared and applied Jeevamritam (liquid bio-fertilizer) in his field. Jeevamritam was prepared by mixing Cow dung, Cow urine, Jaggery and pulse flour, which were locally available. It was very economical and cost only Rs. 150/- per acre. After 10 days of continuous application he saw wonders happening on his field. The pale sweet lime and groundnut crops started looking fresh green and healthy. New leaves started appearing on the sweet lime plants. His groundnut crop has grown up very well control the pests and diseases. The whole farm looked very much better than last year when he was applying costly chemical fertilizers. He spent just Rs.920/- on preparing Jeevamrutham for the total farm during the season.

Mr.Siva Naik also followed NPM (Non-pesticide Management) practices like installing pheromone traps, white and white and yellow boards, using Herbal Pest Repellent solutions to control the pests and diseases. The practices were very cost effective and eco-friendly. In total he has saved up to Rs 8000 on Fertilizers and Pesticides.

He also got good yields i.e 950 Kgs of Groundnut per acre and 500 kgs of Jowar in 0.5 acre which is little more than normal yields. He also had a good harvest of sweet lime. He is a happy person now; he understood the benefits of LEISA practices and had decided to practice Jeevamritam and other LEISA practices continuously. He is now an advocate of LEISA practices. Like Siva Naik, hundreds of farmers are coming forward for LEISA and abstaining from the use of expensive and hazardous chemical fertilizers and pesticides.