

## **Farmers of Thammaiah Doddi village shift their farming practices from HEIDA to LEISA:**

Thammaiah Doddi is a small village in Kundurpi mandal which is 5 kilometers away from mandal head quarters. The population of villages is 350 with 50 families. All of them belong to one community and are relatives. The cultivable land in this village is 240 acres out of which 200 acres is rainfed and 40 acres is irrigated. Agriculture is the main occupation and all the families have atleast a pair of cows or bullocks and 10-50 small ruminants. The farmers of this village are very progressive and hard working.



AF has formed two groups in the village. One is Irrigated farmers group and other is rainfed farmers group. All the farmers in the village have joined the groups. They attend and participate in the meetings very well. AF has worked closely with these farmers and they are convinced about LEISA practices and Sustainable Agriculture. Now the farmers of this village are practicing mixed cropping instead of mono cropping of Groundnut. They follow NPM methods to control pests instead of using agro chemicals. They prepare and use Bio-fertilisers like jeevamritam, Vermi compost and NADEP compost for soil fertility instead of buying chemical fertilizers. The farmers cooperate with each other like labour sharing, sharing of farm equipment, seeds etc.

AF has provided vermin compost and NADEP compost pits to 10 families in the village. It has also supplied 35 troughs for preparing Jeevamritham regularly. In addition to this AF has provided 5 cow urine pits and 5 local cows to farmers of this village. Also the organization has helped the 13 farmers in accessing sprinklers and drip facility from Government.

The SMGs and GSS are functioning effectively. All activities are implemented with their active involvement. The village is united; farmers cooperate with each other, resolve conflicts by discussions and take decisions through consensus. The women participate in decision making at family, group and community level. Now the farmers in this village are growing different annual crops like Ragi (Finger Millet), Red gram, Paddy, vegetables, Greens and different oil seeds and pulses along with Groundnut. Most of the farmers are also growing fruit trees like mango, sapota and custard Apple. All of them have sufficient produce to meet their family nutritional requirements. No family in the village is buying vegetables and milk from market. They get enough and more from their lands and animals. All the people in the village are hale and healthy as they are consuming nutritious and pesticide free food. The farmers are also slowly getting out of debt trap as the cost of cultivation has reduced by atleast Rs 1200 per acre per season and the crop yields are also good. The local media has also given positive attention to the success story of this village and covered in news papers.