

Multiple cropping with Vegetables ensures family income round the year

- CASE STUDY OF A SMALL S.C. FARMER FAMILY FROM NAGEPALLI VILLAGE

Nagaraju is a small S.C farmer from Nagepalli village of Settur area. His family comprises of his wife Nagamma, their two children and his old mother. The family has 1 acre of dry land and 1 acre of irrigated land. They were cultivating paddy in their one acre of irrigated land, for which they used to get Rs. 6,000/- - Rs. 7000/- per year, after deducting their investment on growing the crop. Some times, they were suffering crop losses also because of water scarcity (paddy is a highly water-intensive crop) and various pests and diseases.

Nagamma attended AF's awareness campaign on Crop Diversification and multiple cropping in their village. She was motivated to shift to multiple cropping in the place of paddy as a mono-crop and she put the issue for discussion in her family. Her husband and mother-in-law accepted the proposal. She planted 5 drumstick plants and sowed seeds of various vegetables like chilly, tomato, beans, ladies finger, brinjal, ridge gourd, bitter gourd and five varieties of greens in half an acre of their irrigated land. In the remaining half an acre, she sowed the seed of marigold flowers.

As per the advice of AF she prepared and applied bio-fertilizers like vermi compost and jeevamrutham and bio-pesticides like decoctions of locally available wild herbs to the crops, instead of costly chemical fertilizers and pesticides. Thereby she could reduce the cost of cultivation. She could also reduce the usage of water and power by shifting from paddy cultivation to vegetable cultivation. She got good yields from all the varieties of vegetables.



They sold the vegetables in the markets of their village and the surrounding villages during the market days. On other days her husband vended vegetables on the bicycle in the surrounding villages. Nagamma rambled in the village with a basket of vegetables in their village. Some of the villagers, came to their field to purchase fresh vegetables. Following are the particulars of their income & expenditure during August and September 2009:

INCOME

| | |
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| Through sale of 680 Kg of Tomatoes @ Rs.11/- per kg | = Rs. 7,480 |
| Through sale of 1,120 Kg of other vegetables @ Rs.9/- per Kg | = Rs. 10,080 |
| Through sale of 840 Drumsticks @ Rs. 3/- per No. | = Rs. 2,520 |
| Through sale of Greens | = Rs. 4,200 |

Total: Rs.24,280

The family had spent a total amount of Rs.6,100/- on cost of vegetable seed, bio-fertilizers, bio-pesticides and other miscellaneous things. They have earned a net profit of Rs. 18,180/- after deducting all the expenses, during

these two months. As they will be continuously replanting the vegetables, there will be continuous yields of vegetables and greens, they are expecting returns through out the year. Nagamma and her family are happy as they have more income on regular basis, they use only bio-manures and bio-pest management which is less-expensive and not at all hazardous to their soils and themselves. Further they have multiple crops grown in their land, they will have enriched the soil and have less pests and diseases. And equally important, their produce is organic and the consumers have chemical free vegetables.

"We feel very happy that we shifted from paddy cultivation to vegetable cultivation. We are receiving daily income from the sale of vegetables and we will have money in our hands throughout the year".

**Nagamma & Nagaraju
Nagenalli Village**