"SRI" PRACTICE PRODUCES BUMPER HARVEST

A case study of Umesh – A paddy grower from Kairevu village, Settur.

Umesh, a farmer from Kairevu village in Settur area used to cultivate paddy traditionally in his land. Year after year, he was making high investments on Chemical fertilizers and Pesticides and getting low yields. So, his debts increased year after year. Investors, bankers and co-farmers started disappearing by the very sight of Umesh, scared that he would ask for more loans.

He attended an awareness campaign organized by AF, wherein he learned about the LEISA practices and the benefits in practicing SRI method of Paddy cultivation. He was attracted by the low-cost farming methods and wanted to try them out. So, he practiced SRI in 1 acre on an experimental basis. In place of chemical fertilizers he applied green manure (from the leaves of trees around his field) and 10 cart loads of cattle dung. He also applied 200 kg of Vermi compost from his Vermi compost unit, established with AF's support. He dipped the paddy saplings in Jeevamritam before transplanting them.

Other farmers in the village including his family members were apprehensive of the yields, but he continued undeterred and took the advice of AF staff, whenever necessary. AF provided a set of weeder & marker to him. With the help of weeder, he did weeding and mixed the removed plants in the soil by ploughing. Within a month his family members' apprehensions started fading out, as they were amazed to see the healthy growth of the crop. His neighbors started enquiring, as to what he had done, to get such a healthy crop.

Then he applied liquid Jeevamritam, to the paddy crop. Instead of using Chemical Pesticides, he established Pheromone traps and Color boards to control pests & diseases. He also applied decoctions of locally available materials like chilly, garlic, sour butter milk, neem powder etc for control of pests & diseases. He did Weeding 5 times with the cono-weeder, and ploughed the removed weeds back into the soil, which improved the soil fertility and helped in getting extra yields. He also applied Azolla, which helped in fixing Nitrogen in the soil and saved the expenditure on urea. Each plant developed 50 to 80 tillers and had a very luxuriant growth.

> 'From now onwards, I will practice only SRI & low-cost organic farming methods. I have got very good yields with low investment. The Rice is also tasty and getting better market price. I will make the farmers of my village practice SRI in at least 20 acres in the next season.
>
> Umesh,
> Paddy Grower

Umesh and his family members were delighted to get a bumper yield of 31.5 quintals (42 bags of 75 Kgs) from his one acre of land under SRI – A whopping 6 quintals more (8 bags of 75 Kgs) than the yield from traditional paddy! In traditional method, he got only 25.5 quintals (34 bags of 75 Kgs) of paddy. He also got a better price for the SRI paddy, because of superior quality. Consequently he decided to cultivate SRI in all the 3 acres of his irrigated land during Rabi.

Like Umesh, 564 farmers have grown paddy adapting SRI method in their 232 ha. of land and they have got all very good yields.

Comparative Cost- Benefit analysis per Acre

a) Expenditure :

Sl. No.	Particulars	Traditional method of Paddy cultivation (In Rs)	SRI method of Paddy cultivation (In Rs) .
1	Preparative Cultivation cost	1,000	1,000
2	Seed cost	1,200 (For 60kgs/ AC)	40 (2Kgs/Ac)
3	Fertilizer Cost	1,750 (DAP, Complex and Urea)	1,000 (Cattle dung, Vermi Compost and Jeevamritam)
4	Sowing Cost	1000 (10 Labor)	600 (6 Labor)
5	Weeding Cost	1,500 (15 Labor)	500 (5 Labor)
6	Pest Control Cost	1,300	700 (Decoctions, pheromone traps and color boards)
7	Harvesting Cost	1,800	1,800
Total Expenditure Rs.		**9,550**	**5,640**

b) Gross Income:

i. Traditional Method:
25.5 Quintals x Rs.930/Qtl = Rs. 23,715

ii. SRI Method:
31.5 Quintals x Rs.1030/Qtl = Rs. 32,445

c) Net Profit:

S.No.	Method of Paddy cultivation	Income from Paddy (Rs.)	Income from Fodder (Rs.)	Total Income (Rs.)	Expenditure (Rs.)	Net profit (Rs.)
1	Traditional	23,715	1,200	24,915	9,550	15,365
2	SRI	32,445	1,800	34,245	5,640	28,605

Conclusion:

It is clearly evident from the above Comparative Cost- Benefit analysis that the Net profit per Acre from SRI method of paddy cultivation is 86% more than the Traditional method of paddy cultivation, besides saving water by about 40 – 45%