

WOMEN FARMER SETS AN EXAMPLE IN PRACTISING LEISA

- Case study of Ms. Parvathamma from Gubanapalli village

Ms. Parvathamma, is a women farmer from Gubana Palli village of Kalyandurg mandal. Her family includes her husband, 3 sons and a daughter. She has 5 acres of dry land, 3 buffalos and 5 cows.

“I got bumper crop yields because of good rains and following LEISA practices. I saved Rs.8,000/- applying bio-fertilizers and bio-pesticides instead of chemicals in my 5 acres of land. More over these methods are safe for my family’s health”.

- **Ms. Parvathamma**
Women Farmer

Ms. Parvathamma was investing Rs.11,000 on chemical fertilizers and pesticides every year, for growing groundnut crop in her 5 acres of land. Though she got good yields initially, gradually the yields started decreasing due to recurrence of pests and diseases. During the drought years when there were low crop yields, she suffered losses and used to borrow money from money lenders for crop investment. As a result her family got entangled in debt trap and was forced to work as wage labourers.

During 2007-08 AF started it’s sustainable agriculture programme in Gubanapalli village and conducted a series of awareness campaigns and meetings. Parvathamma was one of the motivated farmers, of the village, who came forward to adopt sustainable agri-practices. Under the guidance of AF staff she practiced all the LEISA/NPM methods and her 5 acres of groundnut crop. She applied farm yard manure and neem cake which resulted in good crop growth and effective control of root grub. Bajra and cow pea were sown as border crop in order to protect the crop from Peanut Stem Necrosis Disease. She arranged pest traps and bird perches in the field to control the pests. She applied “Jeevamritham” – a liquid bio-fertiliser made from cow dung, cow urine, pulses and jaggary to the crop. She also sprayed neem oil and the decoction made out of green chillies / garlic for controlling Red hairy caterpillars. For all these LEISA/NPM methods Parvathamma invested only Rs.3,000/- for her 5 acres of groundnut crop.

M/s. Parvathamma and her family members are feeling very happy for practicing Low External Inputs Sustainable Agriculture. Because all other factors being the same, their net income from groundnut crop from their 5 acres of land will increase by at least Rs.8,000/- every year, as their expenditure on fertilizers and pesticides has come down from Rs.11,000/- to Rs.3,000/-. Their experience has convinced them that Bio-fertilizers and bio-pesticides are equally effective when compared to chemical fertilizers and pesticides. The added advantage is that they are economical, harmless and nature-friendly.



M/s. Parvathamma vowed never to go for chemical farming again. She has set an example in the village for other farmers to emulate by practicing Low External Inputs Sustainable Agriculture.