
An Inspirational Innovative Farming

**A.J.Suruthivarshini¹, S.Sivadharshini¹, K.Ethazhi¹, Siva Preethi¹,
R.P.Ragshanya¹, C.Ananda varshini¹, R.Kaviya¹, D.S.Bhavani¹,
V.Nivetha¹, D.Abitha¹, J. Vanitha^{2*}**

¹ SRM College of Agricultural Sciences, SRMIST, Chengalpattu, Tamil Nadu, India.

² Department of Genetics and Plant Breeding, SRM College of Agricultural Sciences, SRMIST, Chengalpattu, Tamil Nadu, India.

Corresponding author's e-mail: vanithajrm@gmail.com

Published on: May 31, 2023

ABSTRACT

As part of the undergraduate course Rural Agricultural Work Experience (RAWE), students involved with farming community on their stay place to experience the agricultural and horticultural conditions in the rural areas. Students conducted demonstration on zero energy cool chamber, panjakavya, Agri expo, organic food exhibition and tree planting for government school children in orathy. Students also met a farmer Mr. Ramachandran who was involved in the successful organic farming in perennial tree crops at vadamanipakam village. They collected the information about his innovational farming method and discussed with this article.

INTRODUCTION

Mr. Ramachandran is a 52 year old native man of Vadamanipakam village. He worked as an assistant manager in a private company in Chennai for past 15 years. He was always enthusiastic towards agriculture and farming. He always had a thought of taking agriculture forward in an innovative way instead of growing paddy or groundnut in a traditional way which is being done

by most of the farmers of his village without exception of his father from a very long period of time.

After 15 long years of working as a responsible assistant manager, he decided to take over his father's land and thought of doing farming in an innovative and modern method. He says he read so many articles and referred books related to modern agriculture for almost 2 years while working in a private company. He got inspired by a farmer from the article he read and had an idea of implementing the same farming procedure in his father's farm land with little modifications according to the soil type and climate of his village. He finally quit his job and came to his own village named Vadamanipakam and took up farming.



He started farming in an area of 6½ acres. He instead of growing a single annual crop, started growing various perennial tree crops in the year of 2015. His farm has 450 coconut trees with a spacing of 45×45 feet, 300 mango trees, 100 Sapota trees, 100 amla trees, 80 jackfruit trees, 200 Teak trees, 5 to 10 Apple trees, three varieties of blueberry in which two varieties are white and one variety is black, Athi trees (elephant athi). Teak trees are grown as windbreak. The water source for the farm is an open well which costed around 18 lakhs.

The farmer uses drip irrigation system for his entire farm. Another interesting fact is that he uses only organic manures in the farm. He says he has come to this idea of organic farming from the knowledge he gained by reading various articles on organic farming and he was very clear from

the start that synthetic fertilizers and pesticides degrades the soil fertility in long term usage and he avoided the use of them in his farm.

CONCLUSION

Mr. Ramachandran suggests other farmers to grow crops in an organic way that ensures the better health of soil, humans and animals. He also suggests doing intercropping rather than growing a single crop for the entire crop season such that if one of the crops fails to give the expected produce, the other crop saves the farmers from not going into the loss. The farmer says that after 5-6 years of investment, he is seeing the profit from his farm now and the whole village is appreciating him for his inspirational innovative farming.