

Enhancing Productivity through Adoption of Improved Technologies – Success Story of Woman Farmer

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Introduction:

Ch Ramulamma, a woman Farmer from Venkatapuram village, Vemsoor Mandal, Khammam District is now widely recognized by the adjacent villages now days. It was her sheer determination and compassion towards agriculture that made her “Best Woman farmer”. Until 2018, she had relied on cultivation paddy all three acres of land for which she was unable to fetch good returns and had to sustain on meagre income. Sometimes it was difficult meet the basic requirement of children and livelihood due to the fluctuating market prices, unprecedented pest and diseases, unanticipated climatic conditions and mainly scarcity of labor.

Later after participating in the training programmes conducted at villages by Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Wyra on different cost reducing and water saving technologies and crop diversification. She adopted many technological practices such as Direct seeding in Paddy during Kharif, zero tillage in Maize and as a part of crop diversification she chose to cultivate sesame during Rabi season, She maintained contacts with the KVK Scientist to clarify her doubt that gave her confidence to tread ahead.

Direct seeding in Paddy

First and foremost she adopted Direct Seeding in Rice. In this method of cultivation raising of nursery for transplantation is restricted. Farmer can restrain the major i.e., labour shortage for transplanting due to peak demand. In case of delay in monsoon or shortage of water, DSR gives the farmer flexibility to take up direct sowing of paddy with a suitable duration variety to fit into the left over season. This allowed her for timely sowing of Maize crop in the month of December She practiced Direct seeding in Rice in her 3 acres of land and achieved 30 quintals from per acre and earned gross returns of Rs 55,500/- (From one acre) 1.66 lakhs from three acres. She spent an amount Rs 26000/- of cost of cultivation and could endeavour a net income of Rs 28000/- with B:C Ratio 2.10: 1 from one acre.

After Kharif paddy, the farmer without leaving the land fallow, she practiced cultivation of maize in two acres as second crop during Rabi under zero tillage conditions. Zero tillage was suggested by the KVK, Wyra Scientist as a potential technology to improve farmer income. The zero tillage system is a conservation agriculture practice that eliminates tilling, this minimizes soil disturbance. This system involves making hole with a stick and sowing the seeds in an untilled field after harvesting paddy. This method conserves soil and water with no investment for machinery and land preparations. Through zero tillages he obtained highest yield of 50 quintals and realized a gross income of Rs 88,000/- with a net Profit of Rs , 64,500/- per acre. Along side with the cost of cultivation of Rs 23,500/- .Furthermore, in the remaining one acre of land she cultivated sesame crop by broadcasting and achieved a yield 3 quintals and earned gross returns of Rs 24000/-. The cost of cultivation incurred was Rs 8000/- and endeavoured a net profit of Rs 16,000/-.

Her perseverance paid and she earns a net profit of Rs 2.3 lakhs yearly from 3 acres of land In this way she utilizes the land effectively by cultivating different crops and adopting different climate smart agricultural practices like, Direct seeding in Rice, zero tillage for maize cultivation and sesame. Her activeness, sincerity and sheer grit towards achieving a good profit has contributed in her success in addition to technical guidance from experts from KVK .



She states that “Technologies should be technologically feasible, economically viable and accessible to the normal farmers like us”. For Direct seeding With lower seeds, water,



energy, labours and lower fertilizers/ chemicals and assured yields without additional investment she was endeavouring good net income. Simultaneously with zero tillage in maize the farmer is augmenting the production of second crop after rice under soil moisture stress conditions by reduction in tillage, retention of adequate amount of crop residues for moisture conservation and soil organic matter maintenance. In addition this technology was adopted due to its cost effectiveness , less labour consuming by effective use of resources.

