

Intercropping Pays Dividend to the Farmers

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Introduction

To earn a steady income and to harness good yields it is important for a person to be updated on latest technologies and to know the consumers preferences and demand, Naga Chandrudu did the same. The micro farming situations of Khammam district is conducive for tropical fruits, vegetables and flowers, Noticing the market demand for vegetables among the consumers, Naga Chandrudu a farmer resident of Mustikunta village. Bonakal Mandal, Khammam District was cultivating guava, He was unable to earn desired profit by the virtue of, low productivity , pest problems, poor management practices in the previous crop.

Nagachandrudu came in contact with KVK, Wyra and discussed his idea of cultivating guava. He took the guidance of KVK, farmers for the technologies which could bring him good profits and yields. KVK, Scientists advised him to grow vegetables or flowers in the interspace to use the land effectively , So he took up Cucumber and Marigold in inter rows in the first year. The objective was to utilize inter- row space and available inputs judiciously, Besides this marigold serves as trap crop for borer also. Using interspace between the rows of guava with marigold and cucumber prevents weed menace. There is a huge demand for flowers during festive season from September to January.



Package of practices followed by the farmer

Land Preparation: He performed deep summer plough, leveling and weeding and incorporated 2.4 tonnes of farm yard manure

- **Planting:** The saplings were planted with the spacing of 7m x 7m in 2 feet pits accommodating 900 plants. After planting guava he applied enriched 2 kgs of FYM enriched with *Trichoderma viride* and *P lilanicumand p fluroscences* multiplied in 1 ton of FYM) to every plant
- **Fertigation:** Provided nutrients like 19:19:19, sulphate of potash, 13-0-45 5kgs every fortnight through fertigation method.
- **Pest and disease management:** To prevent the incidence of sucking pests he sprays neem oil along with acepahte 1.5 gm, fipronil 2ml/lit as per the incidence.
- To control the incidence of nematodes he applies carbofuron granules along with the pseudomonas to the plants. To monitor the incidence of fruit fly mage he installed 6-8 pheromone traps and methyl Eugenol mixed with fermented Palmyrah sap (palmyrahneera) at few distance in the orchard.
- **Intercropping:** One of the after planting guava, he started cultivating cucumber from February and marigold from july onwards so that he can sell the flowers from september keeping in view the festivals.
- **Pruning:** Guava is a hardy, long lived tree and prolific bearers starts bearing fruits from 11 month onwards harvesting the fruits and followed by pruning 3 times a year and train to form umbrella shape. Suckers starts developing on the pruned branches and later branches emerge from the suckers which further helps in flowering and fruiting.
- **Output:** In the first year he incurred 10 tons 15 tons from first and second year respectively of guava and earned gross income Rs 2,00,500/- The cucumber and marigold grown as intercrop yielded 7 tons and 4 tons per acre respectively . Vegetable sellers directly purchases from the orchard. Based on the demand the fruits were sold between Rs10- 15 / kgs.
- **Outcome:** Intercrops: In the first year he harvested 7 tons of cucumber and sold @ Rs 10,000/- per ton, he incurred a gross income of Rs70,000/- from 4 tons and net



income of Rs 50,000/- and from marigold he recurred a gross income of Rs 1,60,000/- from 4 tons and net income Rs 1,00,000/-

Over all if we look on the income generated from the three crops in two acres from two years he reaped an gross income of Rs 3,50,500/-

Cost of cultivation in the first year

Land preparation	Rs 10,000/-
Digging pits and planting	Rs 5,500/-
Cost of plants	Rs 27,000/-
Pesticides	Rs 14,000/-
Pruning	Rs 5000/-
Weeding	Rs 5,000/-
Harvesting	Rs 15,000/-
Total	Rs 1,03,000/-
Yield	Rs 10 tonnes
Gross income	Rs 1,50,000/-
Net income	Rs 46,500
Returns from cucumber from 1 acre	
Cost of cultivation	Rs 20,000/-
Yield	7 tonnes
Gross income	Rs 70,000/-
Net income	Rs 50,000/-
Returns of Marigold from 1 acre	
Cost of cultivation	Rs 60,000 /-
Yield	4 tonnes
Gross income	Rs 1,60,000/-
Net income	Rs 1,00,000/-

Cost of cultivation in the second year

Fertilizers	Rs 24,000/-
Pesticides	Rs 15,500/-,
Pruning	Rs 5,500 /-

Harvesting	Rs 15,000/-
Total	Rs 1,03,000/-
Yield	15 tonnes
Gross income	Rs 2,50,000/-
Net income	Rs 1,54,000/-

Impact:

He is sharing his activities, field photos with the fellow farmers. He used fertigation method to improve water use efficiency. He is passionate about creating awareness on importance of intercropping and utilizing the space affectively , so as to increase income.

