

SRI Method of Paddy Cultivation★

Objective:

Paddy consumes lot of water. As it has become the major food item, whenever there is water available farmers tend to cultivate paddy both for consumption and the market. The objective is to reduce the water consumption by promoting SRI. This also reduces the cost of cultivation by way of pesticides and fertilizers and has potential to give higher yield due to improved soil microbial activity.

Strategy:

Orientation and awareness programmes are organized for the benefit of farmers. They are taken to exposure visits to the farmers' successfully cultivating SRI paddy for farmer to farmer learning. Demonstration farms are organized and community resource persons are developed to serve as nodal points for spreading the SRI method of cultivation.



Process:

The selected farmers are provided trainings and demonstrations for them to practice method of paddy cultivation. A continuous handholding support is provided in the field throughout the season by technical staff and experienced farmers. Equipment such as markers and weeders are provided free of cost to the selected farmers.



Key process steps:

- Continuous training support to agriculture activists in watershed and CLDP villages
- Identifying shop-keepers for Panta Mitra (for sale of organic manures, natural pesticide, seeds and other equipment) and training them in the preparation of various concoctions



* Livelihood Resource Centre – Parigi, Ranga Reddy district, Andhra Pradesh (Annual Report 2006-07)

- Making neem seed powder, pheromone traps, panchagavya and others available to the farmers
- Organizing monthly review meetings
- Providing technical support to the programme and monitoring
- Preparing community level resource persons
- Making markers and weeders available to farmers
- Encouraging experimentation by farmers
- Continuous services to the programme



GANAPATHY SHOWS THE WAY...

Any thing new is not readily accepted. Moreover it is taunted and ridiculed. The experience of Ganapathy is not different from this. But the way he stood on his ground has finally won him applause. Ganapathy is from Nazeerabad thanda village of Parigi mandal, Ranga Reddy district. This is the village where watershed programme was compiled by local NGO VIKASAM as part of WASSAN Action Study project. Now it is in the purview of Cluster Level Livelihood Resource Centre (CLRC), Parigi, anchored by WASSAN. Ganapathy participated in the training programme on SRI inspired by it, he wanted to experiment with the method in his field. When his elder brother ridiculed the idea, he decided to go ahead with it in the 10 guntas (1/4th acre) of his land.



Passersby were wondering what Ganapathy was doing and made fun of him. Advises were free and plenty. They wanted him to plough up the field and go for routine method. But he wanted to see through the entire process.

The visible change came 45 days after transplantation. The SRI paddy was uniform, healthy and with more tillers than the adjacent plot of Ganapathy's brother. Then villages started thronging to his field. Some queried whether it was a new variety. Some still discouraged him by saying that the straw will not be eaten by the animals.

In the end, the determination yielded the desired results. Significant difference was observed on costs for external inputs. While Ganapathy incurred Rs. 225/- his brother had to spend Rs. 520/-. And there was more yields compared to his brother. While his brother got 5 bags in 10 guntas, he got 10 bags in the same area (which works out to 40 bags/acre, while the average yield in the village was 25-30 bags / acre). With this experience, Ganapathy encouraged other farmers. Out of 14 farmers who cultivated paddy in the area during the 2005 *Rabi* season, 13 followed SRI method. Now Ganapathy is a resource person to other farmers. He would tell them how to go about it and clarify in field with practical demonstrations. He has taken the path that no one has taken until then so that others can follow him with confidence.

Progress during 2006-07

Mandals	Villages	Area (Acres)	Farmers (No)
4	15	36.50	33

Details of SRI farmers under Parigi Livelihood Resource Centre, 2006-07

Sl. No.	Farmer	Village	Mandal	Acreage
1.	Yellareddy	Madaram	Parigi	2.00
2.	SAidayya	Parigi	Parigi	0.50
3.	Ashayya	Laknapur	Parigi	0.50
4.	Srinivasu	Roppkhanpet	Parigi	0.50
5.	M Kishnayya	Roopkhanpet	Parigi	0.50
6.	K Narayana	Roopkhanpet	Parigi	1.00
7.	Krishnayya	Roopkhanpet	Parigi	0.50
8.	Ramaswamy	Roopkhanpet	Parigi	1.00
9.	Sankar Nayak	Roopkhanpet	Parigi	1.00
10.	Srinivas	Roopkhanpet	Parigi	1.00
11.	Krishnayya	Sultanpur	Parigi	2.00
12.	N Pandu	Ibrahimpur	Parigi	0.50
13.	Sai Reddy	Ibrahimpur	Parigi	0.50
14.	N Matru	Nazeerabad	Doma	1.00
15.	Anjalaiah	Chakalapalli	Kulkacherla	0.50
16.	Krishnaiah	Julapalli	Gandeed	0.50
17.	Chinnaiah	Julapalli	Gandeed	0.50
18.	China Ramaiah	Baspalli	Doma	1.00
19.	Rachaiah	Baspalli	Doma	2.00
20.	Madhukar Reddy	Baspalli	Doma	3.00
21.	K Pochaiiah	Baspalli	Doma	1.00
22.	R Ramulu	Julapalli	Doma	1.00
23.	B Jangayya	Bompally	Doma	1.00
24.	D Bheemaiah	Mailaram	Doma	1.00
25.	Venkanna	Domalpally	Doma	1.00
26.	Mallanna	Domalpally	Doma	2.00
27.	Ch. Hanmaiah	Rekonda	Doma	2.00
28.	Md. Khajamiya	Rekonda	Doma	2.00
29.	Buggaiah	Rekonda	Doma	1.00
30.	Lakshmaiah	Rekonda	Doma	1.00
31.	T Krishnaiah	Rekonda	Doma	1.00
32.	Mallaiah	Rekonda	Doma	2.00
33.	Sai Reddy	Rekonda	Doma	0.50
TOTAL				36.50

PHOTO GALLERY

