

ANISHA PROJECT

Report of the Workshop on Management of Nutrient, Pest and Diseases of Turmeric and Paddy Crops

Date : 12 November 2006
Venue : O D P Training Centre, Martalli

The programme started at 11.00 am with lighting of the lamp. Smt. Valli in her welcoming speech briefed the activities of ANISHA and welcomed the participants and resources persons. Rev. Fr. Susai of Vaddara Doddi while blessing the gathering spoke on the need of alternative agricultural practices like organic farming to propagate peace and harmony in the present world.

Sri Kailash Murthy, a militant Natural Farmer from Doddinduvadi village of Kollegal taluk said he learnt everything about agriculture while observing nature. He said there is no need for a farmer to invest more capital for crop production, as most of the work has been done by nature, through sunrays - soil - plants and animals. The farmer has to understand the symbiotic relationship between plant and animal life. He said greedy farmers face severe problems in agriculture. He called the farmers to adopt natural farming practices i.e. zero investment and also invited farmers to visit his farm which is one of the model natural farms in Karnataka state.

Sri. Chinnai Malai, an engineer turned organic farmer shared his experiences related to management of nutrients to the plants. He said the weeds plays vital role in providing required nutrients to the soil, thus keeping it healthy.

Sri. Rajakannu, an organic turmeric grower from Gopichettyalayam, Neighbour State (Tamil Nadu) said farmers are not adopting proper cultivation practices which results in the emergence of pests and diseases. Minute changes in the cultivation practices can control most of the pests and diseases of crops. Regarding pests of turmeric, he said sufficient space has to be given within plants and rows, thus allowing the sunrays to reach the bottom of the crops. This also helps in providing sufficient aeration to the plant canopy and also given few tips which could be prepared by farmers themselves like fish tonic, panchakavya, amurthakarasal etc.

After lunch Sri. Sundara Raman, an eminent organic farmer from Sathyamangalam neighbouring State (Tamil Nadu) explained all the stages involved in turmeric crop starting from land preparation to harvest. He also gave tips to the farmers to manage certain pests and diseases of turmeric and paddy crops. The participants were very much impressed the session of Sri.Sundararaman.

Sri. Arogyasamy and Sri. Raja Kannu, the two local farmers who are practicing organic farming shared their experiences of cotton and turmeric crops during the workshop.

Sri Rajan P, a researcher from CASUMM, shared the information on the Model Agricultural Produces Marketing Committee and the impact of Contract Farming, and also distributed one page note on these issues to farmers in local language (Tamil).

Sri Papanna, representing Agriculture Department in Kollegal spoke on the schemes initiated towards promoting organic farming asked farmers to be in touch with the department.

Sri. Joseph a farmer thanked the gathering for making the programme success. Around 75 Turmeric and paddy growers participated in the workshop which was concluded at 4.00 pm.

