

Improved tomato cultivation : KVK Thiruvannamalai 2011-12

Shri. Mayan s/o chinnasamy aged 48 involved in vegetable cultivation for the past 10 years. He is a progressive farmer living in Indiravanam village of Chetpet Block in Thiruvannamalai district. He used to cultivate various private companies' hybrids of Tomato mainly during Rabi season, which is the major season for growing vegetables in the locality. But, the returns were very low owing to high cost of labour combined with high incidence of pest and diseases. During that period he came into contact with KVK team, which went for the problem identification in the village as his village was selected as operational village by the KVK.

He and his fellow farmers were trained by KVK on various advanced production technologies of Tomato viz., INM, IPM and organic input production.



The KVK had introduced a high yielding Tomato hybrid Arka Ananya released by IIHR, Bangalore, which is having resistance to leaf curl virus disease in his village under the OFT programme . It was found best suited for the location. He on the guidance of KVK cultivated Arka Ananya in 50 cents during Rabi 2011-12. He obtained an yield of 612.65 q/ha which was 23.06 % higher than his earlier yields.

After realizing the benefit of location specific hybrids, he planned to extend the area of Tomato cultivation to 1 ha. With a smiling face he concluded "generally hybrids give better yield but the Arka Ananya hybrid introduced by KVK is the best in terms of yield and economic return." Mr. Mayan is now acting as master trainer for training other farmers in the locality.