

Improved Bitter gourd cultivation in Pandal System

Name of the farmer : **Mr.N.Vijayakumar**
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Background

Shri. Vijayakumar S/o. Natarajan, aged 39 is a vegetable farmer in Periyakuppam village of Vandavasi taluk in Thiruvannamalai district. He owns 5 acre of land. Vegetables like snake gourd, bitter gourd, Ribbed gourd have been cultivated on commercial scale in 3 acre of land and the remaining 2 acre has been allotted for paddy cultivation to meet out his family's food requirement.

He depends mainly on vegetables, especially gourds for his family's income. But, the productivity of gourds started declining and the cost of cultivation was on increasing trend which was mainly due to severe incidence of pest and diseases and nutrition problems. It was during the time, his village selected as operational village for the KVK interventions.

Intervention process

The KVK team inspected his vegetable growing field and selected him as one of the beneficiary farmers for the FLD on Integrated Crop Management in bitter gourd. Various improved technologies were demonstrated in his field by the KVK team. The critical inputs were also provided to him.

In addition, he participated in trainings conducted by KVK on Cucurbits cultivation in pandal system and strengthened his knowledge and confidence. He also visited various Horticultural Research Stations, Universities in Tamil Nadu and interacted with eminent scientists on cucurbits cultivation by participating in the educational tour organized by KVK.



Intervention technology

By keeping the confidence on the advanced technologies gained from KVK, he cultivated bittergourd (Abhishek hybrid) in one acre of his land. He adopted new technologies viz., Integrated Plant Nutrition System with major focus on foliar nutrition, IPM with major emphasis on usage of Pungam and Neem soaps, Pheromone traps, Yellow sticky traps, sex regulation etc., with the technical back up of KVK team.

As a result of adoption of improved technologies, effective utilization of resources and market demand driven production approach, he succeeded in bittergourd cultivation by obtaining an yield of **452.50** Q/ha which was 28.90 percent higher when compared to average yield obtained by other farmers in the locality.

Impact of horizontal spread

After seeing the effectiveness of improved technologies adopted by Mr.Vijayakumar, other vegetable growers in the locality have started adopting the same. At present 210 acres of land is under cultivation in the locality and it is expected to increase further.

Impact of economic gains

He obtained an income of Rs.7,62,150 ha⁻¹ in bitter gourd cultivation. An additional net gain of Rs. 2,05,250 ha⁻¹ was accrued by him with a higher B:C ratio of 2.65 : 1.

Impact of employment generation

After realizing the economic benefits obtained by this farmer, other farmers in the locality have started cultivating gourds on large scale. As a result, 486 man days of additional employment is generated for each hectare increase in area.