

## Quality Seed Production in Paddy

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**Name of the Group** : **Vandavasi Farmers Federation**  
**Desur, Kondayankuppam**  
**Thiruvannamalai district**

### **Background:**

Paddy is the principal crop extensively cultivated in almost all the blocks of Thiruvannamalai district. The district is having the cultivable area of 31.21lakh hectares in which Paddy occupies the major area of 1,31,744 hectares. The paddy crop is growing in three seasonal patterns viz., Kuruvai (April to July), Samba (August to November) and Navarai (December to march) in the district. The paddy cultivation in Thiruvannamalai district occupies 7.0 percent of the total area cultivated in Tamil Nadu state. The major varieties of Paddy growing in the district are ADT- 43, ADT- 45, White Ponni, CR 1009, CO 43 and CO 51.

Though paddy is a major agriculture crop in the district, there is a greater demand for the quality seeds in every season. The farmers were not keeping the paddy seeds for the next season as they want to sell their product immediately after harvest due to several reasons. Therefore demand for quality paddy seeds increasing year by year due to vast area cultivated under paddy crop is a major thrust among the farmers in the district.

### **Intervention Process**

The main aim of the programme is to encourage the farmers of Vandavasi Federation on the production of adequate quantities of genetically pure and good quality paddy seeds, particularly high potential, improved and hybrid varieties of Paddy. For that the KVK seeking funds to NABARD, Thiruvannamalai in conducting four batches of training programmes covering 80 farmers in one batch for both Kharif and Rabi Seasons. The NABARD Sanctioned Rs 80000 towards conduction of trainings, periodical field visits and monthly review meetings.



The curriculum of the training programme was carefully formulated after having discussion with the farmers, officials of Seed Certification department and NABARD, Thiruvannamalai as the farmers are in the great demand of the details and procedures relating to seed production/certification.

### **Intervention Technology**

The training program is divided in to 4 phases and twenty farmers were covered in each phase of the training from different farmers' clubs. The selection of farmers for the training programmes were carried out carefully with the help of CARD NGO and the active members from the federation based on the interest, enthusiasm, socio economic status and involvement in technology adoption. All the four trainings were given to the farmer club members existing at Desur, Kunnagampoondi, C.M. Pudur and Kondayankuppam.

The officials from Seed certification Department were invited as resource persons to all the training programmes. The topics covered in the training programme are Paddy production techniques, Pest and management practices, isolation distance, Selection of seeds using salt solution, Fertilizer Management, objectionable weeds in main fields, stage of harvesting, threshing without mechanical injuries, sieve size for seed processing, moisture content, seed storage and certification procedures.



### **Impact of Horizontal Spread**

After completion of all the phases of trainings about 20 farmers were registered for paddy seed production in the Primary Co operative Credit Society, Peranamallur of Chetpet Taluk. Each Individual has got an average of 3 tonnes of quality seeds of Paddy and was getting an additional income of Rs 18000/acre apart from their normal income earned in the previous years. The message was spreading to other farmers during the monthly meeting organized by the farmers club in all the four villages. Now more farmers showing interest in the quality seed

production and many were already got tie up with the PACS and the state department of Agriculture. Moreover, the federation is willing to start their own seed processing unit with the financial assistance by NABARAD.



### **Impact of Economic status**

Each registered farmer in seed production obtained an additional net income of Rs. 18,000 – 20,000 per acre based on the yield obtained by the individual apart from their normal income level. But it involves strict monitoring and action of the main field at different stages of production