

## Improved Turmeric Cultivation

Shri J. Ratinam, aged 52, is a progressive turmeric farmer of Kattukkanallur village in West Arni block of Thiruvannamalai district. He has been cultivating turmeric for the past 10 years. He used to cultivate Erode local variety of turmeric in his land. He has got 3 acres of land. He usually cultivates turmeric in one acre of his land every year and remaining land area has been utilized for cultivating paddy.



Turmeric is the main income source for his family. But, sudden fall in the market price of the turmeric had led to drastic reduction in his family income. He approached KVK, for the technologies which can reduce the cost of cultivation without major reduction in the yield of the crop. Luckily, by seeing the response of farmers of his village, a farmers' club was started in his village by the KVK under the NABARD's financial assistance.

Mr. Ratinam was appointed as chief volunteer for the club. He was trained on improved turmeric cultivation and processing technologies viz., nursery management, INM, IPM, Processing etc., by the KVK. During the training major focus was given on turmeric finger cut plant production technology (Protray nursery), a farmer's innovation, which can reduce the cost on seed rhizome by one third i.e. (Rs. 32000/- cost reduction per hectare) and usage of improved machineries and equipments. Under the NABARDs programme, the improved machineries and equipments like turmeric harvester, turmeric boiler was also distributed to the farmers club of Kattukkanallur.



He adopted all the technologies, which he acquired from KVK in his field, with the technical support of KVK scientists. He obtained an average productivity of 239.10 q/ha which was 28.82 % higher than the average yield of other farmers in the locality. The cost of cultivation was also reduced to a considerable extent. An additional gain of Rs.71112/- per hectare was accrued by him with a higher BC ratio of 2.51: 1. At present, he has been acting as a technology provider for other farmers in the locality.