

Digital - Community Resource Center change the practice of the Farmer to apply organic manure...

Mr.Thangasamy, aged 65, Farmer of Odukampatti got increased 280 Kgs of additional yield of brinjal crop..... through Community Resource Center in Odukampatti village. Now, around 15 farmers following CRC and Mr.Thangasamy.



Smiling face and white hair may be his identity in the village. Thangasamy 65 years old farmer in the village Odukampatti. It was almost 6.30 pm, while I am entering the village and meet Thangasamy. His smiling face attracted me to communicate with him. I introduced myself and enquire about the presence of ICT enabled Community Resource Centers. He does not know about the center and using ICT. Within half hour discussion, I find that, his livelihood is Agriculture. He has 85 cents of land, though, he is having less area of land, he don't want to put the land as idle, he used to put alternative vegetables and pulses and keeping Agriculture as the primary livelihood. He shows more interest to share his practice on doing effective farming. He shared his rich experience in vegetable cultivation. He has 4 daughters and one son, with his hard efforts in his livelihood and with the support of outside debt, he settled his three daughters marriage. His son is single and studying Diploma. His wife is Mrs. Alagi and she is basically a house wife, however, supporting his husband for agriculture then and there.

I just tried to extend my discussion to get his relationship. I asked his interest and knowledge about Organic Farming. He replied that, his ancestors before his direct Grand Father might have the practice of Organic Farming, He added that, who will prepare and apply the organic manure

for small cents of land ? Moreover, now-a-days the situations are not suitableit shows his less interest to discuss more on Organic Farming. I closed the discussion and say good bye

I went to the Community Resource Center and met the Center associate (Ms.Nagamani) in that village and discussed about Mr.Thangasamy and my discussion with him. Ms.Nagamani replied that, she knows him very well and he is a progressive farmer even with small quantity of land. I have insisted Ms. Nagamani to do continuous follow up and inform me if he is ready to change his practice on Organic Farming.

After 5 days, I had a call from Ms.Nagamani saying that, Sir! Thangasamy ayya * (*Villagers use to call the elder Father like person as "Ayya") willing to know more about the Organic manure and willing to discuss with me more. Next day afternoon, I have visited Odukampatti village and discussed with Mr.Thangasamy. Instead of talking him directly, I just connect him with Assistant Agriculture officer through Skype Video Call. He explained about the low cost organic manure "Panchakavya". On that occasion, Mr.Thangasamy enquired about the application of Panchakavya for Brinjal crop. He asked "Whether it is available readymade or he has to prepare himself? I answered the question that, It is available readymade in Karungalagudi (a village in a nearby Block Kottampatti). I also connect him with the Farmers Association which is selling the Panchakavya Manure. At the end, he agreed to apply that and asked me to facilitate for the process of getting the manure. I assured him that, the Community Resource Center (CRC) in the village will connect and facilitate the process. I also asked him to approach the CRC for any follow up.

The Odukampatti CRC facilitates the process of getting the Panchakavya for Mr.Thangasamy and travel with him till his cultivation of the crop. He applied the manure for 85 cents of his cultivation. After around 36 days, The Odukampatti CRC associate Ms.Nagamani called and informed me that, Mr.Thangasamy wants to talk with me, she connects him over phone.

Mr.Thangasamy said "Sir!. My villagers are asking for Panchakavya Manure.... Sir, It is good, it reduces my cost of cultivation. Upon seeing that, my neighbors are asking for that.... I asked him, is there any change/ increase in the yield, he said "Sir!.. regularly, I used to get 6-7 sippam of brinjal per time, this time I got 10 Sippam which mean 4 sippam additionally(Additional 4 sippam = $4 * 70 = 280$ Kgs). He again said, yes Sir! It increased.. Then I asked, Will you be ready to share this thing to others? He immediately responds, Sir! That's what I am telling; I also shared with my neighbors and neighbors also seeing the change and asked for that organic manure. He also said, Sir, after our discussion, I had discussion with our Assistant Agriculture Officer in Video Conference through Community Resource Center of our village. He insisted to talk to you for getting the organic manure. Mr.Thanksamy also mentioned that, he is going to apply the manure for Paddy crop this month.

Following to Mr.Thangasamy's wish and discussion, Around 85 litres of Panchakavya (The Organic Manure) procurement and application was facilitated in Odukampatti village through the Community Resource Center. Nearly 15 farmers applied the same and waiting for the result like Mr.Thangasamy. ...