

Success story of Sri T. SuryanarayanaRaju, a Zero Budget Natural Farmer, Gollalagunta (V), Jaggampeta Mandal, East Godavari District

T. Suryanarayana Raju is a normal farmer until he heard about Zero Budget Natural farming from a disciple of Sri Subhash Palekar. Slowly he tried Jeevamrutham in his Oil Palm field. The results were encouraging. He and his family members own about 20 acres of Oil palm and 5 acres of wet land wherein he cultivates Paddy.

During 2011, he stopped application of fertilizers and pesticides and started Zero Budget Natural farming applying only Jeevamrutham. In the first year he got only 14-15 bags (75 Kg each) of paddy per acre. Many of his fellow farmers laughed at his results but he didn't care. Slowly year after year yield started growing. After stopping pesticide application, few seasons he did not apply any botanical extracts also. His idea is that let the Insects also eat some produce. Later on he started using Neemasthram once or twice during crop season to control Paddy stem borer, leaf roller etc.

2015-16 is the fifth year of conversion of his land to Natural farming. Now he is getting 25-27 bags of Paddy variety BPT-5204 during Kharif season. Cost of Cultivation reduced to about 12000/- per acre. He gets about 1125 Kgs of Rice from his produce and sells it at Rs.1100/- per bag of 25 Kg each. He gets a total income of Rs. 49000/- and there by a net income of Rs. 37000/- per acre.

Now he abandoned paddy cultivation during Rabi and started Gingelly, Pulses to maintain soil fertility in a balanced manner and to maximize income from his land during Rabi season also. Besides he gets a good yield of 10.000 Mts fruit yield per acre per year from Oil palm also. After expenses on Oil palm maintenance (Rs. 8000/- per acre per annum), he gets a net income of Rs. 70000/- per acre per annum from Oil palm.

He also joined the program of Certification of Organic Farming and is expected to get Organic certificate during 2016-17 from AOCA, Bangalore. Now he sells Rice to many of his fellow farmers, Officers and Relative. He also works closely with NGOs and Department of Agriculture to promote Natural farming among other farmers in the area.