



Better Farming by Every Farmer

e-Bulletin



Agripreneur

A Virtual Experience Sharing Platform

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Compost from 'Poultry Litter' Works Wonders for Crops

Agripreneur Mr. Suresh Kumar develops aerobic fermentation technology.....

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" Agripreneur is a virtual platform to share the experiences of Agripreneurs, Bankers, Agribusiness companies, Nodal training institutes, Extension functionaries, Academicians, Researchers and Agribusiness thinkers in the country working for promotion of Agri Entrepreneurship development".



To address the issue of shrinking Agricultural land due to urbanization, Government recognized the need for vertical growth in farming by introducing high-end technologies. To take technology to the grassroots level in Public-Private Partnership mode, Government introduced the concept of Agri-Clinics and Agri-Business Centres in 2002 in coordination with NABARD and National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE), Hyderabad, to train Agriculture professionals and to provide financial assistance from banks.

Haritam Horti Agri-Clinic is one such Agri-Clinic established in Vijayawada city by Mr. R. Suresh Kumar in 2003. The clinic provides technical support to farmers of Krishna, Guntur and West Godavari districts in soil and water testing and agronomical practices besides promoting bio-pesticides at

a reasonable price. Mr. Suresh Kumar has also developed a technology of aerobic fermentation of poultry litter with a selective microbial culture. The poultry compost produced by Haritam Horti Clinic, when tried on all crops, was found to be giving better results than other compost in use.

"Through constant use of poultry compost for two years in paddy, the NPK chemical fertilizers can be stopped from the 3rd season. The yield is on par with the NPK-used field with a comparatively low pest incidence. The quality of the produce is also good" says a farmer Y.S.S. Mukharjee. "The whole compost process takes 25 to 30 days. Recognizing the use of this technology, NABARD granted funds to establish a microbial lab for production of compost culture under Rural Innovation Fund Scheme, and Commercial Production began in 2012" said Mr. Suresh Kumar.

Many agriculturists and poultry farmers using compost culture are now producing their own compost at a cost of about Rs. 1,500/- per ton. "A kilogram of compost culture requires a ton of poultry litter. The poultry compost application has also reduced the use of chemical fertilizers by more than 25%," he observes. "The microbial culture, when tried in poultry litter, has effectively reduced one of the major problems of bad odour of litter in layer bird sheds." Says Ramesh Babu, a poultry consultant. A number of poultry farmers are using it in their poultry sheds in Krishna and West Godavari districts.

(Source- The Hindu, Date- 07/08/2013)

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National Institute of Agriculture Extension Management



Department of Agriculture and Co-operation, Ministry of Agriculture.



National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development

Agripreneur Shri K. Parmeshwaram brings tears of joy for Oddanchatram Onion Growers

“During my service tenure, I witnessed fake inputs constantly being supplied through the greedy private companies and seed dealers. I wanted to contribute my research experience by providing quality seed varieties in original and pure form to the farming community. I always wanted to be a researcher-cum-Agripreneur; but due to various family responsibilities, I had not been able to take the risk” says Agripreneur K. Parmeshwaram, a retired Agriculturist. In the year 2010, after taking voluntarily Retirement from National Horticultural Research and Development Foundation, Tamil Nadu, Shri P. Parmeshwaram has returned to his native place Oddanchatram in Dindigul district of Tamil Nadu and started research on Onion, Chilli and Drumstick crops.

Initially, he started his research for developing a new variety of Onion. He used to spend most of his time in the farm, planning to convert his field into a demonstration plot for all types of vegetables. Subsequently, he started giving suggestions on scientific cultivation of vegetables to his neighbouring farmers. The farmers found the new techniques resulting in better outcomes. Farmers started availing consultancy by paying some amount to Shri Parmeshwaram. Intending to bring professionalism in consultancy services, he realized that he was lacking in business skills and started searching alternate schools for acquiring such skills. He came across the advertisement for AC & ABC training by Voluntary Association of Peoples Services, (VAPS), Madurai, Tamil Nadu. He was inspired by the benefits of the scheme, attended the program and successfully completed it.

After completion of the training, he registered his small shop as a firm named **KR Agro Farm Consultancy Services**. He started conducting training on scientific cultivation of vegetable crops and continued his research too. “The small onion variety (Sambhar Onion) is famous in Tamil Nadu and the area which I have selected for Onion research is the main Onion growing area. The prices of small onion may bring tears to the consumers but the farmers, who are engaged in cultivation of the crop in the district, are making handsome profits as the price of Onion has always been high in the last three to five years.” Shri Parmeshwaram explained the reason behind the selection of Onion crop. The three year’s research efforts resulted in a new variety named **SRIKA-1** which is bi-seasonal and can produce yield up to 10 tons/acre.



“Onion Field Day” Celebrated in the field of S. Suresh, Palladum, attended by officials of Horticulture Department Tamil Nadu.



Shri S. Suresh, S/o Subramanian is a resident of Kallakinaru Pudhur, Palladam-Via- Tiruppur district, Tamil Nadu. He has purchased the SRIKA-1 onion seeds from KR Agro Farm & Consultancy Services. In the Kharif season of 2013, he has sown the seeds under the scientific guidance of Shri. Parmeshwaram. He got record breaking yield i.e. 10,000 Kg/acre (10 ton/acre). Shri Suresh got a net profit of Rs. 5,00,000/- from one acre. He is praising the efforts and services provided by KR Agro Farm. RAJ TV, a local news Channel, interviewed the farmer and telecasted the success story throughout the state. The Tamil Monthly Bulletin **Pasumai Vikatan**, published exclusively for the farming community, also published the article on SRIKA-1 onion variety on 25.11.2013. The SRIKA-1 Onion variety is getting popular day by day in Tamil Nadu.

Major activities of the KR Agro Farm are:

- Seed Production and multiplication of Onion, Drumstick and Cluster bean
- Supply of Quality inputs such as Seeds, Fertilizers and Plant Protection Chemicals
- Consultancy on Crop Production Technology

The seed varieties and inputs supplied through KR Agro Farm are getting popular day by day. Pre-season meetings, field visits, field day are the keys for their success in having constant demand from farmers. More than 2500 farmers from 50 villages are regular customers of the firm. The annual turnover of the firm is Rs.10 million. Four skilled people are full time employees of the firm. To acquire more information on SRIKA-1 onion variety, Agripreneur K. Parmeshwaram can be contacted at KR Agro Farm, 36 C-1/3, Dindigul Main Road, Check Post, Oddanchatram-624619, Dindigul District, Tamil Nadu. Email Id: kragrofarm@rediffmail.com, Mobile No. : 09843907878.



“SRIKA-1” Onion Variety

Saraswathi Foundation for Rural Development and Training (SFRDT), Karur, Tamil Nadu
Bestowing excellence in the field of Agri-entrepreneurship Development

"We represent a true to type, result oriented, reputed and renowned non-profit oriented NGO promoted for a specific cause of Agriculture, Rural Development and Training. As a regular feature, we have been conducting various welfare programs to benefit the agrarian community" said, Chairman, SFRDT, Karur, Tamil Nadu. The Krishi Vigyan Kendra has been a flagship program of the NGO. The National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE), a Government of India Institution, has recognized the KVK as a Nodal Training Institute (NTI) to implement the AC&ABC Scheme. It provides Hands-on Experience, Laboratory Services & Internet Facility for training participants under Agri-Clinics and Agri-Business Centres Scheme.

Mission: To become a catalyst in facilitating emergence of competent Agripreneurs who can play a vital role in the development of Agriculture and allied sectors through entrepreneurship education, training and continuous support.

Vision: To be a Centre of Excellence in the field of Agri-entrepreneurship Development, Agri Clinics and Agri-Business sector.

Salient achievements of the NTI regarding AC & ABC activities:

The Nodal Training Institute has so far completed 3 batches of training, covering 86 candidates. One of the salient achievements of the NTI is that it has targeted the weaker sections of the society particularly the +2 vocational stream candidates (79%) who belong to the BPL category. The overall success rate of the NTI is 49%. The candidates have set up their units with their own resources. They are also in the process of finalizing their Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for submission to Commercial banks for availing loans.

Association with AC&ABC Scheme

The host institution, Saraswathi Foundation for Rural Development and Training, considers AC&ABC as one of its important programs and bestows full attention for the success of the scheme. The first batch of training was started during April 2013. The Nodal Officer, the staff of the NTI and the Consultant of the Trust Dr. R. M. Lakshmanan regularly participate in the AC&ABC Scheme workshops and actively interact with all the stakeholders and other NTIs for the successful implementation of the scheme. Technically qualified personnel are involved to provide individual attention to the candidates for identification of the project, preparation of the Detailed Project Report, bank linkage for facilitating speedy disbursal of the loan and continuous hand holding support to make the new venture successful. The training programs are being handled by the technical team of the KVK as well as from other neighbouring institutions and the candidates are oriented to the latest technological developments and successful Agri-enterprises through field visits.

Significant Activities of Saraswathi Foundation for Rural Development & Training for promotion of AC & ABC Scheme:

- Advertising for enrolment of Agriculture professionals under AC&ABC scheme through Local print media.
- Announcing AC&ABC scheme through All India Radio, Trichurapalli Station, reaching 24 districts of the Tamil Nadu
- Installing of AC&ABC stall at Job Fair, conducting through Agricultural Universities and enrolled candidates.
- Having regular meetings with Agricultural colleges, vocational Agricultural schools, Agricultural Diploma colleges and Alumni of the Agricultural universities for creating more awareness about AC&ABC scheme.
- Providing regular guidance in preparation of the Detailed Project Reports, and instructing Agripreneurs to attach NABARD circular copy of AC&ABC scheme for more clarification to the banks.
- Facilitating tie-up of Agripreneurs with ATMA officials for promotion of sponsored schemes in rural areas.
- Having regular meetings with AGM, NABARD and bankers of the districts for getting the pending loans sanctioned.

SFRDT can be contacted at: Saraswathi Foundation for Rural Development and Training,
 Field Unit: Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Pulutheri Village, R.T.Malai Post, Kulithalai TK.,
 Karur - 621 313. Tamil Nadu.

Email: sarasfound@gmail.com Call us: 097900 20666



Dr. J. Diraviam Nodal Officer

Protein Formulation from Bio-Waste

Driven by a passion to make a difference in his own small way, Agriculture professional Mr. R. Suresh Kumar's favourite pastime of tinkering with test tubes and bio-waste materials in his tiny lab at Haritham Horti & Agri Clinic in Vijayawada city led to a significant breakthrough in keratin extraction in his clinic. Mr. Kumar developed a technology for extraction of keratin protein from human hair and bird feathers, which could save the municipal authorities from problems of disposal of such waste that poses a huge environmental problem. He has now embarked on a mission to popularize this affordable technology. A protein formulation developed for farm sector using these two as a raw material has given striking results in improving plant metabolism and farm yield. The product has been in use since 2008 on all crops, and cultivators are happily repeating its use on their farms. "The foliar spray of this product on crops showed an increase in leaf size and thickness besides lending the leaf a glossy touch. There are a number of auxiliary buds resulting in additional side barnacles. Even the size of the flowers is comparatively large.



The presence of cystein amino acid, the main supplier of organic sulphur, has enhanced the quality of the produce," says Mr. V. Venkata Rao, former SBI Chief manager, Sathenapalli branch in Guntur district, who is into organic farming now. Mr. Suresh Kumar's find has been successfully tried on cotton, chillies and paddy crops. (Source – The Hindu – Date – 8/8/2013)

Mr. R. Suresh Kumar can be contacted on 9848257135 email: rsureshkumar@gmail.com

www.agriclinics.net is the portal providing information about Agri Clinics and Agri business Centres Scheme. The portal gives updates on Eligibility criteria, Training institutes, Training progress, Hand holding activities, Finance options, Subsidy to the prospective Agripreneurs. The website also provides information on details of established Agriventures, pending projects, relevant schemes etc., and other information useful for State governments, Agricultural Universities, Banks, Training Institutes and Agripreneurs.

For any query on Agri Clinics and Agri business Centres scheme - please mail to indianagripreneur@manage.gov.in



“Better Farming by Every Farmer”

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