

Empowering Tribal Farming community through
ICAR-Tribal Sub Plan Programme in Araku valley and Chinthapalli regions by way of
Organic Farming in Paddy, Rajma and Ginger – Realizing the vision of Prime Minister
of India

Tribal Farmers of Araku Valley and Chinthapalli in Andhra Pradesh are benefited from ICAR-Tribal Sub Plan Programme implemented by AICRP on Biological Control Scheme, ANGRAU. Front line demonstrations on Paddy, Rajma and Ginger were conducted using Organic farming techniques in 23 acres of Paddy, 40 acres of Rajma and 60 acres of Ginger area covering six villages, *i.e.*, Idulabailu, Asarada in Chinthapalli division; Bonduguda, Nandiguda, Kothavalasa and Gunjariguda in Araku Valley of Visakhapatnam district, Andhra Pradesh during kharif and rabi seasons, 2016-17 for improving the livelihood of tribal farmers. About 38 farmers of Nandiguda and Idulabailu successfully cultivated paddy and obtained good yields by adopting organic farming practices. The training was imparted on importance of organic farming through usage of bio-fertilizers, bio-pesticides in these crops and supplied inputs, *viz.*, high yielding paddy variety (MTU 1075, RNR 15048), Bio-pesticide (*Pseudomonas fluorescens*), Liquid Bio-fertilizers (*Azospirillum*, *Azotobacter* and *Phosphobacteria*) and Biocontrol agent - *Trichogramma chilonis* and *T. japonicum* as Trichocards and knapsack sprayers (one sprayer for a group of 5 farmers) for spraying bio-pesticides along with tarpalenes for harvesting and drying of farm produce. Further, seed bins for storage of seeds and Kurpi /sickles for harvesting will be supplied along with imparting training on the safe harvesting and seed storage methods as per the need expressed by the tribal farmers.

A field day and Rythu sadassu was organized at Korrai Kothavalasa village of Dumbriguda mandal of Araku valley on 14th December 2016. Dr. S. K. Jalali, Principal scientist (Entomology) and AICRP in-charge along with Dr. B. Ramanujam, Principal scientist (Pathology) from ICAR- NBAIR, Bangalore visited the TSP operating areas on 14th December 2016 and interacted with the tribal farmers about the Paddy, Rajma and Ginger organic farming frontline demonstrations. They visited the organic demonstration fields of tribal farmers of Gunjariguda, Bonduguda, Nandiguda and Kothavalasa villages and expressed their happiness over the enthusiastic adoption of organic cultivation practices by the tribal farmers by way of adopting bio fertilizers and pest control practices. Dr. Jalali motivated the farmers for further spread of the organic farming for reaping higher yields for better livelihoods of the tribal farming community. He assured the extension of fullest support to the tribal farmers by way of TSP form NBAIR and ANGRAU. Dr. Ramanujam congratulated the tribal farmers for effective utilization of support from ICAR-TSP and educated the farmers the benefits of adoption of organic pest control practices by way of Trichocards towards reaping richer yields in these crops.

The Tribal women farmers expressed their valuable feedback on the usefulness of organic practices adoption and expressed happiness over the use of bio-fertilizers and Tricho cards application. The farmers observed good tillering and more productive tillers (10-12 tillers/hill) without zinc deficiency symptoms in organic farming blocks compared to the check plots having poor tillering, severe zinc deficiency under traditional practices without using any fertilizers (5-6 tillers/hill). Further, they observed nil incidence of stem borer by way of dead hearts and white ears and also minimized leaf folder damage under organic farming blocks compared to traditional practices having damage by both these pests. Organic farming FLD farmers recorded higher yields (4500 kg/ ha) compared to traditional tribal farmers (2300 kg / ha) without any fertilizer application and plant protection measures.

Mr. Apparao, a tribal youth from Nandiguda village said that paddy cultivation became profitable with the assistance of AICRP on Biological control, ANGRAU technologies by way of employing organic production inputs such as bio fertilizers and plant protection measures like Trichocards. He also said that they were benefited through the regular field visits and interaction with the scientists.

Mrs. Seedari Sonai, tribal women farmer from Kothavalasa expressed that after using yellow cards (Trichocards) in paddy 4 times by clipping to paddy leaves they didn't observed any dead hearts, white ears and leaf damage and happy to use trichocards for pest control as it is easy technique compared to severe incidence of dead hearts and white ears and leaf folding symptoms in traditional rice cultivation.

Mrs. Killo Bhimala, tribal women farmer from Kothavalasa said that application of bio-fertilizers in paddy gave good tillering without zinc deficiency symptoms and healthy vigorous crop thus they got higher paddy yields over traditional paddy cultivation.

Mr. B. Krishna, tribal farmer from Gunjariguda village thanked ICAR-TSP for providing the necessary inputs for their cultivational usage and expressed happiness in showing the healthy paddy crop with the application of bio-fertilizers and interested to adopt the technology in his total cropped area for achieving higher yields.

Towards the end of the programme inputs like liquid bio-fertilizers, Knapsack sprayers and tarapalene sheets were distributed to the tribal farmers adopting organic farming in Paddy, Rajma and Ginger in the operational villages through the dignitaries of the programme. Dr. M. Visalakshi, Senior Scientist (Entomology) and AICRP-PI, RARS, Anakapalli carried over the Rythu sadassu along with Dr. K. Mosha, Coordinator, DAATTC, Visakhapatnam, Dr. M. Suresh, Scientist (Pathology) and Dr. P.B. Pradeep Kumar, SMS (extension) participated in the programme.

