

Group Farming Revived Rice Cultivation



In Kollam, rice area and production was 10187 ha and 22421t in 2003-04, 8949 ha and 20646t in 2004-05, 7281 ha and 16063t in 2005-06 and 5497 ha and 12580t in 2006-07, respectively, that shows drastic decline of 46 % in area and 44 % in production. It was one side and other was existing social milieu of the district, where non availability of labour aggravated by the advent of cashew factories and their attractive pay offers. At this juncture, KVK Kollam formulated Comprehensive Rice Production Package (CRISP) and implemented in Panthaplavu, Pattazhi with a total fund outlay of Rs 1.88 lakh in 2007-08. Later it was extended to four other panchayaths of Kollam in 2008-09 and nine blocks of the district in 2009-10 with the financial outlay of Rs 2.8 lakh and Rs 3.78 lakh, respectively.

Under the technical guidance of KVK, group approach of rice cultivation was taken up in Pattazhi Panchayat of Pathanapuram block by 31 farmers in an area of 6.26 ha in *rabi* season of 2007-08 and subsequently it was increased by 71 farmers of Kareepra panchayat in Kottarakara block in 15 ha, 17 farmers of Edamulackal panchayat in Anchal block in 5 ha, 11 farmers of Perayam panchayat in Chittumala block in 3 ha, 31 farmers of Pattazhi panchayat in Pathanapuram block in 7 ha in *rabi* season of 2008-09, 16 farmers of Elampallur panchayat in Mukhathala block in 5 ha, 18 farmers of Thirikaruva panchayat in Anchalamoodu block in 5 ha, 24 farmers of Cheriyaavellinallur panchayat in Chadayamangalam block in 5 ha, 55 farmers of Kareepra Panchayat in Kottarakara block in 10 ha in *kharif* season of 2009-10, 15 farmers of Edamulackal panchayat in Anchal block in 5 ha, 20 farmers of Veliyam Panchayat in Kottarakara block in 8 ha, 5 farmers of Paripally Panchayat in Ithikara block in 3 ha, 23 farmers of Pattazhi panchayat in Pathanapuram block in 5 ha in *rabi* season of 2009-10, and 43



Salient Features

- Capacity building of farmers in group management and scientific cultivation practices
- Raised rice nursery on community basis
- Purchased plant protection chemicals in a lot for entire area
- Reduced cost of cultivation by 30% by synchronized planting and farm operations
- Proved the possibility of group farming and participatory resource management for increasing productivity of rice that revived rice cultivation

farmers of Kadapuzha panchayat in Sasthancotta block in 12.5 ha in Summer season of 2009-10. Grain yield of rice increased from 3.0 t/ha in 2007-08 followed by 4.1 t/ha in 2008-09 and 4.8 t/ha in 2009-10. Key elements for successful increase of grain yield were community, resources, integration, sustainability and profitability. Community based management of resources such as inputs, labor, farm machinery etc as well as implementation of sowing, transplanting, intercultural operations, plant protection measures, harvesting and marketing were effectively and successfully carried out by the groups.

It was successfully disproved the notion that rice cultivation is non profitable. Timely input supply, technical interventions, regular field visits and confidence instilled in the farmers convinced them that rice could be re-introduced in the same glory as that of a decade before in the abandoned paddy lands.

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