

## Indigenous pest control

Ramareddy explains two successful indigenous practices.

1. **Pesticide:** Grind 1 kg each of Ginger, Garlic and Chilli and mix it with 5lt of cow's urine to make it a paste. Keep it for 2 days. Later mix 5ml of this paste in 1lt of water and spray to efficiently control pests.
2. **Disease management:** Mix 1lt of water with 200ml of pseudomonas suspension and 500gm of glucose. Keep it aside for 1 day. The next day mix it with 2lt of cows milk and 200lt of water and spray it for effective disease management.

Neither TamilNadu Agricultural University nor Dept of Agriculture is the reasons for the success of precision farming. The real heroes are the farmers. Let us meet a few of them.

According to Reddy- Maximum yield, minimal toxins, maximum profit is the thumb rule for precision farming. A minimal toxin doesn't mean that this is an organic agriculture practices. The number and doze of chemicals is lesser than the conventional farming. Hence, the products of precision farming are less toxic when coming to the market

Precision farming differs in its land preparation by deep ploughing. Soil is supplied with organic manure and biofertilizers. Raised bed is prepared for crop growth. the benefits are that the root penetrates deep into the soil hence the plants become sturdy. Another important aspect is the drip irrigation and fertigation. This reduces the use of water besides reducing the growth of weeds.

Earlier Ramareddy had to engage 60 labourers for weed management, presently he needs less than 10 labourers. The profit out of this amounts to Rs.6000/- earlier watering required 3men labourers, now it involves only changing the valves to the required side. Earlier irrigation required 1 full day of motor use, now it is reduced to 8 hours at the maximum. Previously, all the farmers including Ramareddy searched for markets after producing the crop, nowadays they decide the market before producing the crop. As a result of which they have stopped tomato cultivation during the month of November and December because at the time of its harvest (i.e) March and April, the price of tomato is the least in the markets.

The intense use of pesticides and fertilizers have also been reduced to judicious mix of organic manure, biofertilizers and water soluble fertilizers. The same is the case in pesticides. Earlier in Cabbage, pesticides were sprayed once in 5 days. Now only 4 sprays are done in total. The American boll worm which was a serious pest in tomato is now no more visible. Less moisture, clean cultivation, required pesticide application and biopesticides have reduced the use of pesticide thereby creating more profit. At any time, if any doubts arise the farmers are calling upon Dr. E.Vadivel in his mobile number. He is available at any time of the day.

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