

KNOWLEDGE DISSEMINATION BY A MASTER FARMER

Yalavatti is a small village in Shirahatti taluk located 26 km from KVK. Farmers practice rainfed agriculture crops viz., greengram, groundnut, chilli, rabijowar. Moisture stress is the major hindrance for successful crop production. During 2010, KVK selected Mr. Shivayya Matapathi of Hundeshwar Farmer Club with an objective of developing him as a Master Farmer. Mr. Matapathi was trained by KVK in the area of soil and water conservation, rainwater harvesting, vermicompost production and ICM practices in greengram, rabijowar and groundnut. He discussed with KVK experts on rainwater harvesting through construction of farm pond and production and use of Vermicompost for sustainable production of crops. With the financial support from Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank, Yalavatti and technical guidance of KVK, Mr. Matapathi constructed a farm pond in his 4 acre farm. The harvested rainwater is utilized for raising chilli seedlings and for life saving irrigation for crops. He has also established vermicompost production unit with the annual production capacity of 20 tons. During 2011 Kharif seasons Mr. Matapathi cultivated greengram and groundnut in his 4 acre farm and harvested net income of Rs. 35000. During rabi season, he cultivated Rabijowar and harvested 28 quintals from 4 acres. He adopted all the sustainable production technologies advocated by KVK. He says that he was able to increase 25 per cent yield in Groundnut, 33 per cent in rabi jowar and 30 percent in greengram. He disseminated the technologies to his club members and other farmers. Under his guidance, 7 vermicompost pits and 11 farm ponds were constructed by the farmers of his club.