

## **ADOPTION OF INTEGRATED HORTICULTURE**

Lakkundi is a historical place and abode of temples located 10 kms from Gadag district headquarters. The place is also known for cultivation of Jasmine and Chrysanthemum flowers. Mr. Mallappa Shivappa Halli, aged 48 is one of the farmer of Lakkundi village who has been practicing organic farming in Horticultural crops in his 6 acre farm. For the past 12 years, he has adopted diversified horticulture production system under organic farming under the guidance of KVK experts. When we enter his 6 acre farm, we get variety of crops like Coconut, Jambu, Amla, Sampige, Teak, Custard, Apple, Sapota, Guava, Banana, Drumstic, Vegetables and Flowers.

In 4 acres, he has grown sapota (PKM-1, Cricket Ball, Kalipatti varieties) and raised guava (Maharaja, H-10) as inter crops. Since 10 years, he is getting sustained income from this cropping system. In this system, he has also raised tissue culture banana (G-9), drumstick (PKM-1) seasonal crops like greenchilli, watermelon, brinjal, bitterguard, rose, marigold are also cultivated as inter crops.

In another block of one acre, guava plants are cultivated with Jasmine as intercrop. Coconut, tamarind, teak, neem trees are planted in the border. He has adopted drip system of irrigation and depends on organic source for supply of nutrients to the plants. He has established vermicompost unit under the shade of trees with the capacity of 50 tons per year. Technology adopted by him under the guidance of KVK are beekeeping unit, use of bio-fertilizers, bio-digester, enrichment of vermicompost, preparation of neem based pesticides and plant based extract for management of pest and disease and mulching. Every year Mr. Mallappa earns net profit of Rs. 3.00-3.50 lakh from his farm.

The farmer has innovated improved method of nipping in Chrysanthemum for which he was given appreciation letter by ICAR, New Delhi during National Innovators Meet held at KVK, Mysore in 2010. He was also awarded Dr. M.H. Marligouda "Best Horticulture Farmer" instituted by University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore for the year 2010. KVK take its trainers to his farm for exposure on integrated horticulture.