

IFS APPROACH TRIPLED THE INCOME OF A SMALL FARMER

Shirunja is a small village in Gadag block located 22 kms from KVK. The village was adopted by KVK during 2013-14. Majority of the farm families belongs to small farmers' categories. Shri. Kotrappa Kappattanavar, aged 58 years is one of the small farmer participated in KVK's Front Line Demonstration programme on Integrated Farming System. The farmer owns 5 acres of land having red sandy loam soil type. He used to cultivate only field crops viz., maize and Bt. Cotton with limited irrigation through borewell. Income from field crops was not remunerative to the farmer due to high cost of cultivation and fluctuating, market prices. He used to get an income of Rs.70,000 to 80,000 from 5 acre land and dairy enterprise. KVK studied the resources of the farmer and introduced Integrated Farming System in his farm during 2013-14. Based on the resources available with the farmer, KVK introduced mango (25 no.), cashewnut (20 no.), coconut (20 no.), Grasses (Hybrid Napier, Rhodes, Guinea), azolla unit, and poultry birds (10 no.). Along with these components, KVK introduced vegetable cultivation as an intercrop in mango and cashewnut. These components were established very well in his farm under KVK guidance.

During 2013-14 Mr. Kotrappa earned an income of Rs. 1.50 lakh from vegetable cultivation (Tomato and Coriander), field crops of Maize & Bt.cotton, Poultry and Dairy enterprises. This has motivated the farmer to take up some more IFS components. During 2014-15, KVK introduced vermicompost under FLD programme and sericulture enterprise with the support of a scheme of Sericulture Department of Government of Karnataka. Under the scheme, the farmer planted 2 acres of V-1 variety of mulberry and constructed a rearing shed. During the same year, the farmer produced 10 tonnes of Vermicompost and used it for his farm and thus, he reduced the cost incurred on purchase of chemical fertilizers. He also harvested 2 crops of cocoons @ 50kg and 60kg, earning an income of Rs.30,000. He also started selling fodder slips to other farmers. His income from dairy unit of 2 cows also increased due to feeding of green fodder and azolla.

His total income during 2014-15 from sericulture enterprise unit, dairy, vegetable cultivation (coriander, cucumber ridgegourd, brinjal, tomato) and field crops was Rs. 2.00 lakhs. In the subsequent years of 2015-16 and 2016-17 the farmer's income was significantly increased from sericulture enterprise as 5-6 crops were harvested in a year. His income from vegetables cultivation, viz., coriander, cucumber and ridgegourd was also enhanced with the advisory support from KVK scientists. During 2015-16, the farmer's total income from various earning components was Rs. 2.50 lakhs. Shri. Kotrappa attribute the success to adoption of various IFS components under the guidance of KVK. He says that his income would to be further increased in the coming years once the mango, cashewnut and coconut plantations start bearing. His farm has become a model in the village as many farmers visit his farm asking for advice for adoption of IFS components. He says that integration of various resources of Integrated Farming System coupled with efficient utilization of human resources in the form of family labour is the key factor for his successful farming. Further he says that, continuous technical support from KVK helped him to triple the income from his five acres land.