PROFESSIONAL ADVICE FETCHED MANGO FARMER

- M.Bhaskaraiah

CFA - Fruits Trainee &

Asst. Director of Agriculture

Farmers Training Center, Chittoor

Andhra Pradesh.

Kotalam Village in Yadamari Mandal of Chittor District (A.P) is a village well known for Mango cultivation where about 180 farmers grow Mangoes in an area of 1500 Acres. Sri P.Doraswami (71 Years, Mob:94947 49429) a farmer in the village owns 5 .5 Acres of a 20 years old Mango garden which grows 240 Bangalora, 100 Neelum and about 40 other Mango plants. The farmer met the author (ADA, FTC, Chittoor & CFA-Fruits Trainee, during 1st week of December, 2017) for guidance on plant protection measures to be taken in his mango garden during the flowering period. After inspecting the garden, the Certified Farm Advisor Trainee suggested him the following spray schedule.

(1) Spray of Acephate@1.5 g/L + Azaridractin@ 5ml. /L during 2nd fortnight of December, prior to flowering to control Mango hoppers in the initial stage.

(2) Spray of Imidacloprid@0.4ml/ L +Wettable sulphur@ 3 g/L at the time of flower bud initiation to effectively control Mango hoppers and powdery mildew.

(3) Spary of Fipronil @2 ml./L + Saap @2g/L + Planofix @1ml. / 4.5 L of water to control hoppers, thrips, powdery mildew, anthracnose and fruit drop.

The farmer scrupulously followed the schedule and came back to CFA trainee during last week of February, 2018 with a positive feedback that about 60% of his garden came to flowering during first week of February and about 30 % during third week of February and fruit set was good and pest free. On his field visit during last week of March, 2018, fruit drop was observed. The probable reasons, which the CFA found, were incidence of fruit borer, micro nutrient deficiencies and deficit moisture in the garden. To control the problems, the farmer was suggested to spray Formula - 4 (Micronutrient Mixture) @ 5 g/L, Phosphomidon @ 2ml. / LMixed with Nuvan @ 0.5 ml. /L, followed by two irrigations @ 15 days interval.

The farmer acted immediately and sprayed the said nutrients and chemicals. Since, he did not have sufficient water to do two irrigations for the entire garden, he irrigated half of the garden through tractor drawn water tanks by paying Rs. 400/ tank. In the last week of June, 2018 the farmer said that with all the suggestions of CFA trainee he got a yield of 75-80% compared to a 40-50% yield of the other farmers in the village. The final crop yield reported by

him are @ 21 tonnes in Bangalora, 10 tonnes in Neelam and 2.5 tonnes in other varieties. The total yield of 33.5 tonnes of mangoes was accomplished by him by adopting the above practices, which accounts to an average of 6 tonnes per acre.The other farmers in the village were only able to procure a yield of 3 to 4 tonnes per acre .

. When the CFA trainee probed for the reasons for the higher yields than his fellow farmers in the village, the farmer said that

- First pre flowering plant protection spray helped him in minimizing the pest incidence in the crop to a greater extent (Costing Rs.10, 000/-). This practice was not adopted by others.

- Timely micro nutrients and pesticide spray after fruit set (costing Rs.16, 000/-) helped him in effectively controlling fruit drop.

- Irrigating twice even with limited water sources through water tanks (costing Rs. 6,500/-) helped not only in controlling fruit drop but also in getting higher quality fruits with higher weights.

Even though he additionally invested Rs. 32,500/- (roughly Rs. 6,000/- per acre) than the other farmers in the village, on an average he got about 2.5 tonnes extra yield over the other farmers in the village.

Thus, the case clearly indicates that getting timely professional advice and implementation of recommendations are equally important in getting good results.