

## **Success story of Kurmaiah, Organic farmer of Chowdarpalli, Mahabubnagar(Rural) Mandal, Mahabubnagar Dist, Telangana**

### **Mr. Krupakar Reddy, Agriculture Officer, Mehabubha Nagar**

Kurmaiah, is a marginal farmer from a remote village of Chowdarpalli of Midjil mandal of Mahabubnagar district. He owns only 2.08 acres of agricultural land.

Basically a poor farmer, Kurmaiah has shown interest in organic practices of agriculture recently. Though his fellow farmers are not interested in organic farming and having less technical expertise but he is so enthusiastic to move ahead in organic agriculture.

Knowing organic practices through Farmer training Centre, Mahabubnagar where Mr. Krupakar Reddy CFA trainee, working, the farmer started organic practices in his farm of 2.08 acres wherein he is growing vegetables such as Tomato, Brinjal, Chilli, Bitter gourd, Cluster bean, Drumstick, Curry leaf and also cultivating paddy under drip irrigation in small area as he is having very less water source. He has also taken up Redgram cultivation wherein he has produced quality seed of newly released varieties and sold to his fellow farmers.

He uses farm yard manure occasionally as it is a scarce resource to him. CFA trainee, Mr. Krupakar Reddy frequently visited his farm and advised him on organic practices in agriculture to avoid chemical residues in farm products. CFA trainee also advised him to use waste decomposer and refine preparation of organic extracts such as Jeevamrit keeping in view of highest beneficial bacterial count and time/method of use etc. Recently he is utilising waste decomposer on his farm waste and directly on soil/ crops as well. This practice has resulted in better decomposition of in-situ farm resources and making soil enriching with major as well as micro nutrients. With the intervention of CFA trainee Mr. Kumariah improved techniques in Organic Farming and his marketing strategy also improved to make profits out of his organic produce. He is also preparing and using organic extracts like bahupatra kashayam, neem extracts, *pulisina majjiga* (deeply fermented lassi) for plant nutrition as well as for plant protection purpose. Now he also prepares Hing extract and experimenting in disease control.

Since last few years, Mr. Kumariah is not applying any chemical fertilizers in his farm. Earth worm population in his farm soil has increased immensely that earthworms and their excreta are visible throughout his farm and field bunds making soil fertile.

Mr. Kumariah's family sustains on farm from harvest products of paddy, vegetables and pulses from his own farm. With the CFA trainee guidance he is also cultivating minor millets such as Korra and Andu Korralu from this year onwards. He also cultivated Quinova in a small extent and showcased new crop of this area in Agricultural Stall by farmer Training Center at Mahabubnagar dist on the occasion of republic day. He is marketing surplus vegetables like Tomato, Chilli, Brinjal, Bitter gourd at premium rates i.e. around 150% to that of market prices at nearby town i.e. Mahabubnagar. Using his moped, he himself delivers vegetables at doorstep of consumers at Mahabubnagar at frequent intervals. Now he had his own trusted customers for being getting delicious and healthy chemical residue free vegetables. Consumers themselves opining that quality and taste of these vegetables is

good and shelf life of vegetables being supplied by Kurmaiah is far more longer hence is economical too.

Aiming at integrated farming he started rearing desi fowls at his home which feeds on his farm/vegetable by-products and in turn gives additional income.