I) Inclusive coconut farming by Smt Aisha Bai, Cherthala

Technological Interventions
Coconut cultivation in 1 ha was integrated with short duration climate-smart intercrops such as tuber crops, ginger and turmeric in synergy with Tilapia fish-farming in about 15 cents. Twenty Kalpasankara coconut hybrids, tolerant to root (wilt) disease supplied by ICAR-CPCRI, Regional Station, Kayamkulam were introduced in the farm during 2017. She was empowered on farm level production of bio-inputs like *Trichoderma*—pith cake and *Trichoderma* enriched bio-suppressive compost with ideal organic substrate combinations.

Outcome
- Participatory farming using *Trichoderma* enriched bio-suppressive compost resulted in doubling of yield and 100% control of wilt disease in chillies. These plants could also withstand mild water logging as well.
- Scientific recycling of organic wastes of crops, poultry and cattle resulted in low external input usage, thereby enabling improved soil health and income enhancement.
- With an investment of Rs. 30,000/- in fishery component, the farmer could derive a profit of Rs. 1,20,000/- in a period of ten months.
- Right use of inputs in organic farming resulted in the reduction of pests and diseases and doubled farmer’s income.

Scientists associated: Dr. S. Kalavathi, Dr. Regi J. Thomas, Dr. Merin Babu Dr. K.M. Anes

II) Turning women farmers into entrepreneurs

Technological Interventions
Women farmers in Kandaloor were sensitized on the scope of entrepreneurship using value addition of Jack fruits. Mostly discarded in farms, this multi-vitamin rich organic fruit was converted into several mouth-smacking products with the help of SMS from KVK-Alappuzha for better utilization of the Jack fruit and generate profit from sale of these products at strategic points. In addition these farmers were empowered on the production of virgin coconut oil.

Outcome
- A farm waste commodity could turn as a livelihood provider; Untouched, halved and squash from Jack are hot cakes in the Panchayat.
- Good revenue could be derived and confidence level of women folks in the region boosted up.
- Farming has now turned them to become entrepreneurs and become more respectable in the society.
- Promotion of Jack as the state fruit added more value into the venture.

Scientists associated: Dr. Chandrika Mohan, Dr. K. Nihad, Dr. Dalyamol, Dr. A. Abdul Haris, Dr. Jeena Mathew

III) Amma thengu into Kera nanna programme in Bharanikavau

Technological Interventions
Selection of healthy mother palms by farmers in the locality with the help of ICAR-CPCRI scientists for decentralised coconut seedling production programme to cater the demand of good quality seedling. Farmers are motivated to involve themselves in community mode to select healthy mother palms, collect seed nuts and scientifically raise nursery.

Outcome
- Farmer-participatory community level decentralized coconut seedling production mission with the sole aim of producing disease-free, good quality seedlings for the benefit of the coconut farmers in the village.
- Around sixty disease free mother palms with a minimum yield of 100 nuts/tree/annum were identified for seed nut collection.
- Witnessing the great success of the programme, Bharanikavu Block panchayat has sanctioned a plan project with 9.00 lakh rupees christened as *Kera nanna* for sustaining seedling production campaign in three more villages viz., Bharanikkavu, Vallikkunnam and Chunnakara.

Scientists associated: Dr. P. Anithakumari, Dr. V. Krishnakumar, Dr. A. Joseph Rajkumar, Dr. M. Shareefa, Dr. S. Indhuja
Organic farming: Promising pathway towards sustainable growth of agriculture

Introduction

Organic farming has increasingly been recognized as a promising pathway towards sustainable growth of agriculture. It has been gaining momentum due to the growing consumer demand for organic products, which are perceived to be healthier and environmentally friendly. This approach involves the use of non-chemical methods of production, focusing on natural processes, crop rotations, and maintaining the health of the soil to ensure the long-term sustainability of agriculture.

Focus of the Study

The study focuses on understanding the challenges and opportunities associated with organic farming in the context of sustainable agriculture. It aims to explore the potential benefits of organic farming, including biodiversity conservation, reduced environmental impact, and improved soil health. The research will also investigate the socio-economic aspects, such as farmer livelihoods, market access, and consumer preferences.

Methodology

The methodology will include a combination of qualitative and quantitative research methods. This will involve field surveys, interviews, and focus group discussions with farmers, policymakers, and stakeholders. The data collected will be analyzed to identify key trends, challenges, and opportunities in organic farming.

Expected Outcomes

The study is expected to contribute to the development of policy guidelines and best practices for promoting organic farming. It will also help in building a robust evidence base for decision-makers and stakeholders to support sustainable agricultural practices.

Conclusion

In conclusion, organic farming offers a promising pathway towards sustainable growth of agriculture. By adopting this approach, we can address the challenges of climate change and ensure long-term food security. The study will provide valuable insights that can guide the development of strategies to promote organic farming and support smallholder farmers in their transition to sustainable agriculture.

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Published by: ICAR-CPCRI Regional Station Kayamkulam

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2019 July 16 Photo: E.R. Asokan