

Maize as alternate crop during Kuruvai season in Thiruvarur District

Name of the Farmer : Th. G.Sathyamoorthy

Address for communication with Pin code : S/o Govinthasamy
South Street,
Pathur Melkarai
Koradacherry

Contact Phone No : 9941094539

Details of Farm Holding/Water Resources : 3 hectares
One borewell & Canal water



Situation analysis/Problem statement

Paddy cultivation during Kuruvai season is mostly dependent on cauvery river water. But release of cauvery water is uncertain during kuruvai season *i.e.* June -August. Hence, cultivation of paddy in larger area with limited water source is impractical during kuruvai season. Most of the farmers kept fallow during kuruvai season due to paucity of water. To overcome this situation, less water consuming crop maize was introduced as an alternate crop in Thiruvarur District. Paddy is the sole crop cultivated throughout Thiruvarur District, which consumes more water leads to less area under paddy during kuruvai season which ultimately affect the livelihood of the farmers as majority of farmers unable to cultivate paddy and those having bor ewell only used to cultivate paddy during kuruvai season that too less area.

Plan, Implement and Support:

During kuruvai season (June-July) he used to cultivate short duration paddy varieties. In recent past the water availability in Cauvery delta is not sure for the timely cultivation of paddy crop during Kuruvai season. KVK provided maize

hybrid seeds to the farmers and regularly monitored his field and provided necessary technical support as and when required. He cultivated Maize as an alternate crop for kuruvai season during the year 2016-17 in 3 acres. The water used for maize cultivation was very less and more area was covered with less available water. In addition pest and disease incidence was very less, hence expenses towards plant protection measures was very limited. Moreover, as this crop maize is new to this area we even arranged marketing of maize grains.

It was widely covered and published in Newspapers like Dinamani, Dinamalar, Thinathanthi, Dinakaran and The Hindu (Tamil), All India Radio, Karaikkal. Technical support and publicity was given in KVK Thiruvarur WhatsApp group of KVK farmers and Sent SMS through Kisan portal.

Output:

He obtained a yield of 45.5q/ha and got a gross income of Rs.56,875/ha and Rs.40125/ha as a net profit with B:C ration of 1:3.4.

Outcome:

Maize is the best alternate crop for kuruvai season in CDZ wherever water logging is not a problem. When water release in Mettur dam delayed during kuruvai season, maize can be grown in larger area with limited water from bore well compared to paddy crop. He is now more confident in cultivating maize crop during kuruvai season.

Impact:

Success of maize cultivation in CDZ was recorded and broadcasted in All India Radio, Karaikkal. Many farmers from his village now eager to cultivate maize after seeing his success in maize cultivation not only with high returns but also less water consumption and comparatively less infestation of pest and diseases.