

From Seed to Surplus: How Front-Line Demos Boosted Paddy Productivity

Mr. Raghupathi hails from Ootla village in Jinnaram mandal of Sangareddy district. He owns a small plot of land and engages in agricultural practices from his very young age. He mainly cultivates Paddy as his primary crop. Front line demonstration on Paddy was done following Lean farming technologies. One acre of land was selected as control plot and demo plot each. Paddy variety Super Aman was cultivated in both the plots.

The implementation of the Front-Line Demonstration (FLD) has instilled in him a great deal of confidence in cultivating crops efficiently. In the past, there was a lack of awareness regarding soil health, resulting in excessive water usage, as well as the indiscriminate use of fertilizers and pesticides. The conventional methods employed by him and his fellow farmers led to significant seedling wastage.

The Demo farmers practiced Lean farm technologies in the demonstration plot, while adhering to the conventional method in the control plot. Prior to engaging in the FLD, soil testing was conducted, and the inputs were utilized according to the recommendations provided in the soil health card. A comparison between the demonstration and control plots revealed differences in terms of grain yield, no. of tillers, and leaf growth. To address pest control, simple techniques such as Solar light traps, pheromone traps, bird perches, and sticky traps were employed in the field, resulting in effective pest management within the cultivated areas. He was given knowledge on minimising the no. of seedlings required, inputs, etc. and increasing the growth of root and tillers. He also noticed that there is higher panicle weight, less water consumption and reduced pest and disease attacks in the demo plot.



Due to the use of Lean farming practices in the demo field, an increase in yield was observed from 2320 kgs to 2680 kgs without compromising the quality of the crop. Consequently, a net profit increase of 25% was witnessed. Consequently, He recommended that these practices be adopted and followed by other fellow farmers to enhance their productivity and profitability. With the funding support from Asian Paints Ltd and expertise guidance from National Agro Foundation, he has now become a leading farmer in teaching lean farming techniques to other farmers and replicating the same in their fields.