

Maximizing Benefits through Integrated Farming Systems – A successful on farm venture of Mr.Periyasamy, Melpennathur Village

Farm pond is a water harvesting structure which helps to collect and store rainwater which is mainly used for irrigation. In addition to harvesting rainwater and helping with irrigating the farms, it also helps with augmenting additional income sources from pisciculture, bund plantation, etc., thereby providing multiple income streams for the farmers while providing value to the farms as well.

Mr. Periyasamy is a progressive farmer who is dependent on agriculture for his income. His major income is from the cultivation of Paddy. He usually opts for one or two cropping cycles in a year based on the availability of water. However, with the fluctuation in climatic variations and monsoons, he has been facing much difficulty to sustain his farms

A farm pond with water holding capacity of 3,63,600 litres was excavated under the Melpennathur Watershed Development Project in the month of October 2021, which was later converted into a fish pond as well to increase his income.

He started growing 3000 fishlings of fresh water pomfret and 2000 fishlings of Kannadi Kendai varieties of fish in his first attempt. After a period of five months, the fish weighs approximately 600 grams to 800 grams, the first harvest is expected in the month of August 2022. He is expecting to harvest a minimum of 3000 Kilograms of fish which will fetch him an income of at least INR. 2,20,000. The expenditure incurred for fish farming is very low and he used only locally available feed like tapioca leaves, maize dust, rice husk, etc. He spent INR 10,200 for purchasing fishlings and INR 1,000 for the labour cost of the plantation of tapioca on the bund of the pond. He is very happy with the success from his farm pond and is planning to continue fish farming to augment his income from multiple streams. He is very grateful to National Agro Foundation for providing him the opportunity to explore integrated farming system, thereby enhancing his production and income.

