

My Journey of Transformation

Greetings! My name is Jagadeeswaran, and I am from Bogampatti. On my land (survey no. 57), I cultivated the Saaho (TO-3251) variety of tomato. Before receiving any support, I relied on traditional farming methods. There was no soil testing or summer ploughing, and I used local varieties for planting. Land preparation followed outdated practices with a spacing of 60 x 35 cm. Nutrient application was inconsistent, no organic inputs were incorporated, and water management followed conventional methods. I applied pesticides only twice during the crop cycle, and there was no proper post-harvest management. As a result, my yield was limited to 4-5 pickings, and I sold tomatoes at ₹28 per kilogram.

I attended a Village Development Committee (VDC) meeting organized by the National Agro Foundation (NAF) sponsored by L&T in Bogampatti, where I learned about advanced LEAN farming techniques. Inspired by the information shared, I decided to implement these practices on 20 cents of my land under the guidance and support of NAF.

With their assistance, I conducted soil testing with crop-specific recommendations, practiced summer ploughing, and planted location-specific drought-resistant and pest-resistant varieties. I adopted the broad bed and furrow method for land preparation and used a spacing of 75 x 75 cm. Fertilizer application was based on soil test results, and I incorporated organic solutions such as Panchakavya, 3G solution, and buttermilk solution. Drip irrigation and weather-based irrigation practices improved water management. For pest control, I used light traps, bird perches, sticky traps, pest repellents, and ETL-based chemical pesticides. Additionally, I implemented grading and sorting methods for better post-harvest management.

These advanced practices increased my yield to 7 pickings, and I was able to sell tomatoes at ₹33 per kilogram. The improvements significantly boosted my profits, and I am sincerely grateful to Larsen & Toubro (L&T) and the National Agro Foundation for their remarkable initiatives, which have transformed my farming practices and livelihood.

