

" Sakthivel's Journey to Prosperity: Transforming Chilli Farming"

My name is Sakthivel, and I am from Bogampatti. On my land (survey no. 12), I cultivated the Ranga variety of chilli. Earlier, I was unaware of scientific agriculture practices and used heavy pesticides, leading to degradation of the soil. Poor water management also caused distress and losses to me. As a result, the yield was limited to 6-7 pickings, and I sold chilli at ₹25 per kilogram.

A friend who had benefited from National Agro Foundation's (NAF) technology encouraged me to attend a Village Development Committee (VDC) meeting organized by NAF and sponsored by L&T in Bogampatti. During the meeting, I gained insights into advanced farming techniques and subsequently decided to implement them on 0.2 acres (20 cents) of my land, with guidance and support from NAF.

With their support, I conducted comprehensive soil testing with crop-specific recommendations, practiced summer ploughing, and planted location-specific drought-tolerant varieties. I adopted the broad bed and furrow method for land preparation and used a 75 x 60 cm spacing for planting. Organic applications like Panchakavya were introduced, and I implemented drip irrigation along with weather-based irrigation. For pest control, I used proactive measures such as light traps, bird perches, sticky traps, trap crops, and ETL-based chemical pesticides. Post-harvest, I followed grading and sorting methods. These practices increased my yield to 9 pickings, and I sold chilli at ₹30 per kilogram.

Thanks to these improvements, I achieved significant profits. I am deeply grateful to L&T and the National Agro Foundation for their outstanding initiatives that have transformed my farming practices.

