



Agro-ecological family farm for sustainable livelihood

Arul Samy, Kadavakurichi Watershed, Semmedu village



Arul Samy is a local farmer living in the village Semmedu, located in the Kadavakurichi watershed, along with his wife Arockiyammal, his daughter A. Lethiciya and his grandchild A. S. Satiyarosy. The family has been cultivating organically at their farm since they started farming in 2012. The reason for them going directly to organic farming practices was because Arul Samy's other daughter, who does not live at the farm at the moment, recently finished her agriculture studies at university. She advocated organic cultivation and inspired the family to cultivate in this way.



Arabian Jasmine flower.



From left to right: Arockiyammal (wife), A. Lethiciya (daughter), Arul Samy, Mathalai (wifes mother).

At their 1,5 acre farm they are growing three different varieties of jasmine flower. Pink jasmine, Arabian jasmine and original jasmine.

They are also growing Sorghum millet and Cow pea, a type of pulses. Besides from these grains and flowers the family also has a kitchen garden in which they are growing tomatoes, guava, lemon, custard apple, vegetables etc. They sell the flowers at the local market in Nilakottai and, depending on the yield, also some of the pulses (if the yield of pulses exceeds 5kg). The millets they keep for their own consumption.



Cow pea, a type of pulses that the family cultivate at their farm.

The family also has some animals in their farm. Two cows, two goats, thirty hens and two dogs.

One acre of the farm is supplied with a drip irrigation system. The water comes from a bore well and the structure stores this water which is then distributed out over the farmland through the system.



Drip irrigation system.

With financial aid from the government of Tamil Nadu, distributed through the agricultural department, the family has been able to construct two vermi composts. In these structures they make organic manure. This procedure has functioned well since they started with it.



Arockiyammal standing by the vermi compost.

CIRHEP made contact with Arul Samy in 2019 and gave him and his family some advice as well as training in how to use their vermi compost in the best way and maintain quality of the manure, prepared in it. CIRHEP also provided the family with worms (1kg), drums (for making organic bio inputs), vegetable-seeds (for their kitchen garden) and gave them practice in how to prepare self made organic bio inputs such as five leave solution, panchakaviyal and thoulir solution. Finally CIRHEP has informed and educated the family further about the importance of organic farming in the aspect of climate change, which has led to an increased awareness about climate adaptation and agriculture resilience. Since CIRHEP took contact and helped Arul Samy and his family with their farming practices their yield as well as the size of their flowers has increased.

Success

- Increased yield
- Increased size of jasmine flowers
- Knowledge & competence of how to make organic bio inputs
- Knowledge of how to most effectively use their vermi compost.
- Awareness about climate adaptation
- Increased livelihood
- Lower expenses since they are making their own manure and pesticides.

Prepared by Edvin & Emma, Future Earth-interns of Cirhep, 2019-2020