

A Sustainable Family Farm

- In Kombaipatti Watershed

Priyasami owns two and a half acre of land in the Kombaipatti watershed. He is now conducting his fourth year as a organic farmer after the transition from chemical farming in the year 2016. At his farm he mostly grows pomegranate, guava, bitter lemon as well as some flowers. In the year of 2006 a field bund was constructed on the farmers land as a part of the watershed work aiming to raise the ground water level. Since two years back the farmer has also constructed a bore well. Previously he was only using a open well. This is the reason why he now can grow crops such as pomegranate with great success.



Priyasami with his wife and two grandchildren



Pomegranates grown in the farm

One of the problems that Priyasami is facing is a pest affecting his pomegranates. The shell of the pomegranate is getting discolored. Even though the discolorations has no impact on the actual fruit inside it forces him to sell the fruits at a lower price. CIRHEP has given different advice on treatment, such as ginger-garlic-solution, for the plants but so far nothing has helped. Together the organisation and the farmer is still working for a solution to the problem. Pomegranate is despite that the farmers main source of income, as seen in table 1, and he is able to sell the fruit all year round. He sells the produce at nearby markets in Batlagundu and Dindigul.

Only one year back, in 2017, Priyasami were given seedlings from CIRHEP. He received 200 guava seedlings and 100 bitter lemon seedlings. The Guava plants already produced fruit during the first year and with time the yield will increase.

After the success the farmer asked CIRHEP for even more seedings but instead of providing more seedlings the organisationen decided to send Priyasami to training. He was trained by KVK at Ghandigram university to graft his own seedlings. Today he uses the grafted seedling on his own land but in the future he might sell the home grafted seedlings and earn an extra income.



Grafting of a plant

Table 1: The farmers yearly income from fruits grown at the farm

Crop name	Income (Rupee/Year)	Expenses (Rupee/Year)	Net income (Rupee/Year)
Pommegranade	100 000	30 000	70 000
Guava	4000	1000	3000
Bitter lemon	55 000	5000	50 000

The farmer has also attended trainings from CIRHEP about creating organic pesticide and fertilizer. He is now able to create and use the two different pest controls called 'Panjakavia' and 'Five leaf solution'. CIRHEP trough a climate proofing project has also provided the farmer with free thulur solution, groundnut cake, neem cake and vermicompost to be used as a fertilizer. This has limited the farmers expenses compared to the ones he had as a chemical farmer.



NABARD agent inspecting guava field

The farmer hopes to inspire his two sons, who both has inherited land, to follow in his footprint and switch over to organic. He also takes great pleasure in spreading his knowledge to his beloved grandchildren.



Mixed Pomegranate and flower field



Priyasami and his granddaughter picking flowers

ACTIVITES APPLIES

- Creation of field bund
- Providing seedlings
- Providing training in seedling grafting
- Providing training in creation of organic pesticides ans fertilizers

RESULTS

- A more secure groundwater access
- A steady income
- A more self sustainable farming which gives the farmer a greater stability