



**SRI AUROBINDO INSTITUTE OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
KRISHI VIGYAN KENDRA (ICAR), GADDIPALLY**



SUCCESS STORY OF INTEGRATED ORGANIC FARMING: THE JOURNEY OF VASIKARLA SHESHUKUMAR



Farmer Profile:

| Attribute | Details |
|--------------------|---|
| Name | VasiKarla SheshuKumar |
| Location | Siripuram Village, Nadigudem Mandal, Suryapet District, Telangana |
| Location | 9912116331 |
| Age | 55 |
| Education | M.A. in History |
| Family Size | 7 members |
| Land Holding | 1.5 acres (Integrated Organic Farming) |
| Farming Experience | 25 years |
| Crops Grown | Cotton, Paddy, Vegetables, Fodder Crops |
| Recognition/Awards | Best Farmer Award from Rythumitra, Rythunestham NGO, and KVK |
| Annual Income | ₹5,20,000 |

Challenges & Initiative:

Mr. VasiKarla SheshuKumar faced persistent challenges on his 1.5-acre farm, including:

Pest and disease issues that hindered crop growth.

Low yields and poor net returns from paddy cultivation, which only brought in ₹32,000 annually.

These issues highlighted the need for a more innovative, diversified, and sustainable approach to farming. Determined to overcome these obstacles, Mr. SheshuKumar participated in a training program on Integrated Organic Farming (IOF) at KVK Gaddipally.

Prepared with the technical support from KVK scientists, he adopted the IOF model by diversifying his crops and integrating livestock and poultry farming into his operations.

This transition marked a significant step in his farming journey, setting the stage for increased productivity, higher profitability, and sustainable farming practices.

Outcome /Results

Crop 1: Marigold

Mr. Vasikarla Sheshukumar cultivates Marigold as a border crop around his farm, serving as a natural pest repellent and adding color to the landscape. This crop generates a net income of ₹40,000 per annum.

Crop 2: Spiny Gourd

Along the fencing area of his farm, he cultivates Spiny Gourd, utilizing the existing fencing as a trellis. He cultivates approx. 400 Spiny Gourd plants along the fence from late May to November. The sale of Spiny Gourd fruits generates an additional annual income of ₹40,000.

Crop 3: Summer Vegetable Crops

Before cultivating Spiny Gourd, the farmer grows a variety of summer vegetable crops, including Ridge Gourd, Bottle Gourd, and Bitter Gourd. This strategic decision maximizes land use and generates a significant net income of ₹30,000 per annum.

Livestock 1:

Mr. Sheshukumar, has established a sheep farming venture on his 1.5-acre land. He constructed a 50x20 feet sheep shed to house the flock, adopting a unique approach of raising male rams for profit.

An initial investment of ₹225,000 was made for the purchase of 30 male rams of 4 months old at ₹7,500 per ram. Additionally, he invested in infrastructure development, including the construction of the sheep shed. After 3-4 months of raising the rams by employing intensive farming methods, he sells them by earning a profit of ₹2500-3000 per ram. This venture generates an annual income of ₹1,50,000 to ₹1,80,000 from two batches.

Livestock 2:

Mr. Sheshukumar has diversified into backyard poultry farming, further enhancing his farm's productivity and profitability. He raises 400 desi poultry birds in a backyard system, providing them with starter feed for optimal growth.

He also established a hatchery unit on his farm. The unit utilizes an incubator to hatch chicks from the eggs laid by the backyard poultry birds. Approximately 200 chicks are produced every month from the 400 birds. After brooding, the chicks are sold to external customers at ₹60 per chick, generating an additional revenue. The combined income from backyard poultry farming and the hatchery unit is around ₹1,00,000 per year.

Fodder crops:

To ensure a consistent supply of nutritious fodder for his male rams, the farmer allocated a portion of his land for cultivating high-quality fodder crops. He cultivates Super Napier Grass on 0.75 acres and Hedge Lucerne on 0.375 acres of land.

The harvested Super Napier Grass is supplied as fresh cuttings to livestock rearers at ₹1 per cutting. The leftover Hedge Lucerne is harvested, dried, and sold as seeds at ₹600 per kilogram. This integrated approach to fodder production generates an additional net income of ₹1,50,000 per year.

Results:

Before intervention
Benchmark (Baseline Period 2023-24

| Crop | Area (acres) | Production (Q/acre | Geoss Income (Rs.) | Gross Cost (Rs.) | Net Returns (Rs.) |
|-------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Paddy | 1.5 | 33 | 69,300 | 37,300 | 32,000 |

After KVK intervention

| Component | Name | Net Income |
|--------------|---|------------|
| Field Crop 1 | Marigold (border crop) | 40,000 |
| Field Crop 2 | Spiny Gourd | 40,000 |
| Field Crop 3 | Summer Vegetables | 30,000 |
| Livestock 1 | Sheeps | 150,000 |
| Livestock 2 | Sheeps | 100,000 |
| Fodder Crops | (Super Napier Cuttings and Hedge Lucerne 600Rs /kg 2 quintals | 150,000 |
| Total | | 520,000 |

Impact & Sustainability

The adoption of Integrated Organic Farming (IOF) has revolutionized Mr. SheshuKumar's farming practices. Some of the [key outcomes include](#):

- Diverse and stable income streams, ensuring consistent revenue from various crops and livestock.
- Improved soil health and reduced chemical dependency, contributing to more sustainable farming.
- Higher yields and profitability from diversified agricultural practices.
- Environmental sustainability through the reduction of waste, increased organic matter, and soil enrichment.

Epilogue

Mr. VasiKarla SheshuKumar's success story is a testament to the power of integrated, diversified farming. By adopting organic and sustainable farming practices, he has not only overcome the challenges of low income and poor yields but also built a model of agricultural resilience that other farmers can follow. His success is a clear example of how scientific guidance, crop diversification, and sustainable practices can transform smallholder farming into a profitable and environment-friendly enterprise.



