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Mini Review on RAWE Programme

RAWE – Rural Agricultural Work Experience. This programme imparts quality, practical and production oriented knowledge to all the agricultural graduates by allotting the Village Stay Programme at various districts and studying the practical agricultural work with the farming communities, identifying their problematic situation and transferring the new agricultural technology with the help of various extension tools. RAWE programme makes the agricultural students understand their theoretical part in a practical way and lays a path for understanding the current market situation.

INTRODUCTION

We have allotted Sivakasi block of Virudhunagar district. There is a popular proverb saying that “Virudhunagar produces nothing, but controls everything”, but it’s not like that Virudhunagar often produce a variety of things ranging from edibles to crackers. Sivakasi is also known as “Little Japan” for its buzzy activities in the cracker industry is located in this district. Here we visited all the villages around Sivakasi block. We interacted with most of the farmers & gathered information about the cropping pattern, irrigation management, problems in their farming and also we demonstrated some of the technology to the farmers.

MAJOR CROPS

Major crops grown in Sivakasi block are,

1. Cotton
2. Maize
3. Sorghum
4. Banana
5. Mango
6. Rice

MAJOR CONSTRAINTS

As far as we discussed with the farmers, major constraints shared by the farmers are,

- Fall armyworm attack in maize
- Pink bollworm attack in cotton
- Lakshmi disease in rice
- Weather uncertainties
- Drought
- Unstable Market price.

DEMONSTRATIONS

We did various demonstrations at farmer’s field. Some of them are briefed below,

1. SSI DEMONSTRATION

We demonstrated Sustainable Sugarcane Intensification Technology to the farmers of Sukkiravarapatti village. We explained how to select matured canes and cutting of buds from the canes. We demonstrated bud treatment for the planting by cutting the buds from the canes using sugarcane chip cutter and soaked in the chemical for 15 minutes which has a composition of,

Urea	1 Kg
Carbendazim	50 g
Malathion	200 ml
Water	100 L

Then dry it in shade area for 15 minutes to improve the bud germination.



2. DEMONSTRATION ON TERRACE GARDENING

We demonstrated terrace gardening to our stay area people. We used the kit for the explanation of the techniques and procedures that have to be followed on terrace gardening.

We told them how to apply and buy the kit from the ADA office and how to mix some soil with the brick shaped pit provided with the kit & terrace gardening advantages.

ADVANTAGES OF TERRACE GARDENING

- Reduce the house temperature (around 8°C)
- Makes the air fresh.
- Less weight than soil.
- Domestic consumption.
- Organic products.



3. EGG FLOATATION TECHNIQUE DEMONSTRATION

Egg flotation technique mostly used in cumbu crop, to prevent the ergot disease. Some farmers will follow this technique in paddy seeds to remove the chaffy grains among the good ones. For this technique we use high density water which can be made by dissolving a high amount of salt into water. For checking the high density we can place egg inside the salt mixed water. If the egg floats three by fourth of its size into the water then we can assume that water is in a high density state. Now we can place our seeds into the water, we can notice that the chaffy grains and unfilled grains will float on the upper surface and the good ones will sink down.



CONCLUSION

RAWE programme provides a path to the students to analyze and to identify the problems face by the farmers and provide them the necessary solution. RAWE also provides hands on experience to the students and also use extension tool for transferring latest technology in agriculture/horticulture to farmers. It also helps the students to understand the ITK'S followed by the farmers.