

# **Integrated Model Nature Farm**

In Pallapai- Pointpedro.

Implemented By:



Funded By:



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
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## **Content**

1. Integrated Modal Nature Farm Report
2. Finance Report
3. Farm Crops
4. Farmers Details
5. Farm Tools
6. Best Practices in the Farm
7. Onion Cultivation
8. Farm Photos

# **Integrated Model Nature Farm Report**

**Project Name:** Integrated Model Nature Farm

**Implemented by :** Social Organizations Networking for Development- SOND.

**Project Duration:** 10 Months.

**Geographical Areas Covered:** Point pedro and Karaveddy DS divisions.

**Approved Budget:** Rs 2,780,000.00

## **Background:**

As mentioned in the proposal many problems are faced by the people and the cause of many problems are because of the improper practice of the farmers. The farming practices causes lot of environment problems. People are consuming poison food. Many chemicals are used by farmers for their cultivation.

We have developed a Organic farm to make the farmers to practice Organic farming and show as a model.

12 acre of land is lease out for this purpose by SOND and 20 farmers are selected to follow the Organic practices both in Paddy and Vegetable cultivation.

## **Key Out Comes:**

1. The farmers are adopting farming methods which is conducive for environment with minimizing the inputs and resources.
2. The farmers have a decent happy life.
3. The farming practices will be started to reduce the environment hazards.
4. Farmers will use the good learning and practices for their future cultivation.
5. The students and target farmers having enough knowledge and skills to establish organic based agri farm sustainable manner.
6. The community will consume Organic/ Nature farming food and become healthy.

## **Activities and Outcomes:**

### **1. 20 farmers selected for cultivation:**

20 farmers from the neighbor villages were selected for vegetable crops and Paddy cultivation

All the farmers are cultivating vegetable crops in the past many years and six farmers were cultivating paddy in the past.

All the farmers are given training on organic cultivation land preparation using water effectively using natural pesticides and making composed fertilizer.

Each farmer is given ten perches of vegetable land and another ten perches of paddy land

All the farmers are practicing organic methods, this is something new for them and they were struggling to practice this method as this sometimes consume a lot of time to maintain the crops carefully. But they are very happy that they are producing vegetables without any poison.

They are cultivating 20 varieties of local vegetables and they sell it in the local market and also to their neighbors. The income from the vegetable crops is not very high at the same time all the inputs are given by our organization to them to practice organic activation.

The paddy cultivation is also done using Organic methods. Weeds create problems to the paddy cultivation. The weeds are manually removed and this consumes lot of money. In the early stage the farmers are facing serious drought and in the latter stages they were facing flood both affect the paddy cultivation and because of this the harvest is poor. But they are happy that they are able to produce organic rice in this area without any chemicals and learn the organic practice.

## **2. Creating awareness on organic farming**

We have conducted many meetings discussions with different stakeholders to make them aware about organic farming. We discussed this matter with the zonal director of education in the Point-pedro Zone. We gave him a letter about organic farming practices and he informed this matter in the principals meeting and ask the principles to send teachers and students who are following agriculture subject.

Three teachers have visited our farm and discuss with us and they have told us that they will bring the agriculture students to the farm for the demonstration program.

We also had discussions with the public health Inspector of this area and inform him about our farming practices and asked them to discuss this matter with health volunteers in the area.

The PHI informs us that he will discuss this matter with the help of the volunteers and asked them to share the knowledge about organic food to the pregnant mothers.

We also have discussions with the agriculture Department Director, deputy director and agriculture instructor and get their advice and support to improve the farm practices.

We had two meetings with the agriculture department in the University of Jaffna and two other Professors in agriculture.

One of the leading organic Professor from United Kingdom visit Sri Lanka for the past 20 years and he also conduct a special practical session in our farm to the farmers of the area.

Many university students and interest people are visiting our farm. We are asked by the Department of agriculture to share our organic farming experience in the meetings. Recently the governor of the northern province organize the organic farming promotion meeting along with the Ministry of agriculture and many academics, Government Department people farmer representatives non-government organizations are invited. Southern province governor shared his experience in organic farming.

We are asked to share our experience and the problems in organic farming. We share our experience and request the governor to set up a proper market to sell the organic products and he responded positively.

We print wall hangers having messages about organic farming and food and nutrition and hang it in government office and public places to make the people aware about organic food.

### **3. Arranging for Organic Certification.**

We have issued Organic certificate for 61 farmers engaged in Banana cultivation.

Now we are in the process of getting the certificate for our farm and the company which is issuing certificate have already visited us and ask us to produce the details records of the different crops and it is given. We might get the certificate after 6 months as they have to visit twice again to confirm our Practices.

### **4. Arranging for the Market to sell the products.**

We have a local market for the Organic products but it is not steady. Now we are producing very less Organic products, when we are producing in big scale we need a big market. We have already discussed with big companies from Colombo and they are looking for lower price which is not enough for our farmers. We have a bad experience in Banana marketing where, the buying company is trying to cheat our farmers.

Two Indian companies have visited our farm but they do not have a clear plan in exporting the Organic products but still we are negotiating with many buyers to sell our products.

### **5. Developing a seed Bank.**

We collect the seeds from our farmers and try to Organize a seed bank but we are inform that we cannot do this as , the last season many crop has infected with disease as the temperature is high and also the department of Agriculture is asking us to register with them as seed producers and follow their instruction. We are in the process of doing this.

### **6. Using Organic liquid fertilizer and compost fertilizer.**

Five different types of organic liquid fertilizer and pesticide produced and used but only three are regularly used. We use local materials to produce these things. The crops are monitored carefully about the disease and the growth. We use locally available waste and farm waste to produce the Compost fertilizer and use it in our farm.

### **7. Solar pumps:**

We bought two solar pumps and use it continually and we are able to save nearly Rs 200,000 during the project period otherwise we have to spent on fuel for watering. Many farmers are interest as this is less cost for watering. But this is little slow in pumping water. Daily average 7 hours we have good sun light to pump water.

The solar power is also used to light the house, charge lights and phones and other equipment.

### **8. Water Tank construction.**

Two water tanks are constructed and one of the tank is damaged due to heavy wind and fell down. The water is lifted and tank is filled and then the water with pressure to used in the sprinklers.

### **9. Tools.**

Most of the needed tools are purchased for the land preparation, watering, Liquid preparation, weed cutting, and other work. But for watering we are in need of pipes and small tools. So far we have use the effective watering system only for 2 acres.

### **10. Watcher House and Store:**

This is constructed with two rooms, kitchen and completed and we also construct a toilet and a new store room from our contribution. The size is 16x30.

We also construct a kadjan leaves store house to store vegetables.

### **11. Green House.**

We have constructed a green house and develop thousands of seedlings and use it to the 20 farmers and us. Again now we are developing nearly 5000 different seedlings to give it to the Schools, Households free of charge to promote green environment and also for food security.

### **12. Resource management**

Solar power is used to pump water to the plants. When we are using kerosene for water pumps we need to spend a lot of money and carbon emission also will be there. Solar power is very cheap and environment friendly.

We spend less money for land preparation we don't spend much on labour as like the other farmers.

We don't spend much money for pest control or any other disease. We tried to use different methods to reduce our cost.

Less water is used for the plants and we able to save water. For most of the plants we use Trip irrigation system and sprinkler system.

### **13. Intercrop cultivation**

We plant pineapple along with Banana and papaya. We also plant gliciriya in rows to reduce the heat. To reduce the weeds we plant small crops in between. We have planted 250 Banana, 300 Pine apple, 100 papaya 25 Pomegranate, 25 lime , 12 Guava and other vegetable crops are also cultivated. We also purchased 30 type of herbal plants and maintained.

### **14. Life fencing**

We plant many different type of plants in the fence. But due to the overheat many plants died at the same time we have unexpected rain and the Glecra planted in the fence is now growing well. Next year we're able to get much green manure and thousands of Poles which we can be used for planting again or sell it. In the coming monsoon all the plants will be very fresh in the fence. During the rainy season we have idea to plant many crops in the fencing.

### **15. Farmers practice**

Though hundreds of farmers are trained in organic cultivation only a few are trying to practice some good practices as they are not taken the message seriously. We have planned to work with them continually to make them to understand the Organic concept.

### **16. Challenges**

The income of the farmers is not increased as we expect. This may happen because of the unexpected weather condition. We have experience severe drought for nearly 3 months and unexpected rain and flooding for two months. This year the temperature is increased by 3° C which cause lot of problems to the farmers. Water shortage, dying of crops, increasing disease is the main problems and it leads to less food production.

The farmers are also not very much interested in organic cultivation as they are targeting money within a short-term cultivation.

### **17. Strength of the farm**

We are able to make the farmers to come and see the good practices of water management, energy efficiency, intercrop cultivation, Life fencing, land preparation, food production without using chemicals/poison.

The message will be taken to the community and slowly and steadily as the department of agriculture and the governor's office is very much interested to use our farm as a model. In general opinion of the experts the organic farm needs minimum of three years to give good results.

### **18. Achievements**

We produce vegetables with less cost less water less labour.

Use solar energy to pump water.

Intercrop cultivation leads to effective land use and more income. This also helps us to control weeds.

### **16. Learning and Findings:**

When someone using kerosene for water pump, they have to spent Rs 160,000 a year for Watering. The environment also will be polluted with carbon emission.

We can use mulching small plants to control weeds.

Straw can be used to mulch the ground to protect the crops from weeds.

Nearly 25% of the water is enough for onion cultivation when use sprinkler compare to the other farming methods.

### **17. Conclusion:**

As this is a new initiatives for many of us in the district, we are able to make the people to think about Organic cultivation. Though we are unable to convince the whole targeted farmers, but make them to think about it.

We also make the Agriculture Department officials and University academics from Agriculture department to work with us.

As this is a starting point and we can sustain the results and in the future we can make the farmers to follow the Organic farming methods slowly.

#### **Contact:**

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## **Farm Crops**

1. Paddy

## **Vegetable Crops**

1. Ladies finger
2. Brinjal
3. Tomato
4. Long bean
5. Snake gourd
6. Amarnath Leaves
7. Green Chilli
8. Cabbages
9. Onion
10. Centella
11. Pumpkin
12. Carrot
13. Beet root
14. Beans winged

## **Yams**

1. Elephant Yam
2. Rasavalli
3. Vattalai
4. Manioc

## **Herbal Plants**

1. Turmeric
2. Indian pellet shrub
3. Winter cherry
4. Moon seed plant
5. Kan canar
6. Mimosa pudica Linn
7. Drumstick tree
8. Sugar cane
9. Indian privet
10. Tusticea gerdussussa linn
11. வாதமடக்கி
12. சாத்தாவாரி
13. Gliceridca

## **Fruit Plants**

1. Lime
2. Pomegranate
3. Banana
4. Pine Apple
5. Guava

## Farmers Details

No	Name	Address	N.I.C no
1	Velayutham Sakthivel	Puthuthoddam, Karaveddy.	532883199V
2	Kalaiselvan Uthayarani	Punithanagar, Katkovalam.	768222487V
3	Thirubarudselvan Saitharabanu	Punithanagar School road, Katkovalam.	777583530V
4	Suppaiyah Murukesu	Thirumalpuram, Katkovalam	591303384V
5	Punchalingam Kanakambikai	Punithanagar, Katkovalam.	595243548V
6	Thanabalasingam Selvarani	Punithanagar, Katkovalam.	666894316V
7	Keetheeswaran Jeyanthi	Punithanagar, Katkovalam.	878454928V
8	Karthikesu Irayakopal	Thirumalpuram, Katkovalam	711130888V
9	Gugathasan Kunaseelan	Allayampathy, Thunnalai, Karaveddy.	803206899V
10	Subramanium Uthayakumaran	Allayampathy, Thunnalai, Karaveddy.	590811580V
11	Uthayakumar Anusanth	Allayampathy, Thunnalai, Karaveddy.	953031760V
12	Subramanium Sivakumaran	Allayampathy, Thunnalai, Karaveddy.	573462807V
13	Sinnathanby Thavarasa	“Sivasri”, Karanavai, Karaveddy	582051429V
14	Jeyaseelan Jeevaraj	Thunnalai centre, Karaveddy.	971970723V
15	Thankavelayutham Kiritharan	Thunnalai centre, Karaveddy.	700584127V
16	Srisena Kalaiselvam	Thunnalai centre, Karaveddy.	693224802V
17	Arumugam Jeevanantham	Thunnalai centre, Karaveddy.	531234367V
18	Thankavel Sasikala	1694, Punithanagar, Katkovalam.	
19	Subramaniam Paramalingam	Allayampathy, Thunnalai, Karaveddy.	
20	Gnanapiragasam Mariyathas	Puthuthoddam, Karaveddy.	

## **Farm Tools**

<b>No</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Qty</b>
1	Wheel Brow	1
2	Shovel	2
3	Digging bar	1
4	Grass cutter	2
5	Hammer	1
6	Hammer	1
7	Palmyra leaf bucket	3
8	Plastic bucket	2
9	Tools	1
10	Tools	3
11	Garden Hoe	2
12	Grub Hoe	3
13	Hoe	1
14	Digging bar	1
15	Hammer	1
16	Saw with Frame	1
17	Pick & Mattock	1
18	Axe	1
19	Farming rake	1
20	Solar Pump	2
21	Water Tank-1000 Ltr	2
22	Water Tank-500 Ltr	2
23	Water Tank-200 Ltr	2
24	Water Stand	2
25	Charger Light	1
26	Charger Torch	1
27	Rain gauge	1
28	Thermometer	1
29	Brush Cutter	1
30	Sprayer Purchase	1
31	Water Motor-1.5 HP	1
32	Water Motor-0.75 HP	1

## Best Practices in the Farm



1. Life fencing
2. Inter Crop Cultivation.
3. Gliceridea – less heat in the atmosphere – Green manure – Income from the poles/ cuttings.
4. Water management (Trip/ Sprinkler system)
5. Solar energy for pumping water- ( Annually Rs 50,000 is saved from kerosene for water pump) – No carbon emission in the atmosphere.
6. Composite making from the waste.
7. Weed control in a Natural way.
8. Effective use of land.
9. Research for farm development.
10. Green House , Nursery beds.

## Onion Cultivation



### Best Practices:

1. Using less water by Sprinkler.
2. Less labour for bed preparation.
3. Manual weeding not using chemical.

### Learning:

1. More attention need to be give to monitor the plants daily.
2. Used fertilizer according to the soil condition.
3. Planting in 3 inches gap.
4. If Glicridea is planted the heat will be reduced for healthy crop condition..

## Organic / Nature Farming Training to the Farmers.



## Green House



## Nursery Bed



## Banana Cultivation – Inter crops.



## Gliceridca Cultivation:



## Manioc cultivation



# Organic Paddy Cultivation



## Vegetable Cultivation



## Banana Soil Conservation / Mulching

