

FARMER OF THE YEAR

Name: Gudivada Nagaratnam Naidu

Occupation: Farmer

Age: 58 years

Resident: Hyderabad

- **Gudivada Nagaratnam Naidu** hails from a remote village Balakrishnapuram in Chittoor district, **Andhra Pradesh** has created a history of sorts in his most preferred occupation i.e. agriculture.
- Renouncing his secure job, forayed into agriculture by purchasing 17 acres of land, which is barren and rocky, by investing about Rs.3.4 lakh in Taramathipet village of Himayatnagar mandal of Rangareddy District in Andhra Pradesh from the savings he had. The couple converted the land which was unfit for cultivation into a gold mine by sheer hard work and determination.
- He achieved this by introducing innovative methods like mixed cropping, organic farming, dry land water saving technologies, floriculture etc to achieve a sustainable model of agriculture.

Details of innovation

- Organic and sustainable rice farming for higher productivity
- System of Rice Intensification is a methodology in Rice cultivation aimed at increased yields with less inputs. This was integrated with organic farming for making the practice sustainable and eco friendly.
- This method is having the following advantages;
- Reduces the cost of cultivation by 60% by saving the investment in the following areas, (seed, fertilizers, pesticides)
- The methodology is aimed at increased yields by 30 per cent over traditional practice
- It is also sustainable as soil health is improved with this practice.
- Cropping system adopted by farmer: Rice, Vegetables/groundnut/pulses, Floriculture and Fodder.

- Several dignitaries including Honorable Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Dr.Y.S. Rajashekar Reddy and his cabinet visited his farm in 2005. He displayed 182 tillers per plant to Dr. G.S. Khush during International Symposium organized by DRR, Hyderabad in 2004.
- In 2006 he displayed SRI crop and interacted with President George W. Bush, President, United States of America, at National Seed Project, Hyderabad and explained about SRI cultivation. Seventeen delegates from Bangladesh visited his farm and awarded certificate.
- Distinguished delegates (Scientists, Agricultural Officers, Agricultural Experts, Progressive Farmers and IT Professional etc.) visited his farm and awarded many appreciation letters.

Awards, Medals and appreciations received

1. Received appreciation for his efforts in promoting and developing SRI paddy from the WWF international Project / ICRISAT (International Crop Research Institute for Semi Arid Tropics) on 2005.
2. Credited with a certificate of appreciation from Association for Land reforms and Development, Dhaka, Bangladesh for his efforts in agriculture laying emphasis on organic farming on 2007.
3. Obtained a letter of honor from ICRISAT in December, 2008 for implementing organic farming practices in ground nut cultivation and thus generating a record yield of 95-110 KG POD from 2 KG Seed given by the highly esteemed organization engaged in crop research.
4. Letter of Appreciation from Jara Agro Industrial PLC, Ethiopia, in the year 2011 eulogizing Mr.Naidu for his sincere efforts in educating the local farming community on high yield strategies and innovative techniques.
5. Honored with the decoration “Best SRI Farmer” by WWF Netherlands in collaboration with ICRISAT.