

EXCELLENCE IN FARMING

Name: MEEDODDI VINODA

PROFILE:

Meedoddi Vinoda , a 30 year old rural small holding farmer hailing from a Dalit community and has been practicing agriculture for the past 11 years. Having studied till class six, she learned the basics of farming from her mother from a tender age. Vinoda has been farming since 2002. She is an organic farmer, who has attained multiple securities by relying on her peculiar bio diverse farming method rooted in cultivation of millets.

Vinoda's achievement has reported by several prominent news media which helped spread her success story. Farmers from the neighborhood and afar visited her farm to understand her methods of farming. Vinoda's story has already started to influence farmers in the area to give up mono cropping and shift to an environment friendly agricultural practice rooted in millets.

The efforts of Vinoda are self-initiated and self supported, without any **government** or **external support**. The seeds and manure for the farm is sourced from her on field, making it a natural recycling system. Her success even at times of adequate drought has proven that in the years to come the millet based bio-diverse farming system will equip Vinoda to grow as a self-reliant farmer while adequately meeting the demands of her farm and family alike.

In a landscape where mono cropping, especially cotton held sway over vast agricultural land, **Vinoda** marked her remarkable feat and set an example by earning a profit of Rs.1,80,000 from her three acres of millet based bio diverse farm where she planted millets, pulses and iol seeds among other crops. Contrary to the claims that millet farming is not **profitable**, Vinoda had a per acre return of Rs.60,000 with an initial investment of **Rs.2,00,000**. Vinoda is an inspiration to her fellow farming community at a time when farmers in India are facing multiple challenges.