

Case Study on ‘e-velanmai’ (electronic Agriculture) Model of Technology Transfer – Palar sub basin

Button shedding in coconut

Basin : PALAR
Farmer Name : Mr. Babu
Village : S. Ayyampalayam
District : Tiruppur

Mr. Babu, aged 38 is a progressive farmer of S. Ayyampalayam village, Palladam block by profession and owned 5 acres of land under coconut farming. He is a DC member of the Kumarapalayam Water User’s Association. He is an active participant in the e-velanmai scheme.

In his farm, he was confronted with the problem of button shedding in coconut and sought extension advice from e-velanmai team. The farm was attended by the Field Coordinator based on the phone call received from the farmer of e-velanmai. She took the digital photograph of the affected trees and sent the same by internet to the experts of e-velanmai, located at Coconut Research Station, Aliyar requesting for technical recommendations. The scientist team at Aliyar advised the farmer over phone to adopt root feeding of TNAU coconut Tonic @one packet per tree. The farmer also adopted the same in 50% of his farm and left the remaining trees untreated.

As a follow up action, he was asked on 17.03.09 to give his feed back on the changes he noted, due to the effect of adoption of the technology recommended by e-velanmai experts. He stated that the button shedding problem was well tackled in 50% of the treated palms and the rest of his farms still suffered from the problem. Hence Mr. Babu was advised to apply the TNAU coconut tonic in rest of his farm, to tackle the button shedding problem. He also stated that he was able to get an additional formation of one coconut bunch per tree (12 nuts per tree) in all the treated trees. By this way he is assured to secure an additional return of Rs.3.50 /nut amounting to Rs.3024/ ac. He is very well satisfied with the extension services of e-velanmai and feels that he was able to save time, and money in obtaining the appropriate advice.

Subbarayul and Rajandran-Pod borer in Bengalgram

Basin : PALAR
Farmer Name : Subbarayul and Rajandiran.
Village : Andhiyur
District : Tiruppur

In Andhiyur village, Bengal gram (Panikadalai) is one of the main winter crop. Cultivation of Bengal gram had been taken by all farmers including our e-velanmai farmers Subbarayul and Rajandiran. Bengal gram pod borer (*Helicoverpa armigera*) is the major pest of this region, whenever they planted the crop, the pest population was

seem to be high and leading to yield losses. The farmers have been using different chemicals to control the pest, but nothing was effective. The reason was that, they were taking up spraying before the pest population reaches Economic Threshold Level (ETL) and getting advices from unknown persons. Our e-velanmai team initiated the work and started giving advice to farmers regarding.

I. Type of variety suitable to soil

II. Timely sowing

III. Appropriate Irrigation and fertilizer practices

IV. Timely and right type of chemical to be used

The farmer was satisfied because compared to last year, this year he got increased yields. Marketing was easy as the produce was of good quality and was sold at higher prices.

Tissue Culture Banana

Basin : PALAR

Farmer Name : Jagadeesh
&Anushiyadeviis

Villaage : Kumarapalayam

Village

District : Tiruppur

The Kumarapalayam village farmers: Jagadeesh and Anushiyadevi are cultivating banana crop for the last six years, whenever they plant tissue culture banana, they face the problem regarding pest and diseases, irrigation practices, and fertilizer marketing. Hence the expert of e-velanmai took special interest to solve the problem by making a diagnostic field visit with the farmers. Our experts visited their field last month and observed that the field had uneven plant growth and it was in dry condition. It was told that the uneven growth was due to the problem of segregation of mother plant. The committee recommended that, the selection of planting material should be made from wise and genuine tissue culture Banana Company. Irrigation and fertilizer application should be done through drip (Fertigation) and List of fertilizer schedule and irrigation practices schedule were given to each farmer and now they are following our recommendations. The farmer adopted these recommendations and he was happy due to the positive changes he observed in his crop. They also said that, "we are well trained now, to cultivate and handle tissue culture banana and are getting the recommendations from the scientists with the help of field coordinator using ICT tools.

water scarcity problem in Banana

Basin : PALAR

Farmer Name : Jagadeesh
&Anushiyadeviis

Village : Kumarapalayam &

Sencherrymalai Village

District : Tiruppur	
<p>In both the villages, the farmers were cultivating banana crop in about 50 acres of land. Some are using tissue culture material and others suckers. During last five years, they faced acute water scarcity problem. Area wise, palar basin is divided into four zones and water was distributed to each zone, month wise. Both the villages are getting the water at the end of the month and it was not sufficient to cultivate banana (basically banana need more water). For this reason, our project experts demonstrated effectiveness of drip method in irrigation, fertilizer application and banana rhizome treatment using fungicides and insecticides. Farmer said that the fertigation mode of banana fertilizer application is very easy; we are saving our water, time and labour wages.</p>	
<p>Leaf eating caterpillar</p>	
Basin : PALAR Farmer Name : Mr. G. Suresh Village : Kumarapalayam District : Tiruppur	
<p>Mr. G. Suresh belong to Kumarapalayam village is a member of the e-velanmai scheme and he cultivated banana in 10 acres. Last month in his field he faced the problem of Leaf eating caterpillar, (<i>Spodoptera littura</i>) in his entire farm. He had taken up four sprays using different insecticides as told by his fellow farmers but results were not effective. Our e-velanmai expert team diagnosed the crop status through the digital images sent by the field coordinator and volunteer and then gave some useful tips to the field coordinator through mail. As it is one of the main pests of this crop, spraying of the pesticide was recommended at early morning hours and systemic fungicides alone were recommended for adoption. The reason is that the insect migrated into the banana plant and if any contact insecticide is applied, it will not be effective, so systemic insecticides should be used was taught to the farmer. Endosulfan 2ml/Lit were recommended for the management of the pest and farmers found it to be effective against the pest and were very much satisfied.</p>	
<p>Senthil – Bud rot disease</p>	
Sub basin : PALAR Farmer Name : Mr. Rajasundram Villaage : Oodaka palayam District : Tiruppur	
<p>Mr. Senthil, aged 39 is a progressive farmer at Senjari village. He owns about 4.5 acres of land with 300 numbers of one year old coconut trees. He is our e-velanmai member since December 2008. He noted some problem in his field and invited the field coordinator over phone and his farm was attended on the same day along with the volunteer from his village. The problem trees were photographed and sent to the e-velanmai experts at TNAU, Aliyar. The experts observed bud rot disease in young</p>	

coconut trees. The central bud portion was shed down. Rotten smell emanated from the inside of the inner sheaths.. Our e-velanmai staff visited the field and observed the above symptoms. This was also communicated to the expert team. They recommended the spraying of blue copper 3g in 1 litre of water for the affected trees. This recommendation was passed on to the farmer by the field coordinator and as per the advice, the farmer sprayed blue copper he observed the stoppage of further spread of disease he also observed new sheaths emerging from the affected sheaths. So latter it was noted that, with the advice given by the e-velanmai experts, about 10 percent of the trees (30 trees) recovered from the disease. The farmer realized the impact of the activities done under e-velanmai to protect his crop and he feels that it is a timely facilitation of technical advice which he never had it earlier from the extension department of tamil nadu.

Tanjore wilt disease

Basin : PALAR
 Farmer name : Mr.P. velusamy
 Village name : Thazhakarai
 District : Tiruppur

Mr.P. Velusamy, aged 62 years belong to Thazhakarai village, of palar sub basin is a leading coconut farmer. He owned 10 acres of coconut farm. About 2000 cocount trees were there in his field. In those trees around 400 trees were affected due to Tanjore wilt disease. After he joined the e-velanmai scheme, the photos were sent to the e-velanmai expert team, and observed the seriousness of the problem. Hence a field visit was also arranged to the farmer's field. The e-velanmai experts Dr. Rajamanikam and Mrs.Meena visited his field and gave the proper control measures. Root feeding with Calyxin 5ml in 100ml of water. Apply Pseudomonas fluorescence and Trichoderma viride each 50g + neem cake 5kg/tree. He was also advised to cultivate Sun hemp around the tree. He did all the recommendations given by e-velanmai experts. The disease incidence was stopped . The treatment has been continued. The farmer felt that due to the appropriate recommendation given by e-velamai experts, he was able to save 400 trees from the damage and he remains as a good advertisement to enroll more number of farmers in the e-velanmai scheme from his area.