

Successful Zero Tillage Maize Cultivation Through Farmers Field School programme – A Case Study

M Visalakshi and A Sireesha

Regional Agricultural Research Station, Anakapalle, Andhra Pradesh

ABSTRACT

Pidiseela is a village in Gajapathinagaram mandal of Vizianagaram district in Andhra Pradesh. The water available in the village tank was insufficient to grow maize crop in total area of rice fallows during rabi season. Under this situation, District Agriculture Advisory and Transfer of Technology Centre (DAATTCentre), Vizianagaram motivated and educated farmers of the village to cultivate maize under zero tillage condition, instead conventional maize cultivation through conducting Farmers Field School (FFS) programme and proved its worthiness. Thirty farmers were selected as participants of FFS and one among them was selected to serve as collaborator in whose field the FFS was conducted. The FFS participants were trained on zero tillage maize cultivation by involving them in FFS sessions conducted at a fortnightly interval from sowing to harvest during crop period. As a result of efforts by DAATTCentre scientists along with extension staff, the collaborator of FFS harvested 80.87 quintals of maize per hectare and secured net income of Rs. 72,044/- per hectare with the B: C ratio 2.88 besides saving 33 percent irrigation. As against the zero tillage maize crop, the comparative economics of conventional maize cultivation during the same period in the village indicated that the net income of Rs.58,432/- and B:C ratio of 2.12 clearly showed that zero tillage maize is economically profitable as compared to conventional maize cultivation. In 2007, 2008 and 2009 around 775 farmers adopted the system and zero tillage maize cultivation now covers an estimated 420 ha out of 9,861 ha maize cultivation.

Key words : Case study, FFS, Maize, Zero tillage.