

Direct sowing of paddy gaining acceptance among farmers



Farmers cultivating paddy in dry conditions in this mandal have started adapting innovating technologies to tide over scarcity of water and shortage of labour.

Direct sowing of paddy through seed-cum-fertiliser drill is finding a new acceptance among farmers in lower Krishna River basin. In paddy cultivation, conventional transplantation farming practices begin with setting up a nursery bed and after a 45-day period, the plants are transplanted in the field.

The direct sowing operation starts with the onset of monsoon. Farmers prepare the land during summer season followed by weeding. Green manure is also used to improve the soil carbon content.

The land is ploughed and levelling is carried before the onset of monsoon. Once the field is ready, farmers collect seeds and fill up the boxes in the seed-cum-fertiliser drill fitted to a tractor.

The seeds are funnelled to the soil through ductile pipes fitted to the drill. Even as the tractor ploughs the field, the sowing is done simultaneously. The operation is quick and it takes 30 minutes to sow seeds in an acre.

"I have been using the direct sowing technology for the last five years. The yield of 35 bags per acre is more than satisfactory even in adverse conditions. This technique is a boon to lands where water is delivered late to the tail end areas of canals," says Thumma Srinivasa Reddy, a farmer.

The Department of Agriculture is encouraging more number of farmers to adapt this innovative technology. Mandal Agricultural Officer, Srinivasa Rao says that drill machines are being supplied at a subsidy of 20 per cent to farmers. **Read entire article in The Hindu.**