

## ***Kanthappa- Paddy Cultivation is my Passion***

Kanthappa narrates his story:

'I am resident of Arala village Bantwal Taluk. I am the first sibling of Monappa and Devaki. The other two are girls. I have married Malathi of Badagabellur Village. I have two children. The boy studied fashion designing and working. The girl is studying in class 12. I have 2.45 acres of land. I am cultivating paddy. In our village very few people cultivate paddy. Paddy growing is also teamwork.

Operations like tilling, manuring, planting, etc. are possible if the group of people comes together. I do this cultivation with the help of my wife, and sister. In my village Neighbors also come and help each other. Apart from home consumption, last year I sold 3 quintals of rice. I rear milch animals. I sell

about 8litres of milk to a nearby milk society. I maintain 3 cows and two calves. I derive about Rs 6000 per month from the sale of milk. The income is very useful to purchase home utilities. I grow 60 coconut plants. I have recently planted 700 areca plants. I also cultivate vegetables.

In 2019 I sold about Rs 5000 worth of vegetables. I joined Navashakthi FDG, Arala. I am regularly attending the FDG meetings. I gained knowledge on agriculture, life improvement skills, and various government schemes. I have constructed a vermicompost unit and biogas plant. The FDG and Disha trust has supported my NRM activity. The Biogas unit helped me to save gas fuel. I have used vermicompost manure for my areca plants and paddy crop. The crop is showing good growth. The Navashakthi FDG has 57 members. We conduct meetings every month. We exchange our experiences in the group meetings. A bond has developed among the members. We support each other with any agricultural and household work. My Gobar gas and vermicompost units are installed quite recently. With these units, I hope to improve my agriculture further'.



By Vinodha, DISHA staff