

## A SUCCESSFUL ORGANIC FARMER WITH ONE - COW DAIRY

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### INTRODUCTION

Agriculture with dairy makes organic farming more successful and sustainable. The present story is about Mr. Sanjeeva Bunta (49) a small farmer with about 1.5 h land who is successfully managing his farm becoming 100% organic in 2001.

### METHODOLOGY

Mr. Sanjeeva Bunta, a farmer in Moodambailu, Karnataka State, owns 0.34 h of irrigated and 0.24 h of rain-fed land. In addition, he has 1.00 h land with user – right, wherein he has planted cashewnut and forest plants, which provide the dry litter and green leaves for manure.

**MULTIPLE CROPPING SYSTEM** : He has adopted the multiple perennial cropping system as detailed in table – 1. The Farm has adopted intensive rainwater harvesting system.

Table – 1: Crop Details

| Crop         | No. of Plants / Trees     |
|--------------|---------------------------|
| Arecanut     | 480 (including 100 young) |
| Coconut      | 85 (including young)      |
| Pepper       | 113 (including young)     |
| Banana       | 251                       |
| Cashewnut    | 107 (mostly young)        |
| Bread fruit  | 2                         |
| Honey colony | 2 (+ 2 to be filled)      |
| Pineapple    | 150                       |
| Cocoa        | 26 (young)                |
| Vanilla      | 89 (young)                |
| Vegetable    | Cultivated for own use    |

**ONE COW DAIRY:** Interestingly, he has a one-cow dairy. Systematic maintenance of the cow is the most important feature of his farming, which provides milk, gas for cooking / light and manure for his



Figure 1 : Sanjeeva Bunta with his cow

plants and cash to his family The cow dung is fed to gobar gas unit for gas production. Toilet waste is also connected to this gas unit. The spent slurry is used either to make compost by VRF method (Moorthy *et al.* 1998) or directly fed to plant basins. He gets a gross income of Rupees (Rs.) 42, 395/- from his dairy and net income in Rs.12, 500/- (One US \$= Rs.45/-). His indirect income from dairy in the form of energy and milk is estimated at Rs.7115/-.

**Table – 2 : Dairy Expenditure and Income**

| Expenditure  | Amount (Rs.) | Income                                 | Amount (Rs.) |
|--|--------------|--|--------------|
| Cattle feed  | 19,110       | Income from 3990 l of milk @ Rs. 10.50 | 41,845       |
| Fodder   | 5,040        | Value of the calf                      | 500          |
| Veterinary care  | 370          |  |              |
| Expenditure on cow shed, equipments and other infrastructure | 2,375        |  |              |
| Depreciation on the value of cow                             | 3,000        |  |              |
| Total Expense  | 29,895       |  |              |
| Net profit   | 12,500       |  |              |
| Total  | 42,395       |  | 42,395       |

**INCOME FROM MIXED AGRICULTURE:** Mr. Sanjeeva Bunta cannot boast of very high income from agriculture. But due to mixed farming and low input costs, his income is sustainable and attractive (table-3). He earns a net profit of Rs.44, 565/- from his farming activities.

**Table – 3: Agriculture Expenditure and Income**

| Expenditure  | Amount (Rs.) | Income      | Amount (Rs.) |
|--|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| Green leaves for compost                           | 7,200        | Arecanut    | 45,200       |
| Application of manure and other maintenance cost   | 4,630        | Coconut     | 10,150       |
| Expenditure on pump set                            | 1,500        | Pepper      | 1,525        |
| Pipe, sprinkler and other irrigation set up        | 3,000        | Cashewnut   | 3,100        |
| Maintenance of motor bike and other transport cost | 3,000        | Bread fruit | 980          |
|  |              | Honey       | 910          |
|  |              | Banana      | 2,000        |
| Total Expenses                                     | 19,300       |             |              |
| Net profit   | 44,565       |             |              |
| Total  | 63,865       |             | 63,685       |



**Figure 2 : Spent slurry being collected in a tank for distribution**

**GOOD INCOME, HAPPY FAMILY:** The over all income of Mr. Sanjeeva Bunta and his wife Mrs. Devika for their joint effort is presented in table –4. They get a net income of Rs. 64,180/- (2003 data), resulting in a monthly average income of Rs.5,348/-. This is quite attractive in a village. The couple has a small house with electricity, television, phone, tap water etc. Further, they also own a two-wheeler. Their three children are being provided with good education.

**Table – 4: Over all family income**

| Particulars                | Amount(Rs.) |
|----------------------------|-------------|
| From Dairy                 | 12,500      |
| From Agriculture           | 44,565      |
| Indirect income from Dairy | 7,115       |
| Total                      | 64,180      |
| Average per month          | 5,348       |

One US \$= Rs.45/-

## CONCLUSION

Organic farming is not only a farming method but also a life style. Mr. Sanjeeva Bunta's model fits into this worthy of emulation, especially by small and marginal farmers.

## REFERENCE

Moorthy, V.K., Moorthy A.K. and Rao, K.B. 1998. " *Kampost Tayarike – V.R.F. Vidhana* (in Kannada). Sujatha Sanchike 5(8): 11-15 (Compost production-VRF Method: available in web: <http://www.varanashi.com/composting.html>)

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**Paper presented during "IFOAM World Congress, Sept. 20-23, 2005, Adelaide, Australia**