



Integrated pest management in intercropping

Traditionally, I used to sow black gram and pigeon pea along with paddy or finger millet in two acre of upland area. The sowing proportion for pigeon pea was very low in the traditional practice and I used to get only 10-15 kg of grain yield per acre. I was mostly dependent on the local market for meeting my household requirements. As the market price of pigeon pea was high, we used to consume lentil and horse gram instead of dal. In 2015, I got to know about maize and pigeon pea intercrop cultivation in Atalguda under the LANSa project of M. S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF) and was interested in trying this in my own field. MSSRF staff provided pigeon pea and maize seeds of improved varieties, and advised line sowing with one row of maize followed by another row of pigeon pea. In Kharif 2016, I followed the practice and sowed on 0.25 acres of land. I harvested 100 kg of green maize cob, of which 30 kg was kept for home use. 10 kg we distributed among friends and relatives, and the remaining 60 kg was sold in the market at Rs 10 per kg. Pigeon pea flowering followed the maize harvest.

yield, 20kg was sold as green pod in the market at the rate of Rs 40 per kg, and 15 to 20 kg of green pod was retained for household consumption. Currently, I have a stock of 150 kg of dried pigeon pea seeds and that will suffice for my household needs this year without depending on the market. I am happy have a very good yield of pigeon pea by practicing the new technology of growing it with maize in alternate lines in the same field and following integrated pest management practices. The second batch of flowering has already started and I hope to get another 30-35 kg of pigeon pea mature seeds this time. Now, many farmers from our area are visiting my field and are also taking pigeon pea seeds from me to cultivate in their fields.

Name : Dambaru Nayak

Village : Paliguda,

Block : Boipariguda, District: Koraput

Age : 53 years

Caste : Bhumia (ST)

Occupation : Farmer (9 acres)

Family size : 10 (6 adults, 4 children)

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