Farmers use ‘zero budget farming’ to reap rewards

Where organic farming is a rich man’s profession, Tiruchy’s farmers are all set with their crops production and supplies to hit the market real soon. But the good news is that these farmers have pledged to use ‘zero budget farming’ and yet earn profits without using chemical fertilisers.

About 45 farmers attended the one-day training programme on free bio-organic input preparation, hosted recently by Isha Agro Movement in Nalaipuram, which is around 54 km away from the city. Before the programme began, participants were confused as to how the event would be conducted, as there are many methods of organic farming. At the end of the day, the farmers were made to understand that cost-efficient methods used in organic farming, can still reap rewards.

Farmers were taught about the existing 12 varieties of bio-input preparations which could be used in place of chemical fertilisers and pesticides. One among them was jeevamirtham, a growth promoter. It is a mixture of cow dung, cow urine, naatuchakarai and paithamaavi, which is mixed well to form a mixture. Then the mixture is spread over the field to enhance the plant growth.

T Muthukumar, organic farming trainer said that the crop cultivation in recent times involved chemical fertilisers and pesticides, leaving the crops to inherit harmful effects during the growth. “We must also incorporate natural methods of farming,” he added. The training session involved an orientation session to the farmers and an awareness programme. Most of the farmers already knew about organic farming, however they were given a hands-on experience on using it rather than just giving lengthy speeches.

Isha Agro Movement, a sister concern of Isha Foundation in Coimbatore is organising a similar programme across the state and hence is bringing out numerous organic farmers to incorporate healthy food production in their farms.