

# 'Zero budget farming – in thing for ryots'

LAKSHMI L LUND | DC  
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Through his 'Palekar Krishi' or zero budget natural farming, Subhash Palekar has helped several farmers in the country to double their income.

Addressing mediapersons here on Friday, Subhash said that the concept should be renamed Subhash Palekar way of farming.

In India, over 60 lakh hectares are under cultivation adopting his method of farming, a majority of land mass under cultivation is in south India. His cow-based method of farming does not use chemical or organic fertilisers.

"A single cow can help raise crops in over 30 acres. Results are assured within a year. The yield obtained is without chemicals and has a high demand in the market. Farmers who cultivate



Palekar addressing the media.

- DC

crops adopting Subhash Palekar technique, can sell their produce without the involvement of middlemen. While crops grown using chemicals fetch the farmer ₹35, by adopting my method of farming, a farmer can pocket ₹70 for the same crop," he said. The method of farming also gives the farmer an opportunity to cultivate internal crops. "Alongside cultivating coconut or cotton, farmers also grow banana, vegetables, pepper and cinnamon among others."

On farmers' suicide, the

Padma Shri awardee said, "In a state like Punjab where the percentage of agricultural land is high and there is no water scarcity, farmers' suicide is high. If farmers switch to the Palekar way of farming, results are assured, income is sure to double and produce contains no chemical or pesticide."

Farmers in states like Chattisgarh, Karnataka, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh, have embraced his system of agriculture. Subhash Palekar is against chemical farming methods and organic farming.

"By 2060, India will need about 160 crore metric tons of food grains to feed its population. The target can be easily achieved if the Subhash Palekar method of farming is adopted and alongside, the income of farmers will also double," he added.

## Nine-day programme on natural farming

**Coimbatore:** Around 3,000 farmers are expected to participate in the nine-day training programme to be organised by Isha Agro Movement at Trichy between February 2 and 10.

Subhash Palekar, known for his natural farming technique will train the participants who are expected to participate from various parts of Tamil Nadu.

"This training programme will set a foundation for farmers to convert from chemical farming to natural farming. They will be

trained in the difference between chemical and natural farming, the benefits of natural farming, input preparation, intercrop cultivation among other aspects," he said at a press conference here on Friday.

Participants will be provided food and accommodation on the days of training. Subhash Palekar will interact with 500 farmers who are practicing natural farming at a training programme organised by Isha Agro Movement in Palladam on Saturday and Sunday. - DC