

Unending Drip and Unfailing Rewards

The banana field maintained by G.Mahendran gives 60 tonnes/acre with drip irrigation. Mahendrans' strength is banana that too Grand Naine banana. Mr.Mahendran of Nallampully, Dharmapuri district, is recognized as 'Kulapathi' of banana by local farmers. He considers precision farming as the only reason for this victory. According to him Dharmapuri got its victory in 2004. If Gandhiji got India its freedom, Dr. E.Vadivel got Dharmapuri its freedom, because he brought precision farming to Dharmapuri along with all good luck.

He grows Grand Naine banana variety in his own 5 acres of land and also another 5 acres which he has taken for lease from his Father-in-law. Anybody will look back again to see his bunches. Each weighs about 50kg.

Nallampully also faces water shortage. In precision farming, irrigation is carried out in drip for only 1 hour/day; yet there is no reduction in yield. It is right to say that Dharmapuri got its freedom in 2004. The price for banana is Rs.5/kg in Dharmapuri. For a bunch of 50kg, the average price is 250. In some seasons the price goes up to Rs.8/kg. One acre holds 1200 banana crops. He is sure to get 60 tonnes of banana. He says he is sure to get Rs.2lks/acre after deducting his production cost.

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