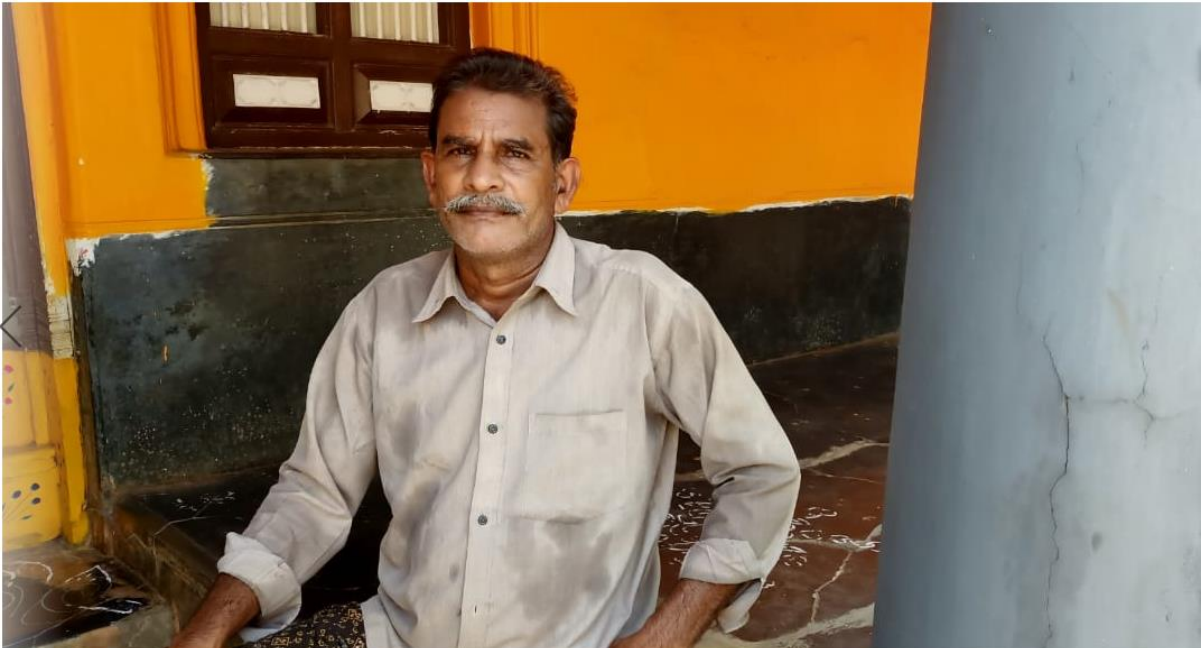


Farmer name: Garapati Veera Raju

Name of the village: Lolla, Rayavaram, East Godavari district

Farmer Garapati Veera Raju is a resident of Lolla village in Rayavaram mandal of East Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh. He has been a farmer for 35 years now. He lives along with his parents, wife, and daughter. As a farmer, Mr. Veera Raju cultivates Paddy twice a year in the **8 acres** of land he owns. He is predominantly dependent on paddy cultivation for his income.



A decade earlier, Mr. Garapati Veera Raju was having his paddy field manually harvested and used the residual paddy straw obtained due to manual harvesting to feed his livestock. However due to increasing labor cost, climate change and time the farmer shifted to using machine-based harvesting instead to manual harvesting.





For over a decade, the farmer has been machine harvesting now and has gotten used to the practice of stubble burning only after the introduction of machine harvesting. In the beginning years after the introduction of machine-based harvesting, the farmers in his village were incorporating the crop residue into the farm using a cultivator. According to him and his friends, they burn stubble to avoid contamination of different grain varieties post-harvest that fall in the ground while using the combine harvester. The dropped grain is apparently contaminating the subsequent crop as there is a change in variety.





When asked about the benefits of the program, he certainly agrees that the opportunity for the farm labor to earn extra income during non-seasonal period is the largest opportunity he sees for the community. The farmers might have an additional income if the farmer himself works on the stubble collection process instead of hiring labor.





When asked about the environmental effects of stubble burning, the farmer replies that he is slowly understanding the problems stubble burning is causing to the environment. He says that it is difficult for him as a single person to solve the issue. However, the farmer says that they are slowly feeling that the climate is changing due to erratic and unseasonal rains that effects his crops over the last 5 years. The farmer does not see any solution for the problem as they cannot stop the residual burning. However, they are open to solutions from external players like us. The farmer feels that the problem is at a community level and individual solutions might not work.

