

Geetha's eyes are on the turmeric  
T. Ajeesh

Geetha, who lost her sight while in school, now farms on her own; with entrepreneur Geetha Salish, owner of 'Geeta's Home to Home', Thrissur Amala Nagar, proves that good insight and perspective is not what an entrepreneur needs.

At the age of fifteen, Geeta lost her sight due to a genetic disease called retinitis pigmentosa. However, Geetha Vijaya is a model for making value added products from turmeric and bringing them to the market. It's inspiring. As desired... The desire to become an entrepreneur came after marriage. The taste of the turmeric and coconut milk dish that my mother used to drink regularly as a child remained. Geetha's search was to bring it to the market with a new taste that everyone likes.

With the support of experts at the Agriculture Research Center, Geetha prepared a new dish in two years. That was 'turmeric'. Marketing was through online. Soon after, the product called First Drink was also brought to the market. Geetha had a vision to have products that would be accepted internationally. Therefore, attention was paid to packaging and marketing. Now Curcummeal and First Drink have reached all major supermarkets in Kerala. Kind of genius Pratibha variety which has more production was selected for planting. It has good immunity and is high in curcumin. (The medicinal properties of turmeric are due to the presence of curcumin.) 100% organic farming. Farming is done by preparing the soil and adding chicken manure. 55 acres of land is cultivated in many districts.

Gita itself will give the seed. 315 farmers are cultivating in this area. Half of them are women. Geetha is cultivating on her own four acres of land. This time around 30 tons of production was obtained.

Contracts will be made with farmers before cultivation. This time green turmeric was bought back at the rate of Rs 25 per kg. Her life partner is Salish Kumar, whom she met while studying for his degree at Thrissur Kerala Varma College. Children Ghazal and Gaya are students. Turmeric cultivation can start now Soil preparation can begin with the first summer rains. When it rains, the land should be plowed. Lime or dolomite can be sprinkled on it. May take week with next rain. It should be one meter wide and 30 cm high. There should be half a meter distance between two yards. At the time of sowing, dung powder mixed with trichoderma can be added as base fertilizer. Planting can be started in late April or early May rains. Dig holes 10 cm deep in the yards and fill them with cow dung. The seed bud should be planted in the upper part. A distance of 25 cm between plants is good. Can be planted in two rows in a week. After planting, mulch with dry leaves. By mid-June, any organic fertilizer can be used. It is good to pour a solution of dung and cow urine every 15 days. In mid-July, green manure should be added to the soil. At this time all the weeds of the week should be removed. It is also good to turn the soil once before the end of the monsoon season.

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Mixed farming as a support  
for indefatigable vigor

T. Ajeesh

At the age of 8, due to medical malpractice, Manu became paralyzed below the waist. Manu, who lost the mobility of his legs but survived with his hands, became a rubber farmer. The price of rubber has been fluctuating for some time but Manu has not been deterred. Manu 'stepped down' from rubber farming. Manu is a farmer following mixed farming. He is the owner of 'Eden Farm'.

Manu alias Varghese Thomas is the only son of Raju-Annamma couple of Vechuchira Aripampil of Pathanamthitta. Raju and his family had migrated from Vechuchira to Mannarkatta. Rubber cultivation was there. The son of farmer parents is also interested in agriculture. The family recently sold the rubber plantation and returned to Vechuchira. On his return, Manu assumed the leadership of Krishi. Coconut, cumin, black pepper...

The four acre land adjacent to the house has been converted into mixed farming. 200 coconut, 300 kamuk and 450 muriku trees are mixed with pepper, coffee, castor and cocoa. Poultry farming is another income producing crop. 5000 broiler chickens are reared. Also there is egg nursery for laying hens. There are two dairy cows. organic farm Manu's Eden Farm is a farm school of the State Biodiversity Board. Livestock is mainly used as fertilizer. It can be made at home. At the base of the plant, the dead body is poured out after putting green leaves on it. Repeat every 20 days. Will buy lime and neem cake.

The farm's chicken manure will be used on the farm itself. Mixed farming is the growing and cultivation of vegetables, fruits, quadrupeds, fish and birds in one place. The cost of cultivation will be reduced and the income will increase and the farm will become more organic. If fruits, milk, vegetables, eggs, meat, honey and mushrooms are available under one roof, it will not be difficult to find a market. As it is a mixed farming area, crops can be harvested in all seasons. This young farmer is also ready to share farming knowledge with visitors to the farm.