Graceamma is truly the first of her kind; a female master trainer in the Adoni region of Andhra Pradesh, India. In 2010, CropLife International reached out to women as part of their stewardship training programmes, hiring the first female master trainer and initiating farmer training groups for women.

“I’m very proud to be the first female master trainer,” commented Graceamma, who in her role trains both men and women on Integrated Pest Management, responsible use and the secure storage of crop protection products.

Graceamma was born into a farming family and knows first-hand how much people in Adoni depend on agriculture for their livelihoods. “This is my dream job,” she said. “It is as though I’m going to my own family and training them.”

In India, many women are involved in agricultural tasks and female trainers have a unique opportunity to reach them. Graceamma and one other female master trainer have trained 24 farmer groups that include 350 men and 650 women.

“The female master trainer’s role is very important,” said Ramachandra Murthy, Project Manager in Adoni. “They have a very positive influence on women farmers, and are a true inspiration to everyone.”

Graceamma’s passion for her job is evident, and her work has helped to break the mold for women in the region. “In society, it is good that women are becoming leaders,” she said. “I wish we had more female trainers. I feel what I am doing is very helpful to the farmers and I hope this project reaches more farmers in the future.”