

ADONI: LOCAL FARMER



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Rajoli Veeranna, Local Farmer

Rajoli Veeranna is a third generation farmer in the Adoni region of Andhra Pradesh, India, where he grows chilies and cotton with his wife, parents and two children. Crop protection products are vital to his farm operations, but until recently, he and his family understood little about how to use them safely and effectively.

“We knew nothing earlier,” said Veeranna, describing his lack of knowledge relating to Integrated Pest Management, responsible use and the secure storage of crop protection products. After participating in CropLife International’s crop protection stewardship training programmes, he learned many important things that are now benefitting his farm and his family.

Veeranna pointed to important topics such as wearing personal protective equipment and storing products safely. “First we put on trousers, then wear a shirt, then tie something like an apron, wear gloves.”

“We used to keep everything together on the same shelf,”

he said. “Since the EFFORT people told us, we are keeping a separate box for pesticides.”

Training also taught Veeranna to purchase and use an appropriate amount of crop protection products.

“We would invest more or less than needed,” he explained. “We now purchase 100 millilitres per acre. Our investment has now been reduced by nearly 20 to 25 thousand rupees per acre. Because of that, we have benefited, all of us farmers.”

Veeranna has also shared what he learned with other farmers in the region. That’s because for him, training on proper pesticide use has led to better crop yields and more secure income for his family. Now that less labour is necessary in the field for tasks such as hand-weeding, his children can attend school.

“Only good came from it,” he said of the training programmes. “We are in good health. We are all well. Our future is quite secure.”