

Experimentation through Innovation – Dragon Fruit in Rourkela:

Er. Arunachari P, a software engineer who returned from USA in 2021 is a horticulture enthusiast with lot of inclination for innovative applications in horticulture. During his stay at USA he had acquired knowledge about Dragon Fruit and after returning India he started its cultivation in 2023. In his 1.5 acre has planted 1200 plants using complete organic techniques. His endeavor for a chemical free fruit production has caught the attention of many in the district. This organically cultivated fruit has fetched a very remunerative price at Rourkela market and has been sold for Rs. 250 – Rs. 300 / kg. it is expected that such plant will bear fruits up to 25-30 years. This year he got an yield of 3 mt earning a net profit of Rs. 4.3 Lakh .

This highly educated engineer has a quest for toxin free agriculture and become an inspiration for others, people have contacted him for the technology and advice. He gives free advice and guidance to start many more dragon fruit units in this district. He is very much grateful to this KVK for its support during initial period of his farm establishment. He has opened his farm gates to students, farmers and rural youth to get first hand knowledge and rural gather experience and inspiration to get self-employed as entrepreneurs.