

maa ettanam
mettipeta vidhanam

(our methods of seed saving)

Seed keeping is our tradition



- My name is Laxmiamma
- My village is Humnapur
- I am a single woman
- We used to supply seeds for everyone
- Seed keeping is our tradition

Using ash and Neem leaves



- I use this method for seeds of Pigeonpea, Sorghum, Field beans, Cowpea
- We clean the seeds and dry them for 2 days.
- A basket smeared with cow dung is dried and kept ready

Using ash and Neem leaves



- In the basket, layer after layer ash, seeds, neem leaves are placed.
- Then I plaster it air tight with a mix of clay, dung and ash.

Using Foxtail millet as a protectant



- Now, in the basket first I place the foxtail millet than a layer of pulses and foxtail millet, alternatively.
- Before sealing the basket with clay , dung and ash plaster, I layer the top with green gram /black gram dried husk.
- Pulses saved this way can be stored even up-to 2 years

Using Foxtail millet as a protectant



- I use this method, especially for Blackgram and Greengram.
- I thresh the grains, dry it for 2 days.
- Also thresh and clean foxtail millet.
- A basket smeared with cow dung is dried and kept ready

Saving dryland paddy seeds with *Vailaakku* (***)leaves)



- I dry the seeds for a day.
- A basket smeared with cow dung is dried and kept ready
- In the basket first a layer of *vaila* leaves are placed on this paddy seeds are poured.

Saving dryland paddy seeds with *Vailaakku* (**leaves)



- Then once again layer it with *vaila* leaves.
- The smell of the leaves acts as pest deterrent
- Seeds saved this way can stay alive even for 3 years.

Saving sesame seeds with paddy husk



- I thresh, clean and dry the Sesame seeds for a day
- A basket smeared with cow dung is dried and kept ready

Saving sesame seeds with paddy husk



- In the basket, mix the Sesame seeds with paddy husk. Than layer it with just the husk and plaster it.
- The seed remain intact and viable for more than 2 years.

Saving Chickpea with husk



- For this method, after threshing Chickpea, it should not be dried.
- The seeds remain sour to taste, which acts as protectant.
- And the threshed Chickpea should also be collected and kept.

Saving Chickpea with husk



- A basket smeared with cow dung is dried and kept ready
- In the basket place the seeds in between the layers of husk.
- The seeds get protected and stay viable for more than 3-4 years if taken good care.