

Success Story of RUPDHAR JANI



Mr. Rupdhar Jani belongs to Kandraguda Village, Pujariguda G.P. of Tentulikhunti Block of Nabarangpur District. He is a small farmer with a piece of land consisting of 1 acre. It has no source of irrigation. He had taken up only maize cultivation under rain fed

Rupdhar Jani has grown Finger Millet in his Farm conditions which remain fallow during other seasons. From only one crop of maize in rainy season, he was getting average Rs. 9500/- per year. With this meager amount he was not happy to manage his family properly. Therefore every year he was migrating to other places like Kerala, Bangalore and Chennai etc. for wage earning.

According to Rupdhar Jani, “Initially village meetings were organised by Agramee funded by KKS (Karl Kubel Stiftung), Germany where it was explained the importance of Family Farm through raising fruit orchard development, intercropping of vegetables. After realizing the usefulness of the project, the pre-establishment works of the family farm like land development, fencing and pit digging etc. in 1 acre land has been started.” He was keenly sharing these deliberations. However, in the beginning of the activities under the Eco-Village Development project Mr. Rupdhar Jani was convinced to establish family farm. He was provided with 65 fruit plants (35 cashew, 30 grafted mango plants) for fruit orchard development in 0.75 acres and 150 forest species (chakunda, simarua, karanja, subabul, jackfruit and tamarind etc.) for border plantation to fulfill the need of fuel, fodder timber and other requirements. Apart from that in 0.25 acres he cultivated millet, pulses, maize and paddy as annual cropping for food security. During kharif season (rainy season) he was cultivated different vegetables like tomato, brinjal, cauliflower, cabbage, radish, chili, cowpea, beans, onion and pumpkin as intercropping, this not only supplemented his family income by selling the surplus vegetables in the nearby market, but also provided a rich source of nutrition for his

children.. However his wife helped him in every step of family farm development works like land development, plantation, fencing, weeding, howening and harvesting etc.

Apart from that he was provided training conducted by Agragamee to understand the significance of family farm development and its impact on livelihood, food and nutritional securities. A manual on sustainable agriculture (regional language) has also provided to him to enhance his skill and knowledge. It helped him to augment his skill on organic farming, millet cultivation, intercropping and soil, water and forest conservation etc. Apart from that he was taken on an exposure visit to nearest organic millet cultivation area where he learnt about the steps of millet growing, treatment, harvest, storage and marketing, rain fed farming and sustainable agriculture etc. by interacting with the progressive farmers. .

After returning to his village, he took up all the following measures to increase the productivity of his land.

- Bundling of land across the slope to conserve soil and moisture and converted into small plots
- Added sufficient organic manures in all the plots and mixed with soil
- Prepared vermin compost and added in the soil
- Took up green manuring in the plots

With all these above activities, he increased the productivity of land. He took up all his crops under Organic Farming system. This kind of act has been augmented his confidence on family farm and it has become the ultimate source of income for his family. He could realize the benefits of this type of farming system and sharing the practice with other farmer of neighboring villages.

The agric production details of Rupdhar Jani of two years comparison has mentioned below;

Sl. No.	Particulars	2015-16				2020-21			
		Quantity (kg.)		Total Quantity	Total Amount (Rs.)	Quantity (kg.)		Total Quantity	Total Amount (Rs.)
		Consume	Sale			Consume	Sale		
1	Millet	--	--	--	--	290 kg.	575 kg.	865 kg.	29367.00
2	Maize	75 kg.	550 kg.	625 kg.	9375.00	--	--	--	--
3	Pulses	--	--	--	--	380 kg.	145 kg.	525 kg.	31500.00
4	Vegetable	--	--	--	--	770 kg.	560 kg.	1330 kg.	39900.00
5	Paddy	225 kg.	--	225 kg.	2700.00				
	Total			850 kg.	12075.00			2720 kg.	100767.00

The above activities have been encouraged him to make his family farm as a model in the locality. It has been strengthening his livelihood and he has become an ideal farmer for others. His continued effort in promotion of millet cultivation will sustain the culture of traditional agriculture as



supportive act in a well managed **Rupdhar Jani with Agramee-KKS team at his Family Farm** manner and inspire other farmers in the locality.

Moreover, Family Farm has been securing sustainable livelihoods and improved standard of living of the tribal farmers. It has direct impact on health, social life and poverty reduction. Natural resources like land, water and forest have been managed to sustain the main livelihood resources of the target population.

Success Story of DHANU PATRA

Village: Godigaon

Panchayat: Lamtaguda

Block: Tentulikhunti

District: Nabarangpur

Land Size: 3 acres

No. of Children: 3

(1 son, 2 daughters)



Dhanu points to his wife
“She wanted to plant trees.
I thought she was mad.

However she insisted, and with the support from Agragamee people, we fenced our land, and grew mango and cashew. Now, four years later, we have an income of 35000 from our family farm. We plan to extend this plantation and fencing to more land on our own, now that we have learnt the design and methods.”

Shailendri his wife explains “He was planning to go for dadan work. Then I told him, see Agragamee is giving mango and cashew cuttings to plant on our land. If you go, I cannot dig the pits all alone, and we shall not get any cuttings. He thought these cutting were useless, and he would get much more income from migrating. I had to cajole and coax him to stay back. Now he is so happy to see our beautiful farm. We get such tasty fruits like papaya, banana, millet and vegetable for our children and us; enjoy the fruits as much as we can, then only we sell them in the market. We also cultivate millet and pulses on one part of this land. Because of the trees and vermi-compost, the millet land is also fertile, and our production has increased.” Apart from that the vegetable are remaining fresh for 7-10 days in newly established subjee cooler which helped us to sell it in the local market twice in a week and has reduced the post harvest waste.

Aragamee’s integrated family farm model combines fruit orchards with land development, and a green hedge or fencing which provides livelihood, timber, fodder, acts as a windbreak, and checks soil erosion. With the support of Karl Kubel Stiftung and the German Government, this model has been able to reach 500 of the poorest tribal farmers in the remote tribal districts of Odisha in India. It has helped these farmers

make a U Turn, and return to their lands avoiding the many dangers and miseries faced by unskilled migrant workers in distant and unknown cities.

Shailendri and Dhanu still work hard on their land, but, with a great sense of satisfaction, and security, as the fruits trees bring cash income of Rs.35000 and more every year, while also providing essential nutrition to all of them, the millets meet their food needs, and the hedgerows help to meet a large part of their firewood needs. They have already begun work on other parts of their 2 acres farm to extend this model further.

It has helped many farmers in the remote tribal regions of Nabarangpur, Kalahandi and Rayagada Districts of Odisha make a U turn, and come back to their lands. Gradually, as excessive shifting cultivation. He used to migrate every year to far off places in search of work and income to supplement the meager earnings from his land. His wife Shailendri Patra was always upset, as managing the household singlehandedly was a big challenge.

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In 2017, Dhanu Patra developed a mixed fruit orchard over one acre of his land. He was also able to ensure year long irrigation through farm ponds and lift pumps. All this jumped the production on his one acre plot from Rs.2550/- to Rs. 65000/- a year. The change was dramatic. Dhanu's children began



to go to school regularly; he stopped his annual journeys to Bengaluru construction sites, and began to plan for repairing his dilapidated hut.

The smile on his wife Sailendri's face sums it all as she says, ***now we can give our children the food they need, and my hearth is never cold!!***

Success Story of PADMA BANUA



Padma Banua, a thirty two years old woman belongs to backward caste (paika) of Maligaon village in Chandragiri G.P. of Kashipur block in Rayagada district, Odisha. Earlier Padma Banua was practicing shifting cultivation on hill slopes. She was growing ragi and paddy for the

consumption of her family. But the condition of her family changed when she practiced the methods of agro-ecology and developed orchard in 1 acre of family farm since 2015.

In 2015 she was provided 65 nos. of fruit crops like mango, cashew, litchi and guava to develop orchard in 0.75 acre and annual cropping like millets, pulses, and paddy in 0.25 acre in her family farm. By adding various components on her farm, she has been ensured that the output from one component feeds into other, thus perfectly integrating different farm components. While the crop wastes and fodder grown on borders serve as feed for livestock, the livestock dung is converted to manure which is ploughed back into the field. Also, over the years with continued use of organic manures, vermi compost, biofertilisers and practice of green manuring, mulching etc, there is a remarkable improvement in the soil quality which is evident from the improved crop production. The input costs have been progressively declining as most of the inputs are from the farm itself.

Padma Banua has been practicing multiple cropping for food security. Mixed cropping has helped the crops to grow better in just under a year. The bigger problem that she faced was water supply, an issue faced by her entire village. To trigger the said issue the youth and progressive farmers came together to construct terracing and trenches in 18 acres of land to conserve the rain water in ground level of the soil. Apart from that shallow well was constructed by the villagers for lift irrigation. Now, the whole 18 acres of land hold the rainwater below the ground and recharges ground water as it seeps

down. This ensured moisture of the soil and lift irrigation system helped them to irrigate their farm land throughout the year even the absence of rainfall.

Now she grows vegetables, fruits and forest species. She sells the said products at the local market of Chandragiri and Kashipur. In 2021 she earned Rs. 78550/- (38250/- from 2.55 tons of mangoes @ Rs. 15/- per KG., Rs. 16500/- from 550 qntl. of vegetables and Rs. 23800/- from 7 qntl. of millets) from her 1 acre of family farm. It was 10 times higher of her income in 2015 i.e. 7500/-. Her family now has food supply all year round.



She smiles with satisfaction: “I grow many vegetables and fruits on my farm now. We make our compost here and have good water supply. My grandchildren will not face hunger like us and have healthy food to eat. Now, I have sustainable source of livelihood for me and my next

generations.”

Now-a-days she is helping farmers to map their cropping pattern based on the type of land they have. She has been encouraging women to raise seasonal vegetable nursery so that all the families could collect saplings from it and raise in their backyards. Over the years she has been instrumental in organizing the annual and seasonal crop among the farm families.