



Enabling Rural Youth to Generate Extra Income through Scientific Fish Farming under ARYA Project in Motihari District: A Success Story

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Authors' contributions

This work was carried out in collaboration among all authors. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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ABSTRACT

In this paper, we have presented a case study, where the benefits of fish farming have been shown. This study also shows how processing and value addition of agricultural commodities can raise the income of the farming community.

Keywords: Fish; farming; livelihood; income.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Bariyarpur village of Motihari block is about 15 km far from Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Piprakothi. The major crops grown in the village are wheat, garlic, onion and cumin. It is alarming that the growth rates of productivity of most of the crops have declined for the overall period except wheat, oil seeds and potato. This is somewhat matters of great concern when all efforts are towards increasing yields with the help of implementation of new cultivation technologies [1]. The farmers of this village are also engaged with vegetables and spice crops to get benefit to the nearest market. The employment pattern of this district is farming and animal husbandry, small Gur udhyog and farm labour in the rural area. Processing and value addition of agricultural commodities help increase the income of the farming community [2,3,4,5,6,7]. Farmer's income can be doubled by socio-technical interventions with the approach of increasing production and productivity and reducing the cost of cultivation and human labour through mechanization, better grading and packaging of produce, promoting local level processing with better drying and storage facilities [8]. There is a need to process as well as value addition of agricultural commodities to create development and push the pace of diversification raising the income of the farming community.

2. PROFILE OF FARMER

Manoj Kumar Sahni is a progressive farmer of Bariyarpur village. Agriculture is his passion and therefore, he tried to get knowledge about how to

earn more income from limited land and water and maximum utilization of farm resources. He is very active in participating in various agricultural training programmes, seminars, exhibitions and Agricultural fairs (Krishi Mela, 2018-19).

3. INTERVENTIONS MADE

Manoj Kumar was cultivating rice, maize, wheat and vegetables in his field as sufficient amount of water from natural streams was available that enabled the farmer to irrigate his land without the use of any pumps or electric power. He diverted the natural stream of water and circulated it through lined irrigation channels in his fields. The farmer was not satisfied with existing farming practice and wanted to establish some other agro-allied venture such a way that he can earn on a regular basis. He was guided from Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Piprakothi to construct ponds in the catchment area. The farmer was trained by providing vocational training on Fish farming.

4. INPUT / SUPPORT PROVIDED TO YOUTH / GROUP

Manoj Kumar frequently visits KVK Piprakothi where he gets benefit of demonstration and knowledge from scientists. He also got the benefit of recommendation and guidance of research scientists. He met and contacted those innovative farmers who tackle new idea and practices in the agriculture sector. By constant guidance by agricultural scientists, he was encouraged to establish fish farming as a new venture.



Fig. 1. Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Piprakothi imparted training on Fish Farming under ARYA Project



Fig. 2. Fish pond established by farmer after getting training at Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Piprakothi

5. PROGRESS MADE

He has a fish pond and he got a net income of Rs 15,000 from the selling of fresh fish and Rs. 77,000 from the selling of dry fish and fish pickle.

6. CONSTRAINTS FACED BY THE FARMER

The biggest constraint was the scarcity of water during the summer season. Pond water quality is not as per the standards reported for fish farming.

7. PERCEPTION OF OTHERS IN THE VILLAGE

The villagers got fresh fishes and its value-added products from him. Other farmers from his village also were inspired to fish farming and get more return from agriculture by adopting this venture.

8. CONCLUSION

The farmer gets a good return from his fish farming and making value addition of fish by making pickle and cutlets. Earlier, he was not satisfied with his income and was encouraged by the KVK team and inspired to adopt fish farming and implemented this idea passionately to increase his farm income and set a good example for role a model.

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COMPETING INTERESTS

Authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

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