

Armed to Sustainable Farm: Nasib Singh

Nasib singh S/o Tripta Singh is a resident of village, Korga Panchayat Bhatyari block Dansal near Jammu, Jammu and Kashmir UT. He is 78 years old, He has 1 ha of land which is mostly non-irrigated. He was retired in the cadre of Honary Captain from Army in 1989. He is a nature and animal lover and has been very interested in agriculture since his childhood with his parents. He is a hard working person and didn't want to live a passive life, after retirement. He explores his potentials in terms of discipline in the future life with past experience, knowledge and skills that he learned during his army job. He always believes ``Failures and Success are not in our hands. If I fail, it will be a lesson to me; and if I am successful, it will be a lesson to others like me. We have to do our work sincerely, and leave the rest of it to almighty''. After the retirement he used to attend social programme in the area and actively participate in government schemes especially agriculture programmes conducted by the zonal Agriculture Department K P Manwal.

He started his second innings with value addition of wheat, maize and til crop which he used to sown in his field by installing "**Atta-Chakki and Oil- Kollu**" in his village to get reasonable price of his produce by promoting the concept of direct marketing. Slowly and steadily he gains more extension contacts in terms knowledge of recent govt intervention in the field of agriculture through concerned Agriculture Extension Assistant and Agriculture Extension Officer, K P Manwal.

He invested most of his Retirement benefits and Savings to his rain fed farming to make more remunerative and lucrative farming by diversified into **Dairy, Poultry, Horticulture, Vegetables, and Mushroom cultivation** to his traditional farming. This innovativeness really motivated and inspired local people, and as a farmer friend started guiding and supporting the peer marginal and small farmers group strongly about sustainable farming in the entire area of Dansal block. This innovativeness led to closer to integrated farming system model (IFS) as govt. stresses for increasing farmer's income now which improve farm efficiency. IFS have a positive impact on the environment and biodiversity, and are more profitable for farmers than conventional systems. He introduces following practices at their farm field after retirement of about more than 30 years having frequently discussions with experts of agriculture department.



1. The milk production of dairy farm is about 40 litres/day and marketed to the nearby market as there is no organised channel to sale it.
2. Horticulture plantation comprises of Dusheri Mango(40),Lemon,(20)and kinnow(30)plants ideally suited to topography of the area.
3. Mushroom unit compost of 25-30 tons self prepared, 3000 button mushroom bags, Dingri 100 bags grown during the current season with average production 2.5 kg/bag marketed in Jammu, Udhampur and nearby market. Average cost of mushroom cultivation is 40-45/kg and sale cost of is 90-100 /kg. Mushroom cultivation being capital-intensive, the financial assistance through institutional agencies at cheaper interest rate would be the desirable entity. He revealed that this entrepreneurial venture is ideally suited for rainfed area, wild animal attacks on crops.
4. Bio-gas plant introduced by Agriculture Deptt. to use it for house hold purpose with zero budget expenses on inputs.
5. Maize and Wheat cropping pattern average crop production 1.5-180 Qtl/ha.

6. To overcome the wild animals and monkey menace in agriculture crop, 3 dogs were kept in the field to keep it away from agriculture crops.
7. Wastes generated from agricultural crops such as plant residues after harvesting and cattle manure, poultry are used on the **concept of reduce, reuse and recycle** for maintaining a sustainable agriculture effectively and efficiently.
8. In order to sustain the area under vegetables, use of indigenous mulch, FYM, Considerably act as water conservation technologies in the rainfed area.
9. Being a progressive farmer helps in adoption of new technology among the fellow farmers and provides seasonal employment to needy labour.

The average income 1 Ha farm about 80-90 thousand but he earns about 5-5.5 lakh from integrated practices adopted to his livelihood .The main reason for his **low cost of cultivation is to use the output of one product as a input** for other such as maize as poultry feed, feed as manure, cow dung as biogas, wheat straw as a mushroom compost, and its waste in the crop field as a organic mulch. His contribution in the adoption of mushroom is so much that **Bhatyari Panchayat is called as focal point of mushroom in the Dansal block** and really set an motivational paradigm. He also Quotes, ``Nothing comes in life so easily. If you have to achieve something you have to do something new and innovative, then only world recognises you as someone, among others or else you will be one among others”. His story tells us that, Success has no age limit, and no work is small or guilty, when we do it with Passion and heart fully. Now,Nasib Singh at the old age is standing as a role model to all upcoming entrepreneurs and unemployed Youth. Hence, the Armed person with his son Sawroop Singh and all his life experience from army profession led to build a Sustainable Farm.

Contact Detail:
Dr. Vishal Raina
Agriculture Extension Officer
Govt. of Jammu,
Directorate of Agriculture Jammu
Email: vishextn@gmail.com
Phone No:9419636950,
7006544139