

Success story of Sh. Dhunda Singh, a farmer from Kathua, Jammu and Kashmir

Sh. Dhunda Singh, a farmer, originally a migrant from Pakistan in the Year 1971 during Indo-Pak Conflict. He abandoned his all property and assets there and Govt. Of Jammu And Kashmir allotted him 4 Acre of land in Village Sultanpur, presently in Distt. Kathua in J&K. To fulfil a livelihood, he started growing cereal crops like Maize, Bajra, Mash and fodder during Kharif Season and Wheat, Sarson during Rabi Season. But the land then was unirrigated and unfertile, so the yield was not much. It was hardly sufficient for him to attain a 2-time meal for his family and himself.

After some passage of time, there was commencement of irrigation sources through canals and Bore wells by the Govt. of J&K, then-after he started cultivation of Cereal (viz wheat, paddy) and some vegetable crops and started getting some income.

In the year 2012, Dept. Of Agriculture asked him to start cultivation of turmeric and provided him seed and subsidy of 3.80 lakh under Centrally Sponsored Scheme (RKVY) for establishment of a small scale Grinding and processing Unit. To his astonishment, he acquired a handsome profit and his Socio-Economic Conditions improved. After that, he has been cultivating and processing Turmeric under his own Label **BDS BRAND**.



Sh. Dhunda Singh

- In year 2019, after attending a 15 days training course of Certified Farm Advisor at IISR, Kozikode, Kerala, I came in contact with Sh. Dhunda Singh and advised him to adopt **improved package of practices and integrated Pest Management strategies in turmeric cultivation using ICAR-IISR techniques**, such as :

- Rhizome selection- Infected Rhizomes are the primary source of infection and spread of the disease. Best method to manage it is by using healthy rhizomes which are free of diseases.
- Seed Treatment- Treat the seed rhizomes for 30 minutes with Mancozeb (0.3%) or Carbendazim (0.3%) prior to storing and planting.
- Drainage- Proper drainage in sandy loam soil for cultivation ensures healthy crop of turmeric.
- Mulching- Application of mulches is a common practice in rainfed ginger production to conserve soil moisture and weed suppression.
- Soil Solarization- Soil Solarization needs to be adopted in disease prone areas by covering moist soil with transparent polythene film during high temperature. It results in decrease of diseases.
- Application of Trichoderma harzianum along with neem cake @ 1kg/bed helps in reducing the incidence of diseases.
 - Application of organic manure and balanced dose of chemical fertilizers to increase the production of Turmeric.
- After applying the above technologies in the frontline demonstration of turmeric in the field of Dhunda Singh, he got better results and now he himself has adopted these technologies and advising other farmers to adopt these technologies as well from whom he procures his raw turmeric for his processing unit.
- Regarding the introduction of new variety IISR-Pragati which was provided by me, procured from ICAR-IISR Licensee Sh. Prabhu Kumar of Vijaywada Andhra Pradesh, farmer was very much impressed while seeing his productivity and Curcumin content and short duration as compared to other local cultivars and Pb. No 1 variety grown by him previously. With the intervention of Certified Farm Advisor (Spices) Sh. Dhunda Singh and other farmers of Distt. Samba and Kathua are adopting all the above mentioned package of practices and technologies of IISR and are getting good results.

Contact Details:

Mr. Tilak Raj Sharma
 Subject Matter Specialist, Dept.
 of Agriculture, Talab Tillo, J&K
 Email: trsharma14@gmail.com
 Phone No: 9419207547