



75  
Azadi Ka  
Amrit Mahotsav

# Celebrating Financial Independence through Skill Improvement

Success Stories under Skill Training of Rural Youth (STRY)



राष्ट्रीय कृषि विस्तार प्रबंध संस्थान (मैनेज)

(कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार का एक स्वायत्त संगठन)

**National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE)**

(An Autonomous Organization of Ministry of Agriculture & Farmer's Welfare, Govt. of India)

Rajendranagar, Hyderabad-500 030. Telangana, India.

## ***Celebrating Financial Independence through Skill Improvement***

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The publication is a compilation of 75 Success Stories under Skill Training of Rural Youth (STRY), a component under Sub-Mission of Agricultural Extension being implemented by MANAGE, Hyderabad in association with different SAMETIs and Training Institutes. This publication is designed to expose extension officers, research scholars, academicians, policy makers and all other relevant stakeholders on the potential of skill based programs. Neither the publisher nor the contributors and editors assume any liability for any damage or injury to any person/ persons or property from any use of information contained in this publication. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted without prior permission of the publishers/ editors. Publisher and editor do not give warranty for any error or omissions regarding the materials in this publication.

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# Celebrating Financial Independence through Skill Improvement

Success Stories under Skill Training of Rural Youth (STRY)

## *Editors*

**Shalendra**

**Sangamesh Angadi**

**Sathyendra Kumar**

**Mehrunissa Begum**



**राष्ट्रीय कृषि विस्तार प्रबंध संस्थान (मैनेज)**

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संयुक्त सचिव  
भारत सरकार  
कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्रालय  
कृषि, सहकारिता एवं किसान कल्याण विभाग  
कृषि भवन, नई दिल्ली-110001



Joint Secretary  
Government of India  
Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare  
Department of Agriculture, Cooperation  
and Farmers Welfare  
Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi-110001

**ALAKNANDA DAYAL, IAS**  
**Joint Secretary (Extn., IC, Credit & CVO)**  
**Tele No.-011-23387669**  
**[js-agriculture@nic.in](mailto:js-agriculture@nic.in)**  
**Dated 13<sup>th</sup> October, 2021**

## **MESSAGE**

The Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (GoI) has been implementing Skill Training of Rural Youth (STRY) with focus on imparting skill based trainings to the rural youths. STRY is a component implemented under Sub-Mission on Agricultural Extension (SMAE) of National Mission on Agriculture Extension and Technology (NMAET). The component, launched by the Ministry during 2015-16, aims at imparting skill based training to rural youth on agri-based vocational areas. The Ministry implements the component in association with National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE), State Agricultural Management and Extension Training Institutes (SAMETIs) and training institutes like KVKs, FTCs and ATMAAs.

I am happy to share that MANAGE under the guidance of the Department is compiling 75 Success Stories created under STRY Component. Bringing out a publication highlighting the success of the scheme during "Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav" is certainly the most appropriate time when the Nation is celebrating 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its independence. Achieving this success would not have been possible without the support and wholehearted participation of different institutes like MANAGE, SAMETIs, ATMAAs and training institutes imparting skill based trainings to rural youth.

I hope that this publication will facilitate farmers, extension field functionaries, NGOs, farmer-organisations, educational institutes, training institutes and various other relevant stakeholders considering skilling of rural youth in agri-based vocational areas as a potential tool to help them earn better from agriculture and allied activities.

  
(Alaknanda Dayal)



## Foreword

National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE), an institute operating under the aegis of the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (GoI), has been entrusted with the task to conduct skill based training programs under Skill Training of Rural Youth (STRY). STRY is a component being implemented under Sub-Mission on Agricultural Extension and has been introduced to bring desired changes in the lives of rural youths in terms of practicing farming in a better way, realizing best possible price for their produce or diversifying towards new crops and enterprise to improve their income. The component has made a remarkable progress since its inception during 2015-16 in terms of number of programs organized, rural youths trained, skilling areas covered and success stories created.

In order to highlight the success and impact created through these skill based programs conducted under STRY, MANAGE is bringing out a compilation of 75 Success Stories created under the Component. The publication will help all relevant stakeholders mainly the extension field functionaries to understand the different aspects of skill based programs like the changes encouraged through these programs, impact of these programs/ success stories on other farmers and rural youth, content coverage, resources utilised and the potential these programs have in improving the income realisation by farmers and rural youths through agriculture and allied activities.

I am quite confident about the publication being of immense use for all relevant stakeholders mainly the extension field functionaries in adopting skilling as an effective approach to bring desired changes in the lives of farmers by helping them realise better income.



(Dr P Chandra Shekara)  
Director General

## राष्ट्रीय कृषि विस्तार प्रबंध संस्थान (मैनेज)

(कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार का एक स्वायत्त संगठन, राजेन्द्रनगर, हैदराबाद - 500 030. तेलंगाना, भारत.)

**NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION MANAGEMENT (MANAGE)**

(An Autonomous Organization of Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India)

Rajendranagar, Hyderabad - 500 030. Telangana State. INDIA

Telephone : +91 040-2459 4505, 24015253 (O), Fax : +91 (040) 24015388

E-mail : dgmanage@manage.gov.in, Web : www.manage.gov.in

## INDEX

Sr. No	Title of Success Story	State	Page No.
1	Homemade incubator turned backyard poultry into a profitable venture	Assam	1
2	Success of nursery propelled by production of soilless seedlings of different vegetables	Assam	3
3	Agri-business opportunities in value addition and processing	Assam	5
4	Fish farming helped rural youth earn lakhs of rupees	Assam	7
5	Innovative egg laying cabin for successful poultry rearing	Meghalaya	9
6	Fish farming emerging as a source of sustainable income	Meghalaya	11
7	Bee Keeping – the journey from sweet honey to sweet income	Meghalaya	13
8	Production and marketing of planting material proving to be an effective income generating activity	Meghalaya	15
9	Vermicomposting emerging as a successful agro-enterprise	Meghalaya	17
10	Livestock farming for income generation, an inspiring story of Meghalaya farmer	Meghalaya	19
11	Organic Farming unfolding a green success story	Mizoram	21
12	Freshwater ornamental fish culture helping farmers boost their income	Mizoram	23
13	A young girl in Mizoram scripts success story in mushroom cultivation	Mizoram	25
14	Beekeeping emerging as a source of sustainable income	Mizoram	27
15	Additional income through mushroom production	Mizoram	29
16	The Northeast farmer who wrote a success story on poultry farming	Mizoram	31
17	Oyster mushroom production leading to health and wealth creation.	Mizoram	33
18	Production and marketing of high value vegetable crops helped in better income generation	Nagaland	35
19	Low cost poly-houses transforming protected cultivation of vegetables into profitable venture	Nagaland	37
20	Awareness on marketing made sericulture a successful business proposition	Nagaland	39

Sr. No	Title of Success Story	State	Page No.
21	Incorporation of fodder and disease management in livestock farming brought prosperity	Nagaland	41
22	Community vermicomposting empowering rural youths	Nagaland	43
23	Backyard poultry farming helped farmer-family in realising improved income	Sikkim	45
24	A rural youth having successful nursery based on a better understanding of markets	Andhra Pradesh	47
25	Mechanization based low cost cultivation making agriculture profitable	Andhra Pradesh	49
26	Low cost feed production transforming dairy farming into a successful venture	Andhra Pradesh	51
27	Integrated Farming System facilitating round the year vegetable production and realising regular income	Andhra Pradesh	53
28	Vermicompost showcasing sustainable agriculture through reduced use of chemicals and improved input-cost economics	Gujarat	55
29	Application of nutrition management practices and bio-pesticides transforming green sapling into tree of financial wellbeing	Gujarat	57
30	Clean milk production made dairy farming profitable	Gujarat	59
31	Organic Farming leading to employment generation and improved income	Gujarat	61
32	Value addition made agriculture profitable	Gujarat	63
33	Efficient utilization of natural resources through vermicomposting	Gujarat	65
34	Clean Milk Production boosting nutritional security	Himachal Pradesh	67
35	Rabbits farming scripted the empowerment of women entrepreneur	Himachal Pradesh	69
36	Better housing and feeding of birds catalysed the change in poultry farming	Himachal Pradesh	71
37	Organic farming – A way to realise improved income with reduced use of chemicals	Himachal Pradesh	73
38	Balanced feed and proper livestock management transforming lives of rural women	Himachal Pradesh	75
39	Mixed fruit orchard management – A success story for others to emulate	Jharkhand	77

Sr. No	Title of Success Story	State	Page No.
40	Pigs changed the fortunes of Manchan who is now a successful entrepreneur	Jharkhand	79
41	Skill based training program scripts success story with mushroom cultivation in Jharkhand	Jharkhand	81
42	Rural youth reaping benefit of protected cultivation of high value vegetables	Jharkhand	83
43	Organic Farming - Source of income and employment generation	Karnataka	85
44	Organic Farming is the way of sustainable development	Karnataka	87
45	Beekeeping – A rags to riches success story	Karnataka	89
46	Soil testing and integrated nutrient management bringing efficiency in agriculture and making it profitable	Karnataka	91
47	Millet's value addition – a boon to women empowerment	Karnataka	93
48	Organic Farming bringing positive changes in the life style of farmers	Karnataka	95
49	Use of homemade inputs transformed commercial nursery into a successful venture	Kerala	97
50	Application of integrated pest management made vegetable growing profitable	Kerala	99
51	Effective use of farm waste made vegetable farming profitable	Kerala	101
52	Contract farming used as a tool for practicing poultry farming successfully	Maharashtra	103
53	Tomato processing emerged as a lucrative business for young farm woman	Maharashtra	105
54	Dairy business brings happiness through increased income to farmers	Maharashtra	107
55	Story of Punjab farmer earning sustainable income through organic farming	Punjab	109
56	Commercial nursery sprouting enhanced income for farmers from Punjab	Punjab	111
57	Wealth and health from use of organic waste in mushroom production	Punjab	113
58	Skill based training program encouraging changes in Post-Harvest Management practices	Punjab	115
59	Organic farming promoting livelihood options for rural women	Tamil Nadu	117
60	Application of organic inputs resulted in reduced cost and improved income	Tamil Nadu	119



Sr. No	Title of Success Story	State	Page No.
61	Mushroom cultivation emerged as a livelihood option for farmer from Tamil Nadu	Tamil Nadu	121
62	Income enhancement through Vermicomposting	Tamil Nadu	123
63	Millet based processed products open the gateway of success	Telangana	125
64	Woman Farmer strides ahead with value added products	Telangana	127
65	Fresh Water Carp Fish farming helped a landless farmer in hunting good income	Telangana	129
66	Skills in repair and maintenance of tractor helped in getting employed	Telangana	131
67	Rural youth generating consistent income through poultry farmer	West Bengal	133
68	Beekeeping emerging as a regular source of additional income	West Bengal	135
69	Sprouts of livelihood – success story of commercial nursery farmer from West Bengal	West Bengal	137
70	Application of good quality inputs made seed production a successful venture	West Bengal	139
71	Vermicomposting proving to be a lucrative source of income for rural youths	West Bengal	141
72	A Chhattisgarh farmer write a success script on vermicomposting	Chhattisgarh	143
73	Poultry farming emerges as a potential source of income and employment generation for farm-women	Chhattisgarh	145
74	Determination and courage of farm women transformed Quail production into a successful venture	Chhattisgarh	147
75	Tackling marketing issue through processing made mushroom production a sustainable income enterprise	Chhattisgarh	149

## Homemade incubator turned backyard poultry into a profitable venture

*Success story of Tapash Roy who has become role model for rural youth in Assam*

A skill based training program on “Poultry Rearing and Management” was conducted for rural youths by Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Karimganj during 12 – 17 February, 2020. The program was organised under the coordination of Directorate of Extension Education, Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat. A total of 28 Rural Youths were trained successfully on scientific rearing of poultry and its various management aspects. The training left one of the trainees, Tapash Roy of Brajendranagar village, Karimganj district, Assam, aged 33, motivated and the skills acquired during the training helped him in implementing various aspects of scientific management of poultry rearing in his one acre land. He was rearing the indigenous duck and local chicken with the minimal production.

**Profit –** Before training, he was able to generate an income of not more than Rs. 13,000/- per month. The implementation of various skills acquired during the training helped him generate an income of more than Rs 23,000/- per month from the various activities undertaken utilizing the same resources.



### Impact of training program on Poultry Rearing

- Implementation of scientific method is the key to successful production in poultry. The training helped Tapash in selecting the site, housing and encouraged scientific management of various aspects related to poultry farming.
- The training helped in following regular practice of vaccination along with strict application of biosecurity in the farm premises as a preventive and control measure which lead to improved production and ultimately increased income.
- Utilization of existing fishery ponds developed under Integrated Farming Model like poultry cum fish model for income enhancement from both poultry and fisheries.

- Introduction of highly productive dual purpose poultry breeds like Vanraja chicken, Kamrupa, Rainbow rooster, Khaki Campbell, VigovaSuper M Duck and quail birds.
- Use of home-made incubators for hatching of eggs.

## Attracting the rural youths to poultry enterprise

- The practices adopted by Tapash Roy has influenced other poultry farmers of the neighbouring villages. There are more than 30 farmers following the advanced management practices.
- Tapash Roy act as a motivation for rest of the farmers trained through KVK, Karimganj to practice the poultry rearing at their home in a scientific way to earn better income.

## Training on poultry rearing & management program covered

Poultry rearing and management, site selection and housing for broiler poultry/duck farming, day to day activities of broiler poultry farming (zero day to market maturity age), management of chicks and demonstration on preparation of brooding area for new arrival of chicks, feeding of broiler poultry and duck, various breeds of poultry and duck for higher meat and egg production, common diseases of poultry/ducks and preventive/control measures, practical demonstration on vaccination of poultry, important post mortem lesion for diagnosis of common diseases of poultry/duck, different management system of various poultry birds, role of integrated farming system in poultry production, preparation of homemade incubator for hatching of eggs, hatchery management and marketing of birds.



## Details of associated STRY team

Training Coordinator  
**Dr Abdul Hafiz**  
 Senior Scientist and Head  
 Email Id – kvk\_karimganj@aau.ac.in  
 Phone No. – 8638890747

Nodal Officer (STRY)  
**Dr A K Tripathi**  
 Director ATARI, ZONE-VI  
 Email Id – atariguwahati@gmail.com  
 Phone No. – 0361-2223508

## Success of nursery propelled by production of soilless seedlings of different vegetables

*Success story of Jayanta Medhi from Assam who is attracting rural youths for nursery farming*

Jayanta Medhi, a forty year old rural youth was mainly cultivating horticultural crops at his 6 acres of land. He was also maintaining a small horticultural nursery to earn additional income which had a limited success. During this time only, he got the opportunity to participate in a skill based training program on 'Nursery Management' organised by KVK, Nalbari from 25th February 2020 to 2nd March 2020 under Skill Training of Rural Youth (STRY) Program. The program was organised under the coordination of Directorate of Extension Education, Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat. Based on the knowledge acquired during the training, he started propagating different horticultural plants. Marketing of these high quality planting material helped him to increase the income. The relation with the training institute and experts has also helped him to get the guidance and technical support. It also became easy for him to obtain support from different departments.



**Profit** – Jayanta Medhi is now able to generate an income of Rs 7.5 lakhs per year by practicing nursery management.

### Impact of skill training on nursery management

- Jayanta Medhi renovated his old nursery and established the new one scientifically after the training on nursery management.
- He started vegetative propagation of quality planting materials for his customers.
- He started production of disease free vegetable seedling by using scientific knowledge acquired during the training program.
- He established mother plant block for propagation at his own nursery. He introduced soilless seedling production of different vegetables and also started production of vermicompost at his nursery.



## Creating impact at ground

- Jayanta Medhi is an educated youth, who has established himself as a nursery entrepreneur in the locality. Generating good profit from nursery management is encouraging various other rural youths from the locality.
- He inspired a few youths in the locality to start production of quality planting material at their resident and market it in nearby local market.
- His nursery is used for exposure visit of trainee-farmers for practical understanding and motivational purposes.
- He collaborates with KVK and other NGOs in organizing farmer's training programs in his area. He is also invited as a resource person as an inspirational youth in different training programs.

## Coverage of the program

The subjects covered in the training program included scope and prospect of commercial nursery raising and management, planning and layout of commercial nursery, plant propagation methods and techniques, preparation of media and planting material for potting, potting and repotting, establishment and management of vegetable seedling nursery, plant nutrition and its management in nursery, nursery registration and schemes of the Government, preparation of vegetables nursery beds and sowing of vegetables seeds in pro-trays, criteria for quality planting material, economics of nursery raising. In addition, the rural youths were also taken to horticultural board accredited nursery for exposure visit.



## Details of associated STRY team

Training Coordinator  
**Shri Debajyoti Biswas**  
 Email Id – biswas.debajyoti9@gmail.com  
 Phone No. – 8486038172

Nodal Officer (STRY)  
**Dr. Ramani Sarma**  
 Email Id – sameti.assam@gmail.com  
**Dr. Manik CS Bordolo**  
 Email Id – manikcsb@gmail.com

## Agri-business opportunities in value addition and processing

*Success story of Subhana Hazarika from Assam, who is inspiring other women to take up self-employment activities in agriculture*

Subhana Hazarika, a housewife, was engaged in selling pickles and homemade sweets on demand basis to support her family in daily expenses. She participated in the skill based training program conducted on “Value Addition of Fruits and Vegetables for Entrepreneurship Development” during 26 – 31 August 2019 under STRY by Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Sivasagar under the coordination of Directorate of Extension Education, Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat. The program helped Subhana acquire technical knowledge and skills required for making better quality pickles, jam & jellies, squash, RTS, dehydrated fruits and vegetables and different candies, their packaging, labelling, getting FSSAI License and a linkage with different line departments.



Profit – Subhana Hazarika is now able to generate an income of Rs. 13000/- per month.

### Importance of skills in value addition and processing

- Adoption of appropriate scientific behavior and technology – Subhana acquired knowledge and skill required for maintaining hygiene while following different processing practices. She also acquired technical skill for preparing different value added product from fruits and vegetables which minimizes storage loss of the processed product.
- Production of variety of products – Training helped her to produce a variety of processed products including RTS, health drinks, squash, jam-jelly, dehydrated fruits and vegetables, pickles, sauce, chutneys and candies.
- Use of Machineries – She established a small processing unit at her home with all machineries required for preparation, packaging and sealing of the product.
- Obtaining FSSAI license – Subhana learned about proper labeling of the product and importance of a brand name mainly for processed products and also the relevance of FSSAI license. After the training she applied and obtained FSSAI license for its products with a brand name of LEENA Processed Products.

## Motivating others

- Subhana participate in training programs as resource person. A few interested SHG members also came to her unit for acquiring technical skills on processing and preservation and to learn use of different machineries.
- She has engaged one full time worker and one half time worker in her production unit. She has also hired an educated youth for proper marketing of her products. Thereby she gave employment to three persons of her locality.
- She trained 4 – 5 women from Hundar Pukhuri Hual goan. These trained women have started producing basic processing items and supplying the same to Subhana for final processing and branding.

## Coverage of the program

The program covered the principles of processing and preservation, advances in processing and preservation, issues related to price calculation, packaging, labelling, FSSAI license, marketing and entrepreneur skill development. Trainees were also given practical demonstrations on preparing different pickles, chutneys, sauce, squash and RTS, candies, jam and jellies. An exhibition cum sale of products was also organized by the trainees in the valedictory session which help the trainees to get the practical experience of marketing the final products.



## Details of associated STRY team

Training Coordinator  
**Dr Toslima Sultana Begum**  
 Email Id – tsbegum@gmail.com  
 Phone No. – 8472970681

Nodal Officer (STRY)  
**Dr M Neog**  
 Email Id – manoranjana.neog@aau.ac.in  
 Phone No. – 9435093577



## Fish farming helped rural youth earn lakhs of rupees

*A story of Sanjib Mura whose hobby helped him turn into a successful entrepreneur from Assam*

Sanjib Mura is a 33 years old rural youth and cultivating horticulture crops on the 0.4 hectare agricultural land available with him. He was looking for some suitable source for additional income. He participated in a skill based training program conducted under STRY on 'Fish Rearing and Management' during 26 – 31 December 2019 by Krishi Vigyan Kendra, conducted under the coordination of Director of Extension of Education, Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat. The program helped Sanjib Mura acquire knowledge and skill required to start composite fish culture and take up the same. Whereas rest of the participants started integrated fish cum duck cum horticulture.



Profit – Sanjib Mura is able to generate an income of Rs 2.10 lakhs per annum.

### Training changes fish farming practice

- Sanjib Mura dug proper pond structure and followed proper scientific methods and techniques required for composite fish culture.
- He along with other participants started following all the sanitation practices and maintaining soil and water quality required for scientific fish culture.
- He was maintaining proper stocking density and judiciously using fish feed to obtain optimum growth.

### Sharing his experience with other and providing extension service

- The success of Sanjib Mura motivated various nearby farmers and rural youths to adopt fish farming. The rural youths were able to understand the potential of venture as demonstrated by the success of Sanjib Mura.



- 12 farmers from nearby villages have started composite fish culture and 4 have adopted integrated fish farming.
- The popularity of fish farming has created demand for fish seeds and a few farmers, encouraged by this change, have already taken a step forward and have started fish seed production.

## Coverage of the program

Introduction to fish rearing and management, construction of scientific fish pond, soil and water quality management for fish culture, identification of quality fish seed, composite fish farming system, different types of integrated fish farming system, application of lime, fertilizer and balanced feed, preparation of balanced feed, fish disease and remedial measures, entrepreneurship development through fish culture, fish seed rearing and management and field exposure.



## Details of associated STRY team

Training Coordinator  
**Shri Abdur Rahman**, SMS  
 Email Id – rahmanfishco79@gmail.com  
 Phone No. – 8134808256

Nodal Officer (STRY)  
**Dr Manik CS Bordolo**  
 Email Id – manikcsb@gmail.com  
 Director (SAMETI)  
**Dr Ramani Sarma**  
 Email Id – sameti.assam@gmail.com

## Innovative egg laying cabin for successful poultry rearing

*Hobby of Yonderfully Sutnga from Meghalaya turned into livelihood activity*

Yonderfully Sutnga, a 28 year old rural youth from Meghalaya, took up backyard poultry rearing in addition to agriculture to improve his livelihood. Yonderfully Sutnga was mostly confined to rearing of indigenous poultry breeds with poor management. He was introduced to various poultry rearing management skill through a training program on 'Poultry Rearing and Management' conducted under STRY during 20 – 26 March 2020 by Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Jaintia Hills, Meghalaya. The program conducted under the coordination of Meghalaya Agricultural Management & Extension Training Institute (MAMETI), Upper Shillong, Meghalaya introduced Sutnga to improved poultry breed – Vanaraja and acquired the knowledge and skills required for preparation of different type of layout houses (brooder, grower and layer), management of heat and cold stress, feeding methods, vaccination, farm hygiene and record keeping.



**Profit –** The training helped Yonderfully Sutnga generate an income of Rs 116800/- to an investment of Rs 58500/- @ Rs 800 per bird.

### Impact of training program

- Prior to the training, Sutnga was rearing indigenous poultry birds with low production and poor reproductive trait. However, after the STRY training, the youth has taken up poultry farming on a large scale with 150 Vanaraja birds and is now planning to expand it to 500 birds.
- Besides marketing of Vanaraja meat, Sutnga is also selling the eggs to various shops in the main town of Jaintia Hills.
- The youth is also expected to expand his business as a regular supplier of chicks and feeds.
- Adopting the latest technologies in their farm like the “Innovative egg laying cabin” and “Azolla cultivation” to feed the poultry birds.
- He recently expanded his venture by rearing 200 number of broilers.

## Young farmer making poultry rearing attractive for others

- Sutnga introduced the improved Vanaraja poultry breed in his village. The higher productivity and increased profit was realized by the introduction of high yielding breeds and also encouraged many other farmers to explore the possibilities of adopting the same.
- Impressed by the success of Sutnga, various other youths of the village and nearby villages have slowly changed their perception towards poultry farming which was earlier considered just a traditional practice.

## Theme of training

Introduction to poultry rearing, preparation and maintenance of accommodation for poultry birds, handling of birds in poultry sheds, provide feed and water to birds, maintenance of healthy birds at poultry farm, handling of harvested egg and meat from birds, maintenance of post-harvest cleanliness, development of entrepreneurship and marketing skills, complete documentation and record keeping related to poultry farming, hygiene and sanitation of farm and exposure visit to Sohphoh village, West Jaintia Hills.



## Details of associated STRY team

Training Coordinator

**Dr Rimiki Suchiang**

Email ID – rimikisuchiang2013@gmail.com

Nodal Officer (STRY)

**Smt SThangkhiew**

Email ID – saelin16@gmail.com

Director (SAMETI)

**Dr Rupabakor C Warjri**

Email ID – rcwar11@gmail.com



## Fish farming emerging as a source of sustainable income

*Stephenson Slong from Meghalaya creating a success story in fish rearing by adopting composite fish culture*

Stephenson Slong, a rural youth from Meghalaya, was practicing fish rearing as a hobby. This, however, changed into a venture after attending a skill based training program under Skill Training of Rural Youth (STRY) on “Fish Rearing and Management” conducted by Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Jaintia Hills, Meghalaya during 16 – 23 March 2020. The program was conducted under the coordination of Meghalaya Agricultural Management & Extension Training Institute (MAMETI), Upper Shillong, Meghalaya. The robust methodology followed in the STRY Program covering theory sessions, demonstrations, films and interactive sessions helped the youth in acquiring knowledge on different types of fish and their scientific rearing. The application of skills learned from the training program by Stephenson Slong helped in bringing noticeable changes in fish production in comparison to the traditional practice, he used to follow earlier.



**Profit** – Stephenson Slong obtained a fish yield of 1.5 quintals from an area of 0.1 hectare with a gross return of Rs 30000/- and net return of more than Rs 21000/-.

### Impact created by the training at the ground

- Proper site selection, pond design and construction, identification and selection of suitable fish species for successful fish farming.
- Based on location and altitude, the youth has changed the species combination and ratio, and has included more of exotic carps (silver carp, grass carp, and amur common carp) which perform better than IMC (catla, rohu, mrigal) in temperate climate.
- Slong has started introduction of amur common carp in composite fish culture, common carp breeding and seed production.



## Emerging as a role model to other youths in the village

- The higher production and improved income of Slong has encouraged various other youths from nearby villages to adopt scientific fish rearing methods.

## Coverage of the program

Prospects of aquaculture in socio-economic development in a district, basic steps to start fish farming, composite fish culture, fish feed and management, integrated fish farming (Pig-Fish and Horticultural crop Integration, Duck-Fish Integration, Poultry-Fish Integration), common carp breeding, seed production and exposure visits.



## Details of associated STRY team

Training Coordinator  
**Smt Jeseama K Marak**  
 Email ID – [konkaljesmarak@gmail.com](mailto:konkaljesmarak@gmail.com)

Director (SAMETI)  
**Smt S Thangkhiew**  
 Email ID – [saelin16@gmail.com](mailto:saelin16@gmail.com)  
 Nodal Officer (STRY)  
**Dr Rupabakor C Warjri**  
 Email ID – [rcwar11@gmail.com](mailto:rcwar11@gmail.com)

## Bee Keeping – the journey from sweet honey to sweet income

*Success story of Edmon Lamurong from Meghalaya by practicing scientific method of honey extraction*

Edmon Lamurong is a 30 years old small farmer from Skhentlang village, Amlarem Block in West Jaintia Hills District. He owns one acre of land which mainly is rainfed. He cultivates vegetables and paddy during the monsoon season. He was compelled to take odd jobs in the village to sustain his family due to limited availability of agriculture land. He had interest in bee keeping but was not able to practice the same due to lack of technical and scientific knowledge. Subsequently, he got the opportunity to participate in a skill based training program conducted under STRY on Bee Keeping during 2 – 7 Sept. 2019 by ATMA, West Jaintia Hills District under the coordination of Meghalaya Agricultural Management & Extension Training Institute (MAMETI), Upper Shillong, Meghalaya. The training helped him apply various scientific methods related to honey extraction and feeding leading to sustainable profits from bee keeping.

Profits – Edmon Lamurong is able to generate a net income of Rs 50000/- per month.



### Impact created by the training at the ground

- Scientific method of honey extraction – The training has helped Edmon Lamurong to take proper care during honey extraction and reuse of comb in super chamber to save time and energy.
- Identification of a queen bee – He is now able to locate and identify the queen in a swarm. It has also helped him to bait the queen and to multiply a single bee colony to 3 – 5 bee colonies.
- Feeding the bees – The training also help him learn the importance of feeding the bees in dearth periods when no source of nectar is available.

## Emerged as a source of motivation for other youths

- Witnessing efforts and success of Edmon Lamurong, his neighbours and other youths in the village have also generated interest in beekeeping.
- The success of Edmon Lamurong has helped people realize the potential of bee keeping and accordingly, people are now more drawn towards apiculture than before.

## Coverage of the program

Introduction to bee keeping, benefits of bee keeping, site selection for bee keeping, different bee species, bee equipment and their specific uses, colony inspection and practical exposure, seasonal management – honey flow period and dearth period, swarming and absconding, uniting colonies, introduction to artificial feed, demonstration on preparation of artificial feed, demonstration on transferring bees from traditional hive to a movable frame hive, honey harvesting techniques and demonstration in the field.

## Details of associated STRY team

Training Coordinator  
**Shri Mendon J Dkhar**  
Email ID – mdkhar05@gmail.com

Director (SAMETI)  
**Smt SThangkhiew**  
Email ID – saelin16@gmail.com  
Nodal Officer (STRY)  
**Dr Rupabakor C Warjri**  
Email ID – rcwar11@gmail.com



## Production and marketing of planting material proving to be an effective income generating activity

*Success Story of Riwanka Pale from Meghalaya in effective management of nursery by adopting innovative activities*

Riwanka Pale is a 23 year old rural youth from Meghalaya. She is having one acre of land and cultivating mainly the horticultural crops to sustain her family. She participated in a skilled based training program conducted under STRY on 'Production and Marketing of Planting Materials' during the 16 – 21 March 2020 by Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Jowai under the coordination of Meghalaya Agricultural Management & Extension Training Institute (MAMETI), Upper Shillong, Meghalaya. The training program helped Riwanka Pale in acquiring knowledge and skills required on various aspects of nursery management covering from production to marketing.



Profits – Riwanka Palenow is able to generate an income of Rs 15,000 per month.

### Skill based training helping in earning better

- Implementation of proper techniques – The skills learned during the training helped Riwanka Pale in implementing the prescribed techniques involved in handling the planting material.
- Application of manures and nutrients to the plants appropriately.
- Adaption on new technical practices and their management.

### Impact of program on other youths

- Riwanka Pale has taken up the agriculture as a business and this has helped other youths to gain confidence in the potential of agriculture to generate income.
- It has helped in boosting their confidence in agripreneurship.
- Rural youth now supply the material to meet the needs of the customers within the districts and have taken it as a business rather than a mean of subsistence.



## Coverage of the program

Nursery management, planting techniques and its establishment, significance of the nursery trays, various aspects of production and marketing of the products, providing skills on self-entrepreneurship, knowledge on different cropping pattern, irrigation, harvesting, grafting and manuring. The program exposed the participants on practical aspects of various horticulture crops like lettuce, cabbage, cauliflower, radish, mustard, garlic, peas, coriander, soybean and flowers. The participants were also given practical exposure through field visits.



## Details of associated STRY team

*Training Coordinator*

**Shri Mendon J Dkhar**

Email ID – mdkhar05@gmail.com

*Director (SAMETI)*

**Smt S Thangkhiew**

Email ID – saelin16@gmail.com

*Nodal Officer (STRY)*

**Dr Rupabakor C Warjri**

Email ID – rcwar11@gmail.com

## Vermicomposting emerging as a successful agro-enterprise

*An inspirational story of a young woman  
Deigratia Pala from Meghalaya*

Deigratia Pala is a 20 years old youth from Meghalaya with farming background. She used to assist her family in various farming activities and always aspired to support her family by taking up some agriculture related income generating activity. She seriously considered vermicomposting as the activity after attending a skill based training program conducted on vermicomposting under STRY by Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Jaintia Hills, Meghalaya under the coordination of Meghalaya Agriculture Management and Extension Training Institute (MAMETI) during March 2019. The training helped Deigratia Pala to acquire the requisite knowledge and skills on various aspects of vermicompost. She is now, not only producing manure sufficient enough to meet her own agriculture needs but is also able to generate income through marketing of surplus vermicompost.

Profits – Deigratia Pala is able to generate an additional income of Rs 18,000 per month.



### Training program encouraging utilisation of bio-waste for vermicompost production

- Training has helped Deigratia Pala understand the importance of vermicompost in improving the quality of soil. Application of vermicompost has helped in maintaining optimum moisture level in the field.
- She has learned about things like soaking of bio-waste before filling into the pit.
- The training also helped her understand that mixing the bio-waste with cow-dung slurry fasten the decomposition process in comparison to the normal layering method of vermicomposting.

### She became a role model to other farm women

- The fellow farmers and rural youths are highly motivated and have shown eagerness to undergo vermicomposting training to acquire the required knowledge on various aspects of vermicompost.

## Coverage of the program

Scope and importance of organic farming in India, understanding the role of vermicompost production, identifying appropriate site and preparation of bed for vermicompost, inoculation of earthworm, identifying maturity of vermicompost and harvest using approved procedure, basic entrepreneur activities for small enterprise and exposure visit to the vermicompost unit.



## Details of associated STRY team

Training Coordinator  
**Smt Risakaru Lyngdoh**  
 Email ID – rlyngdoh12@gmail.com

Director (SAMETI)  
**Smt S Thangkhiew**  
 Email ID – saelin16@gmail.com  
 Nodal Officer (STRY)  
**Dr Rupabakor C Warjri**  
 Email ID – rcwar11@gmail.com



## Livestock farming for income generation, an inspiring story of Meghalaya farmer

*Story of young farmer Ambrosius Lapang from Meghalaya who created a success story in livestock business*

Ambrosius Lapang, aged 36 years, is having half acre of land and cultivating mainly horticulture crops like brinjal, lady finger, cabbage, peas, carrot, potato, onion and cucumber to support his family. He participated in a skill based training program on 'Livestock Farming for Income Generation' conducted under STRY during 2 – 7 February 2020 by Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA), Nongpoh under the coordination of Meghalaya Agriculture Management and Extension Training Institute (MAMETI), Meghalaya. The training helped Ambrosius to acquire knowledge and skill required for pig rearing.



Profit – Ambrosius is able to generate a gross income of Rs 3.75 lakhs per year.

### The training program made pig farming attractive

- Training helped Ambrosius implement housing management effectively, feeding management and caring of piglets after birth.
- The cemented floor of the pig house being impervious has been modified in such a way to avoid it being slippery for the pigs and also well sloped and properly drained to remain dry and clean.
- The surrounding walls of the pig house have been plastered smoothly or polished with cement to avoid skin injury to the pigs while rubbing their body to the walls.
- The roof has been constructed with good quality GI sheet for proper shade during rain and heat.



## Role model for rural youths

- On witnessing the performance of the youth, the Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Department of the district has selected his farm as a demonstration unit for other farmers/youths.
- The demand for piglets has improved. Access to veterinary medicine, vaccine etc. has improved.
- Improved demand of pig manure from other farmers has resulted in improved net income.

## Coverage of the program

Different breeds of pig suitable for the region, scientific and improved technology of housing management in piggery farming, scientific and improved technology of feeding management, scientific and improved technology of health management (vaccination, deworming and vitamins), selection of pigs for breeding stock and different aspects of caring of pregnant sow during gestation period and assisting them in difficult farrowing and hands on experience and field visit for gaining practical experience.



## Details of associated STRY team

Training Coordinator and Nodal Officer (STRY)

**Dr Rupabakor C Warjri**

Ri-Bhoi District, Meghalaya

Email ID – rcwar11@gmail.com ATMA,

Director (SAMETI)

**Smt S Thangkhiew**

Email ID – saelin16@gmail.com

## Organic Farming unfolding a green success story

*Success story of Vanlalremruata from Mizoram in taking organic farming as a business activity and inspiring various other youths through his success*

Vanlalremruata is a 23 year old rural youth from Mizoram. He is mainly cultivating horticultural crops at his 4 acre field to sustain his family. He was looking for some low investment activity to generate additional income. His quest helped him participate in a skill based training program conducted under STRY on 'Organic Farming' during February 2021 by Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA), Aizawl under the coordination of Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Selesih, CAU, Aizawl and State Agricultural Management & Extension Training Institute (SAMETI), Mizoram. The program helped Vanlalremruata acquire knowledge and skill required to practice organic farming, produce vermicompost, importance and use of vermiwash, importance of farm machinery (chaff cutter) in vermicompost and vermiwash preparation and quality control.



Profits – Vanlalremruata is able to generate an income of Rs 20000/- per month.

### Skill based training helped in taking organic farming as a business

- Practicing organic farming has helped Vanlalremruata to open his own store in the locality. This intervention has helped him realize better income from the same resources.
- The exposure gained during the training program has made him understand the importance of machinery. He is planning to use machinery (Chaff cutter).
- The training made him understand the importance of packaging and labelling in perishables mainly organic produce. Accordingly, he is planning to start using the quality packaging and labelling for his produce.

## Success attracting other youths in organic farming

- The practices adopted by Vanlalremruata based on the knowledge acquired during the training has resulted in better trust of the local people in his products.
- Considering the importance of using organic inputs and their impact on resources like land, other trainees and local youths are encouraged to produce compost for their own use.

## Coverage of the program

Organic pest management, vermicompost and its uses in organic farm, vermiwash and its uses, vermicompost preparation and vermiwash preparation, vermicomposting structures and its prospects and designs and organic certification process and field visit.



## Details of associated STRY team

Training Coordinator  
**Lalmalsawma Khawlhing**  
 Email id – mskholhring@gmail.com  
 Phone No – 9856442835

Training Agency  
**Office of the Project Director**  
 ATMA, Aizawl District  
 Email id – atma.aizawl@gmail.com



## Freshwater ornamental fish culture helping farmers boost their income

*Success story of the Lalhmingthanga from Mizoram in practicing freshwater ornamental fish rearing with low investment*

C Lalhmingthanga is 28 year old rural you and having 2.5 acre of land. He was relying mainly on fish ponds to sustain his family but was not able to generate sufficient income due to limited skill on fish farming. He got the opportunity to participate in a skill based training program conducted under STRY on 'Fish Rearing and Management' during February 2021 by Agricultural Technology Management Agency, Lawngtlai District. The program conducted under the coordinator of State Agricultural Management & Extension Training Institute (SAMETI), Mizoram helped Lalhmingthanga in acquiring knowledge and skills required for scientific fish rearing such as induced fertilization on common carp, identification of male and female fish, preparation of feeds from locally available material and how and when to reclaim his ponds.



Profit – C Lalhmingthanga is able to generate a net income of Rs 20000/- per month.

### Training program helping in preparation of feed using locally available material

- Induce breeding of common carp – The skills learned during the training program have helped Lalhmingthanga practice the induced breeding on common carp where he is able to produce the seedlings of fish.
- Feeds preparation from locally available material – Lalhmingthanga is now able to prepare feed from locally available material to mix with the concentrated feeds which has resulted in saving money on use of inputs.



## Role model for rural youths

- Lalhmingthanga has shared his learnings from the training program with other farmers to help them realize the importance of scientific fish rearing.
- He was able to generate interest in other youths and motivate them to take up fish farming to improve their income.
- He has also influenced other farmers in diversifying towards better fish rearing practices like induce breeding of common carp.

## Coverage of the program

Introduction to fish rearing, selection of site for fish pond, rearing pond management, study on carp fry species, stocking management, feed management, pond fertilization, water quality management, disease management, reclamation of soil, identification of male and female fish, paddy cum fish culture, induce breeding of carp, harvesting and seeds transportation and field visits.



## Details of associated STRY team

Training Coordinator  
**Shri Lalmalsawma Khawlhing**  
 Email Id – mskholhring@gmail.com  
 Phone No – 9856442835

Training Agency  
**Office of the Project Director**  
 ATMA, Aizawl District  
 Email Id – atma.aizawl@gmail.com

## A young girl in Mizoram scripts success story in mushroom cultivation

*Success story of young entrepreneur Lalthakimi who is inspiring many farm women in Mizoram*

H Lalthakimi is a progressive farmer from Lengpui, Mamit District (Mizoram) operating in the field of Mushroom cultivation (Chinese method). She started mushroom cultivation based on the knowledge and experience gained during skill based training on Mushroom Production Techniques organised by Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA), Mamit District during January 2021. The program was coordinated by State Agricultural Management & Extension Training Institute (SAMETI), Mizoram. Now, she has become one the most influential farmers and is an example for others. She creates awareness among other on the potential of mushroom and its various production techniques.



Profit – Lalthakimi is able to generate a net income of Rs 8000/- per month.

### Training program helping in practicing hygiene in mushroom production

- Skills learnt during the training program helped her understand the importance of hygiene and cleanliness in choosing the paddy straw, cultivation room, materials and mushroom spawn.
- Effect of environment (humidity and temperature) on mushroom cultivation and how to control the same.

### Role model for rural youth

- Lalthakimi has emerged as a role model for local women in production and marketing of mushroom and is considered as an example by rural youths.
- She shares her knowledge by participating in various activities of ATMA and KVK.



## Coverage of the program

Taxonomy of mushroom, identifying mushroom, regional importance, ecological classification of mushroom, magnitude of mushroom species, mushroom genetics and breeding, global mushroom production, difference in mushroom production pattern, world mushroom market, nutritional value of mushroom, medicinal properties of mushroom, mushroom neutri-ceuticals, management of fruiting/ mushroom development, different components of mushroom, selection of mushroom species/strain, mushroom diseases, post-harvest handling, socio-economic impact of mushroom cultivation, preparation of selective substrate/compost, development of robust spawn, care of mycelial (spawn) running and demonstrations.



## Details of associated STRY team

Training Coordinator

**Dr David Malsawmkima**

Phone No. – 8415058727,

Email Id – davidzote160@gmail.com

Training Agency

**Office of the Project Director**

ATMA, Mamit District

Email Id – mamitatma@gmail.com

## Beekeeping emerging as a source of sustainable income

*Inspiring story of Hmangaihkimi from Mizoram of generating income by adopting modern practices in beekeeping*

Hmangaihkimi is a 31 year old youth from Mizoram. She is mainly practicing mixed cropping system of farming on her five acres of land. She is practicing farming and her husband is a teacher. Still, both of them were looking for some additional source of income. She participated in a skill based training program conducted under STRY, the component implemented under SMAE by the Ministry. She was introduced to different aspects of bee keeping through the program conducted on 'Beekeeping' during March 2019 by Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA), Siahia District, Mizoram in association with State Agriculture Management and Extension Training Institute (SAMETI), Aizawl, Mizoram and National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE), Hyderabad. The training exposed her to different aspects of beekeeping like identification of queen in bee box, hiving of honey bee colonies, division and uniting of bee colonies, management of bee colonies in different seasons, extraction and processing of honey and importance of modern bee – box.



Profit – Hmangaihkimi is able to generate a net income of Rs 28,000/- per month.

### Training introducing to modern practices

- Hmangaihkimi replaced some of her traditional bee-boxes with modern bee-boxes when she learned that the modern bee-box give more harvest.
- She inspects her farm more regularly to see for any intruders/ pesticides which is the first and foremost step for any kind of infestation.
- She is able to take proper care of queens whereas earlier she was not even able to locate the queen like many other youths.
- She is now not only able to split the colonies as a technique to avoid the swarming but also understand about the timing and concepts like colony strength.



## Role model to other women farmers

The success of Hmangaihkimi and the improvement introduced by her over traditional practices has encouraged three more youths from her community to start beekeeping.

## Coverage of the program

Introduction to beekeeping, bee-life cycle and morphology, selection of location for hives, basic bee-keeping technique, beehives and beekeeping equipment, do's and don'ts before visiting hive, technique of building equipment for bee arrival, queen bee production methods, control of robbing in a honey bee colony, cleaning of bees wax to make bee products, preparation of hive for winter, honey bee disease and parasite management, malnutrition and mortality in bees, honey bee pollination and colony migration, honey bee production, harvesting and processing and storage.



## Details of associated STRY team

Training Coordinator  
**Ms Elizabeth B Khaimichho**  
 Email Id – elizabetikmc@gmail.com  
 Phone No. – 8787411378

Training Agency  
**Project Director**  
 ATMA, Siaha District  
 Email Id – atmasaiha@gmail.com

## Additional income through mushroom production

*Success story of Lunghnemi from Mizoram in mushroom production*

Lunghnemi is a rural youth from Mizoram. She is having a small area available with her which is being used for mushroom production. She opted for mushroom production considering cultivation of mushroom is simple, low investment and labour intensive and suitable for rural areas with potential to generate employment and income. In order to produce good quality mushroom, utilise the resources optimally and market the final production efficiently, she participated in a skill based week long training program conducted during 2019 – 20 under STRY on Mushroom Production Techniques by Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Siaha under the coordination of State Agricultural Management & Extension Training Institute (SAMETI), Mizoram.



Profit – Lunghnemi is able to generate an income of Rs 28000 per month. She is also realising a price of Rs 200 – 350 per kg of mushroom.

### Training helped in realising better price

- Skills learnt during the training program helped Lunghnemi produce good quality mushroom.
- The knowledge acquired during the program made her understand the importance of hygiene and cleanliness in mushroom production and effective disease management.
- She is able to realise a price of Rs 200 – 350 per kg of mushroom based on better understanding of market and preparing produce accordingly.

### Encouraging favourable changes at the ground

- Lunghnemi encourages fellow women farmer to cultivate mushroom for additional income. She is also provide training to them on different aspects of mushroom production as per the requirement of market. She is one of the pioneers in mushroom cultivation in Siaha district.



- With the introduction of mushroom cultivation in Siaha district, good numbers of farmers and farm women are interested in this enterprise.
- At present, there are 11 farm women and two farmers involved in this enterprise within Siaha town alone.

## Coverage of the program

Introduction to principles of mushroom production, type of mushrooms, their nutritional value, importance in daily diet, edible and poisonous mushroom, production of mushroom as an income generating activity and its business potential, opportunities and constraints, mushroom culture preparation, preservation technique, storage and transport, fungal, viral and bacterial diseases, insect, pest and nematodes of mushroom and their management. Participants were also taken on exposure visit to provide them practical orientation.



## Details of associated STRY team

Training Coordinator  
**Ms J Vanlalhluzuali**  
 Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Siaha District  
 Email id – kvksaiha@gmail.com

Nodal Officer (STRY)  
**Shri Vala T Thanhnuna Tonson**  
 Email: valatonson@gmail.com  
 Phone No. – 7085206142

Director (SAMETI)  
**Shri C Lalnithanga**  
 Email – nianov2014@gmail.com/  
 mametimizoram@gmail.com  
 Phone No. – 94363 50209

## The Northeast farmer who wrote a success story on poultry farming

*Success story of Nekzomawia from Mizoram in poultry rearing*

Nekzomawia is 18 year old rural youth with schooling up to high school. He was not having any land for cultivation and therefore, was looking for self-employment opportunity. He enrolled for STRY skill based training program conducted on 'Poultry Rearing and Management' during February 2019 by Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) operating under Directorate of Agriculture, Kolasib, Mizoram. The program was organized with the support of State Agricultural Management and Extension Training Institute (SAMETI), Mizoram and MANAGE, Hyderabad. The skill based training program helped Nekzomawia acquire knowledge and skills on various aspects related to poultry rearing.



**Profit** – The venture has helped Nekzomawia earn an income of Rs 16800/- per month by marketing eggs and meat.

### Impact of training programme on poultry rearing

- The knowledge acquired during the training helped Nekzomawia in establishing poultry farm and improving hygienic housing, balanced feeding and nutrition, better feed conversion ratio and disease control and management. He also introduced modification of PVC septic tank pipe as feeder.
- Incorporation of Ankasa (*Spilanthus* sp), Japan Hlo (*Mickania micrantha*) and Lenhling (*Amaranthus* sp.) in the feed formulation for better growth and reduction of feed cost.

### Encouraging other farmer in poultry rearing

- The success achieved by Nekzomawia encouraged interest among various other youths from the locality in poultry rearing. This led to horizontal spread of the poultry rearing as a self-employment enterprise and have encouraged ten rural youth to take up poultry rearing as an income generating activity.



## Coverage of the program

Anatomy of poultry, housing, rearing system of poultry, breeds of poultry, brooding, nutrient management, feeds and feeding of poultry, diseases of poultry, handling of birds, health management, harvesting of poultry products, post-harvest management, entrepreneurship and marketing skills, safety, hygiene and sanitation, record keeping and visit of poultry farm for demonstration and practical experience.



## Details of associated STRY team

Training Coordinator

**Dr David Malsawmdawngliana**

Email – davevet007@gmail.com

Phone No. – 8974242814

Director (SAMETI)

**Mr C Lalnithanga**

Email – nianov2014@gmail.com/

mametimizoram@gmail.com

Phone No. – 94363 50209

Nodal Officer (STRY)

**Mr Vala T Thanhnuna Tonson**

Email – valatonson@gmail.com/

Phone No. – 7085206142

## Oyster mushroom production leading to health and wealth creation

*Success story of Lalnuntluangi from Mizoram, a housewife who started a successful enterprise in Oyster Mushroom Production*

Lalnuntluangi is 35 years old and was looking for some low investment income generating activity. She participated in STRY skill based training program conducted on 'Oyster Mushroom Production' during 30.11.2020 – 05.12.2020 by ATMA Lunglei, Mizoram under the coordination of State Agricultural Management and Extension Training Institute (SAMETI), Mizoram. The Skill based training program helped Lalnuntluangi acquire knowledge and skill required for Oyster Mushroom Production which encouraged her to take up mushroom production as a supplementary income generating activity.

Profit – Lalnuntluangi is able to generate an income of Rs 3.6 lakhs per annum.



### Training changed the practice of mushroom cultivation

- Proper hanging system results in less space requirement for harvesting of Oyster Mushroom.
- Spraying of the packed materials with water based on the climatic season for moisture retention.
- Sanitary hygienic practice results into increase production of mushroom.
- Use of low cost materials for Oyster Mushroom production improved production economics.





## Inspiring other farmers to enter into a mushroom business

- The success of Lalnuntluangi and improved demand of mushroom in local market led to increase interest among the rural youth for taking up the mushroom production as an income generating enterprise.
- Popularization of Oyster Mushroom Production techniques especially to rural youth as it can be taken up as a supplementary income generating activity.

## Coverage of the program

Introduction to the concept of mushroom cultivation, different mushroom cultivation techniques, spawn management, care and management of mushroom house, disease and pest management in oyster mushroom, harvesting, economics of mushroom production and hands on experience.



## Details of associated STRY team

TrainingCoordinator

**Shri John Lalnluangliana**

Email – ginjiro1389@gmail.com

Nodal Officer (STRY)

**Shri Vala T Thanhnuna Tonson**

Email: valatonson@gmail.com

Phone No. – 7085206142

Director (SAMETI)

**Shri C Lalnithanga**

Email – nianov2014@gmail.com

mametimizoram@gmail.com

Phone No. – 94363 50209



## Production and marketing of high value vegetable crops helped in better income generation

*An inspiring story of Moatemsu from Nagaland in production of high value vegetables*

Moatemsu, aged 32 years and having 1.45 hectares of land, is mainly cultivating maize, broccoli, cabbage, okra and papaya. He participated in a skill based training program on 'Production, Post-Harvest Management and Marketing of Vegetables' during 05 – 10 August 2019 conducted under STRY by Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA), Mokokchung. The program was organised under the coordination of State Agriculture Management and Extension Training Institute (SAMETI), Medziphema, Nagaland. The program helped Moatemsu understand the importance of growing high value crops for harnessing maximum profit. He also learned about integrating his produce with the market at the right time to realise the best price.



Profit – Moatemsu is able to generate a net income of Rs 520000/- per annum.

### Program facilitating introduction of improved varieties

- The knowledge acquired during the training program helps Moatemsu to diversify towards production and marketing of highly value perishable crops.
- The technical know-how gained during the training program helped Moatemsu cultivate vegetables on a commercial scale.
- Program helped him to start cultivating improved varieties of high value crops like sweet corn, hybrid papaya (Red Lady), Broccoli, Chinese cabbage, Beetroot, Carrot and Okra.
- Moatemsu along with some like-minded unemployed friends decided to form a group of six members and started a vegetable farm called "Healthy Harvest".
- The profit from the farm helped them purchase a vehicle for transporting their produce from the farm to the market.

## Inspiring various other youths in his village

- Encouraged fellow farmers to practice group farming and group marketing for enhanced production and better price realisation.
- An example for many unemployed youths conveying the message that “Agriculture is indeed the backbone of our economy.” Moatemsu along with his friends is able to meet the vegetable needs of his village.

## Coverage of the program

Importance of Kharif and Rabi vegetables cultivation, scope of vegetable cultivation, status of vegetable production in the state, improved package of practices of vegetables, pest and disease management, importance of post-harvest management in vegetables, aspects of post-harvest management, methods of cleaning, sorting and grading, transportation and cold storage systems, packaging and labelling, value addition through pickles, ketchups and sauces preparation, constraints and status of marketing, marketing policies in the state, marketing mix, market intelligence, group farming and group marketing approaches and advantages, community support agriculture, economics of cultivation of broccoli, garlic and okra, field visit to state agriculture research station and KVK, Yisemyong.



## Details of associated STRY team

Training Coordinator  
**Ms Rongsennungla Imchen**  
 Email Id – atmamkg@gmail.com  
 Phone No. – 9436212346  
 Phone No. – 6909630621

Director (SAMETI)  
**Shri K Remphamo**  
 Email Id – renphamo.l@gmail.com/  
 sameti\_medz@rediffmail.com

Nodal Officer (STRY)  
**Ms Tiajungla Longchar**  
 Email Id – tiyajung@gmail.com/  
 Phone No. – 9856437227

## Low cost poly-houses transforming protected cultivation of vegetables into profitable venture

*Success story of Mongko inspiring rural youths in Nagaland to take up protected cultivation as income generating activity*

Mongko, aged 22 years and having 5 acres of agricultural land, is mainly cultivating horticultural crops like cauliflower, cabbage, broccoli and pea along with cereals like maize. He participated in a skill based training program on 'Protected Cultivation of High Value Vegetable Crops' conducted during August 2019 under STRY by Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Tuensang. The program was coordinated by State Agriculture Management and Extension Training Institute (SAMETI), Medziphema, Nagaland. The program helped Mongko adopt scientific methods of cultivation taking into account seasonal selection of crops and varieties. He also learned about cropping sequence and high value vegetable crops.



**Profit** – The adoption of low cost of poly house has helped Mongko in realising higher yield and improved income.

### Introduction of scientific methods in vegetable production

- Mongko switched from conventional methods to scientific methods of cultivation.
- He learned about season-based selection of crops and varieties.
- The knowledge gained during the training program helped him understand that high-value vegetable seedlings and crop production under low cost poly-houses during peak monsoon season gave higher germination percentage and yield.
- Mongko modified his cropping sequence based on the knowledge gained during the program, which resulted in better yield and sustainable income.

### Becoming a role model for rural youth

- The model farms established by Mongko has encouraged large number of farmers to follow the scientific way of cultivation which has given them higher yield and production.



- Better production and income realized as a result of standardization of selection of crop and variety according to season, date of sowing, method of sowing and use of low cost poly-tunnels for cultivation of high-value crops has influenced many more farmers in the district to opt for high value vegetable cultivation.
- Mongko is organizing informal interactions with fellow farmers and rural youth to share the knowledge acquired by him during the STRY Program.
- Participants of the training program from a particular village have formed an informal group called 'Vegetable Grow Group' for cultivation and marketing of high value vegetables in the village.

## Coverage of the program

Scope and importance of protected cultivation, objective and importance of nursery bed preparation for high value vegetables, site selection for nursery bed and preparation of nursery beds, propagation structure and propagation techniques, soil management in nursery bed, procedure for nursery raising, selection of variety and planting material, method of seed tuber treatment and planting, soil treatment of nursery with fungicide and pesticide, hi-tech nurseries (v-type) and low cost poly structures, integrated pest management in high value vegetables, integrated disease management, fertility management and determination of fertilizer and pesticide requirement, area specific different cropping sequences, calculation of seed requirement and method of seed treatment, weed management and intercropping, growth regulators and micro-nutrient application in high value vegetables, mulching and nutritional gardening, value addition through preparation of pickles and candy.



## Details of associated STRY team

Training Coordinator

**Dr Shisarenla Aier**

Email Id – shisaren.aier@gmail.com

Phone No. – 7641838316

Director (SAMETI)

**Shri K Remphamo**

Email Id – renphamo.l@gmail.com/

sameti\_medz@rediffmail.com

Phone No. – 6909630621

Nodal Officer (STRY)

**Ms Tiajungla Longchar**

Email Id – tiyajung@gmail.com/

Phone No. – 9856437227

## Awareness on marketing made sericulture a successful business proposition

*Success story of a young girl Viholi from Nagaland inspiring various rural youths to take up sericulture as an effective employment generation activity*

Viholi is an eighteen year old youth with only one acre of land and therefore was looking for some good low investment income generating opportunity. She participated in a skill based training program on 'Future Prospects of Sericulture Industry & Economic Empowerment of Youth' conducted during 20 – 26 November 2020 under STRY by Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA), Zunheboto. The program was conducted under the coordination of State Agriculture Management and Extension Training Institute (SAMETI), Medziphema, Nagaland. The program helped Viholi in acquiring knowledge and skill about Eri silk production. She learned about preparing the site and inoculation of eggs, food management, and different methods of rearing and marketing of the finished product.



**Profit –** The silk production helped Viholi in generating additional employment and income through effective market integration.

### Training leading to strong marketing linkages

- The skill based training program helped Viholi to know about various market information sources. This helped her in having a better understanding of the local market conditions and produce accordingly.
- Market survey to understand the demand is vital in a decision to diversify towards an enterprise like sericulture. The knowledge acquired during the program helped Viholi not only in understanding the importance of market survey but she was also able to execute the same based on the guidance provided by the training institute.
- She observed that the lectures organized during the training program on motivation and building entrepreneurship helped her develop entrepreneurship qualities.

## Story of a young girl motivating many others

- Viholi learned that Sericulture can be used as an effective tool for empowerment of rural youth and therefore, encouraged various unemployed rural youths to learn more about it.
- Many young women have become aware of the potential of Sericulture industry after the STRY training program.

## Coverage of the program

Introduction to sericulture, silk production in India and the world, stages of production and life cycle in brief, present status and trends in sericulture, comparative sericulture statistics studies, potential, strengths and challenges of sericulture industry in India, sericulture and employment generation, steps to improve productivity and quality, the wild silks of India - Tasar, Eri and Muga, identification of different silkworms, Eri production, requirement of rearing appliances, degumming process, Eri silk weaving, maintenance of environmental conditions during rearing, egg incubation and hatching, brushing of worms, methods of rearing, economics of Eri silkworm production, size of the sericulture industry in Nagaland and sericulture development in north-eastern states.



## Details of associated STRY team

Training Coordinator

**Ms Avitoli K Yeptho**

Email Id – avtyep@yahoo.co.in

Phone No. – 7629888584

Nodal Officer (STRY)

**Ms Tiajungla Longchar**

Email Id – tiyajung@gmail.com/

sameti\_medz@rediffmail.com

Phone No. – 9856437227

Director (SAMETI)

**Shri K Remphamo**

Email Id – renphamo.l@gmail.com/

sameti\_medz@rediffmail.com

Phone No. – 6909630621



## Incorporation of fodder and disease management in livestock farming brought prosperity

*The story of Temsutoshi from Nagaland demonstrated the potential of livestock farming*

Temsutoshi is a 35 years old rural youth with four acres of land utilised mainly for cultivation of tapioca and maize. He is also engaged in rearing of cattle and pigs and Eri silkworm. He participated in a skill based training program on 'Livestock Farming' conducted during July 2019 under STRY by Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA), Mokokchung. The program was conducted under the coordination of State Agriculture Management and Extension Training Institute (SAMETI), Medziphema (Nagaland). The program helped Temsutoshi acquire knowledge and skills on various aspects of livestock farming, integrated (livestock and crop) farming, value addition and market integration.



Profit – Adoption of cattle management practices helped Temsutoshi in generating higher income on sustainable basis.

### Training program helped in introducing fodder and disease management

- The confidence gained during the program encouraged Temsutoshi to purchase three new breeds of cattle for dairy production.
- The knowledge acquired during the training program helped him adopt improved cattle management practices.
- Temsutoshi has now incorporated fodder and disease management in his animal rearing practices.

### Inspiring other rural youths

- Success of Temsutoshi has helped other farmers realise the potential of livestock farming. This has encouraged many farmers to increase the number of animals at their farm and therefore have approached ATMA in connecting them to financial institutes for assistance to expand their farms.

- Realizing the importance of investment in the enterprise, Temsutoshi has taken appropriate initiatives to create credit linkages with financial institutions not only for himself and but also for other interested farmers.
- The success of Temsutoshi has encouraged other farmers to take up integrated farming for increased economic returns.

## Coverage of the program

Livestock farming as an opportunity for self-employment, cattle rearing for organic farming, improved breeds and feeds management in piggery farming, common disease outbreaks and its management in cattle, piggery and poultry, tapioca and maize cultivation for livestock feed production, Srinidhi poultry production from grower's experience, rabbit farming, value addition in livestock products, linkage with financial institutions and support available to livestock farmers.



## Details of associated STRY team

Training Coordinator

**Ms Rongsennungla Imchen**

Email Id – atmamkg@gmail.com

Phone No. – 9436212346

Nodal Officer (STRY)

**Ms Tiajungla Longchar**

Email Id – tiyajung@gmail.com

Phone No. – 9856437227

Director (SAMETI)

**Shri K Remphamo**

Email Id – renphamo.l@gmail.com/

sameti\_medz@rediffmail.com

Phone No. – 6909630621

## Community vermicomposting empowering rural youths

*Success story of Kinito Kinny from Nagaland who used vermicomposting in improving soil quality*

Kinito Kinny, aged 35 years with less than one acre of land, is mainly cultivating rice, maize, soybean, beans and cucumber. He participated in skill based training program on 'Empowering Youth through Community Vermicomposting' conducted under STRY during July 2019 by Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA), Zunheboto and coordinated by State Agriculture Management and Extension Training Institute (SAMETI), Medziphema (Nagaland). The program helped him in acquiring knowledge and skill on different aspects of vermicomposting using local raw materials. He learned that 8 kgs of raw material produces 1 kg of compost which can be made within 2 – 3 months. This motivated him to take up vermicomposting for income generation as well as to produce organic fertiliser for his own use and for use of fellow villagers.



**Profit** – The vermicomposting helped Kinito Kinny in generating additional income and made him financially independent.

### Impact of training program at ground

- The training provided Kinito Kinny knowledge on the technical aspects of vermicomposting such as site selection, raw materials requirement, benefits of vermicompost in terms of soil aeration and improved fertility. This made him confident to take up vermicomposting as an income generating activity in addition to cultivation on the limited land available with him.
- He learned how to prepare vermi wash, its benefits, precautions and methods of application.

### Inspiring the youth in Nagaland

- More youths became interested in vermicomposting as an income generating activity after the training program and success of Kinito Kinny.



## Coverage of the program

Introduction to vermicomposting, materials requirement, site selection, roof materials thatched/vermished, role of earthworm in vermicomposting, different methods of vermicomposting, handling and harvesting of vermicomposting, storing and packing of vermicompost, preparation of vermi wash, methods of application of vermi wash, benefits of vermi wash, nutrient content of vermi wash, application of vermicompost in different crops, soil health improvement and crop productivity enhancement, vermi compost as a source of additional income, potential sources for adoption of vermicompost unit at farmers field, empowering youth through vermicomposting and economic cost and income from vermicomposting.



## Details of associated STRY team

Training Coordinator

**Dr Rakesh Kumar Chaurasia**

Email Id – kvkzunheboto@gmail.com

Phone No. – 8789421578

Nodal Officer (STRY)

**Ms Tiajungla Longchar**

Email Id – tiyajung@gmail.com

Phone No. – 9856437227

Director (SAMETI)

**Shri K Remphamo**

Email Id – renphamo.l@gmail.com/

sameti\_medz@rediffmail.com

Phone No. – 6909630621

## Backyard poultry farming helped farmer-family in realising improved income

*Success story of Birendra Rai from Sikkim in practicing feed and disease management for successful implementation of poultry farming*

Birendra Rai s/o Shri Dilli Ram Rai from Bermiok, West Sikkim is a 28 year old rural youth and cultivates mainly ginger on the two acres of land available with him for supporting his family. He also used to practice farming of local chicken since many years at small scale to generate additional income. However, it was small scale and done in traditional manner. He participated in a skill based training program conducted during November 2019 under STRY by Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA), West Sikkim at Hee Martam Block on 'Scientific Management of Backyard Poultry'. The program was coordinated by State Agriculture Management and Extension Training Institute (SAMETI), Sikkim. The program helped Birendra in acquiring knowledge on scientific hatching and brooding methods, construction of low cost housing system, preparation of poultry feed using locally available ingredients, management of common diseases of poultry birds and understand the demand of meat and eggs in local market. This helped him in taking-up poultry farming in scientific manner and upscaling the same.



Profits – Birendra earns around Rs 9000/- per month from meat and around Rs 3000/- per month from eggs.

### Modification facilitated by the training program

The skills acquired during the STRY training program helped Birendra Rai in taking better care of the chicks during early days, techniques of chick guard helped in reducing the mortality rate of young chicks. The health of the birds improved by providing starter feed and medication to chicks. He has around 300 Kroi, 100 local breed chicken and 20 Karaknath at present.

### Inspiring and attracting other youths

- Birendra Rai is providing training to other farmers and rural youth on his poultry farming. He has also motivated various marginal farmers towards poultry farming. A small number of rural youths

inspired by the success of Birendra have started practicing poultry farming and are now earning better income.

- He is also preparing poultry feed from locally available material.

## Coverage of the program

Introduction to backyard poultry, construction of low cost housing system, preventive measure to avoid mortality of chicks in initial days, preparation of poultry feed using locally available ingredients, management of common diseases of poultry, Azolla production and its nutritional value to backyard poultry, marketing strategy and business analysis of meat and egg, poultry farming as a tool to address the problem of unemployed among rural youths, role of ATMA, KVK, Animal Husbandry Department and other relevant organisations in promoting poultry farming and poultry development for financial independence of rural youth.



## Details of associated STRY team

Training Coordinator  
**Shri Tshering Norbu Bhutia**  
 Project Director  
 Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA)  
 West Sikkim  
 Sikkim

STRY Nodal Officer  
**The Director**  
 State Agricultural Management &  
 Extension Training Institute (SAMETI)  
 Krishi Bhawan, Tadong  
 Gangtok – 737102 (Sikkim)  
 Email Id – sameti.sikkim@gmail.com



## A rural youth having successful nursery based on a better understanding of markets

*Success story of Bikkina Poorna Srichaitanya from Andhra Pradesh based on application of poly-house in nursery management*

Bikkina Poorna Srichaitanya, aged 30 years, is having five acres of land and cultivating mainly horticultural crops to sustain his family. He participated in a skill based training program on 'Production of Seedlings - Nursery Management - Grafting Methods in Mango and Cashew' which was conducted during 27.01.2020 to 02.02.2020 by Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Kalavacharla, East Godavari District. The program was conducted under the coordination of Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA) – East Godavari District and State Agriculture Management and Extension Training Institute (SAMETI), Andhra Pradesh. The program helped Bikkina Poorna Srichaitanya acquire knowledge on various aspects of nursery management mainly the grafting in mango and cashew.

Profit – Bikkina Poorna Srichaitanya is able to generate a net income of Rs.16,500/- per month.



### Impact of training program on better nursery management

- Practical and skill oriented training helped Bikkina Poorna Srichaitanya in adopting better technology in production of vegetable seedlings and grafts.
- The application of technical knowledge and understanding of markets helped Srichaitanya to take production of seedlings commercially and availed benefit of economic production from existing poly house and shadenet house. Earlier Srichaitanya was able to maintain only ornamentals procured from nearby Kadium nurseries but updated knowledge acquired on grafting methods during the training program helped him develop mango, cashew, custard apple and guava grafts at his own polyhouse and resulted in higher net returns.

## Inspiring the young farmers to start the nursery business

- The success of Srichaitanya has encouraged various farmers and rural youth around his business point. His success has increased the demand for such short duration skill based programs.
- He has made farmers from nearby places to understand the entrepreneurial potential available in various activities related to horticulture.

## Coverage of the program

Production of root stock for mango and cashew, identification of scion plants, collection of scion stalks, grafting methods in mango and cashew, maintenance of grafts, rejuvenation of old and senile orchards (in-situ grafting), improved production practices of vegetable seedlings using pro-trays, use of coco peat as medium for nursery seedlings, water and nutrient management in nursery, grafting methods in custard apple, sapota, guava and other horticultural crops.



## Details of associated STRY team

Training Coordinator

**Smt JVR Satyavani**

Email Id – satyavani.kota@gmail.com

Nodal Officer (STRY)

**Smt Y Jyothirmayi**

Email Id – pdatmaego@gmail.com

Phone No. – 8331056631

## Mechanization based low cost cultivation making agriculture profitable

*Success story of Govidaswamy from Andhra Pradesh in adopting low cost cultivation technologies*

P Govidaswamy, aged 37 years having 4.75 acres own land and 2 acres land on lease, is cultivating mainly foodgrains, vegetables, oilseeds, sugarcane and fodder crops. He participated in a skill based training program conducted on 'Farm Mechanisation' in the month of March 2018 under STRY by RASS – Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Vanasthali, Karakambadi, Renigunta (M) under the coordination of State Agriculture Management and Extension Training Institute, Guntur, Andhra Pradesh. The training helped Govindaswamy acquire knowledge and skill of sowing paddy using drum seeder, usage of powerweeders and brush cutters, micro irrigation, repairs of small tools and implements and tractor driving.



**Profit** – Govidaswamy is able to generate better income because of reduced cost of labour due to use of drum seeder, power weeder and other machineries for harvesting.

### Skill based training program leading to adoption of drum seeder

- The training program helped Govidaswamy in adopting sowing of paddy using drum seeder.
- The knowledge acquired during the training encouraged Govidaswamy in adopting low cost cultivation technologies (seed, labour and water). Use of seed drill for sowing to maintain optimum seed rate, using of hand weeder and power weeder and other machinery for harvesting helped in reducing labour cost. Use of drip and sprinkler irrigation resulted in water conservation.
- Adopting modern methods resulted in less crop duration, increased yield (use of drum seeder in paddy) and low cost of cultivation (use of farm machinery in place of labour).



## Inspiring other young farmers for using drum seeder

- Govindaswamy has encouraged adoption of direct seeding in paddy by many farmers from his own village and nearby villages. The coverage is to the tune of 30 – 50 acres per season in his own Mandal and 100 – 200 acres in nearby Mandals. Some of them have purchased their own drum seeders from private agency and through department of agriculture with 50 percent subsidy.

## Coverage of the program

Importance of farm mechanisation in agriculture, demonstration of brush cutter, demonstration of digger for groundnut harvesting, demonstration of groundnut, wet pod thresher, mechanisation in horticulture, scope of drone technology in agriculture, direct seeding of paddy, subsidy for different agricultural machinery and implements, sprayers using in agriculture and horticultural crops, mechanization in groundnut cultivation, micro irrigation in agriculture, repair and maintenance of tractor.



## Details of associated STRY team

Training Coordinator

**Dr S Sreenivasulu**

Email Id – rasskvk@gmail.com

Phone – 9985424274/7981070420

Nodal Officer (STRY)

**Director, SAMETI**

Guntur – 522 034, Andhra Pradesh

director.sameti.ap@gmail.com,

sametidirector@gmail.com

## Low cost feed production transforming dairy farming into a successful venture

*Success story of Chinna Veeraiah from Andhra Pradesh in production of good quality feed for animals*

Chinna Veeraiah, aged 33 years having two acres of own agriculture land and three acres of leased land, is following cropping pattern Redgram + Bajra in Kharif and Jowar in Rabi. He is also having 4 buffaloes and 4 calves to sustain his family. A skill based training program on 'Feed and Fodder Management' was conducted during 19 – 25 August 2019 under STRY by Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Yagantipalli. The training was conducted under the coordination of State Agriculture Management and Extension Training Institute, Guntur, Andhra Pradesh. The training helped Veeraiah acquire knowledge and skill in preparation of low cost feed for dairy animals, utilization of agricultural waste in animal feed preparation, calculation of balanced ration for milch animals and different fodder varieties for effective utilization of dry fodders.



Profit – Chinna Veeraiah is able to increase his income from Rs.2500/- per month to Rs.6000/- per month.

### Training program showing ways for better management of animals

- Preparation of low cost feed for dairy animals – Based on his learning during the training program, Veeraiah is preparing low cost feed for his dairy animals leading to increased milk production and reduced cost of feed.
- Utilization of agricultural waste in animal feed formulation – Previously Veeraiah was not utilizing the agricultural waste for animal feeding. The training helped him gain knowledge and use chaff cutter, urea treatment and silage making of agriculture waste to make it more proteinaceous feed for animals.
- Calculation of balanced ration for milch animals and growing of different fodder varieties – The knowledge and skill acquired during the training helped Veeraiah in following scientific approach in calculating balanced ration and growing of different varieties of fodder crops like Super Napier Grass and CO-1, which has increased average milk production from 2.5 liters per day per animal to 4.2 liters per day per animal.

## Inspiring rural youths for offering balanced feed to animals

- Other farmers of the village and farmers from surrounding villages are also adopting this technology of feed and fodder management for milch animals.
- Some of the farmers raised improved varieties of fodder like Super Napier Grass and CO-1 resulting in improved milk production for their animals.

## Coverage of the program

Introduction to animal nutrition and nutritional requirements, different fodder varieties and their cultivation practices, strategies for round the year fodder production and fodder conservation technologies, non-conventional feed resources and their utilization in dairy animal feeding, mineral requirement for livestock and poultry and nutritional deficiency diseases, poultry feeding and reduction of cost on feeding in backyard and commercial poultry farming, sharing of experience by the successful dairy and sheep farmers, hydroponic fodder production and its importance and advantages, effective utilization of dry roughage through nutritional enrichment, bypass fats and proteins and their preparation, ration balancing techniques for dairy animals, Haylage making and enrichment of paddy straw through urea treatment (practical), feeding management of small ruminants and profitable ram lamb production, preparation of low cost balanced feed and complete feed formulations for dairy animals (practical), visit to sheep farm – Gajulapalle, visit to dairy farm – Nandyal, visit to feed mixing unit, Nandyal, establishment of feed mixing units and Azolla production and its utilization in animal feeding (Practical).



## Details of associated STRY team

Training Coordinator

**Dr A Krishna Murthy**

Email Id – atturikrishna80@gmail.com

Phone No. – 9848555659

Director (SAMETI)

**Dr Vijayalakshmi**

Email Id – sametidirector@gmail.com

Phone No. – 8331056002



## Integrated Farming System facilitating round the year vegetable production and realising regular income

*Success story of Lakshmi Pathi Raju of Andhra Pradesh in practicing integrated farming for generating regular income*

M Lakshmi Pathi Raju, having 7 acres of land, is mainly cultivating mango crop to earn his livelihood. He attended a skill based training program on “Reverse Migration through Integrated Farming” during February 2020 conducted under STRY by Agricultural Technology Management Agency, Vizianagaram under the coordination of State Agriculture Management and Extension Training Institute (SAMETI), Andhra Pradesh. The training helped Lakshmi Pathi Raju acquire knowledge and skills on rearing of sheep and poultry in addition to efficient management of mango garden.



Profit – Lakshmi Pathi Raju is now able to generate an income of Rs 4.07 lakhs per year.

### Impact of training program at the ground

- Earlier the Lakshmi Pathi Raju was taking only mango crop on its seven acres of land. The knowledge acquired through the training and experience gained from the field visit to the progressive farmer Pani Raju Farm of Denkada village in Vizianagaram district, Lakshmi Pathi Raju started practicing integrated farming by introducing sheep and Daesi poultry in his mango orchard. The approach helped him increase his income from Rs 3.36 lakhs to Rs 4.07 lakhs per year, an increase of more than 20 percent just in one year of introduction of integrated farming.
- Implementation of proper protocol and techniques – The skill learned during the training program helped Lakshmi Pathi Raju to implement the prescribed protocol and techniques involved in efficient use of land available with him.
- He has also started cultivating vegetables round the year which has helped him in earning additional income and has established him as a model farmer in the area.

## Role model for other farmers

- Seeing is believing, the success of Lakshmi Pathi Raju has slowly encouraged other farmers and rural youths also to take up this type of integrated farming. Many rural youths have taken up different income generating activities in agriculture and allied sectors. As a result, the reduction in migration of rural youths have been observed.

## Coverage of the program

Introduction, need and objectives of integrated farming system, scope and goals of integrated farming system (IFS), ideal situations for introduction of IFS, field visit to integrated farming system model, components of integrated farming system, types of integrated farming system and major crops in IFS, poultry rearing (desi breeds) at Gotlam village, dairy, sheep and goat rearing, green fodder cultivation and poultry desi birds, visit to sheep and goat rearing at research station, Garividi, vegetable cultivation on pandals and shade nets, boundary plantation, fruit plants on farm pond bunds and other areas, field visit to pandal and shade net cultivation of vegetables, size, designs and advantages of farm ponds, fishery farming system, visit to fishery farming at Vizianagaram, apiculture in orchards, mushroom cultivation and vermicompost.



## Details of associated STRY team

Training Coordinator

**Shri K Lakshmana Rao**

Email Id – [vzmatma@gmail.com](mailto:vzmatma@gmail.com)

Phone No. – 8331056256

Nodal Officer (STRY)

**Director, SAMETI**

Guntur – 522 034, Andhra Pradesh

Email Id – [director.sameti.ap@gmail.com](mailto:director.sameti.ap@gmail.com)

## Vermicompost showcasing sustainable agriculture through reduced use of chemicals and improved input-cost economics

*Success story of a young farmer Dipakbhai R Vasava from Gujarat who inspired the rural youth to consider production of vermicompost as an enterprise*

Dipakbhai R Vasava, aged 20 years and having 7 acres of land, is cultivating mainly paddy, chickpea, chilli, cotton, brinjal and tomato to support his family. He participated in a skill based training program conducted under STRY on 'Vermicomposting' during 18 – 24 February 2020 by Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Bharuch, Gujarat under the coordination of Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA), Bharuch. The program helped Dipakbhai acquire knowledge and skills required on different aspects of vermicomposting.

Profits – Dipakbhai is able to save Rs 40000 – 45000 per season by using vermicompost in place of chemical fertilizer.



### Use of vermicompost helping in reduced use of chemicals

- The skill acquired during the program not only helped Dipakbhai in production of vermicompost but he was also able to bring down the use of chemical fertilizers by using vermicompost appropriately.
- Dipakbhai started using the bio-waste optimally by applying techniques like soaking and use of cow dung slurry for fast decomposition.

### Encouraging rural youths for use of vermicompost

- Dipakbhai is providing training to interested fellow farmers on his farm. Such programs not only provide technical training to the farmers but also the practical exposure. He has trained more than 50 farmers.
- Many farmers are now following scientific methods for the production of vermicompost after receiving the training.



## Coverage of the program

Introduction to vermicompost, its importance in present situation, types of composts and method of preparation, importance, scope as entrepreneurial activity related to vermicompost, basic requirements for vermicompost preparation, various methods for vermicompost preparation, species of earthworms, identification of earthworms, different techniques for vermi-wash production, precautions during vermicomposting and vermiwash preparation, use of vermicompost and vermiwash in agriculture, economics of vermicompost, advantages and disadvantages of vermicompost, problems and prospects of vermicomposting in India, Government schemes for vermicompost business, visit to vermicompost site of KVK and hands-on experience for participants in group.



## Details of associated STRY team

Training Coordinator

**Shri M M Patel**

Email Id – mahendra.patel@baif.org.in

Phone No. – 8126891120

Project Director (ATMA)

**Shri P S Rank**

Email Id – atmaabharuch@yahoo.in

Phone No. – 9428438226

## Application of nutrition management practices and bio-pesticides transforming green sapling into tree of financial wellbeing

*Success story of Yuvarajsinh Rathod from Gujarat in generating improved income through nursery management*

Yuvarajsinh Rathod, aged 23 years and having 5 acres of land, is cultivating mainly horticultural crops like vegetables to sustain his family. A skill based training program was conducted on 'Nursery Management' during 07 – 13 January 2019 by Anand Agricultural University, Anand, Gujarat under the coordination of Directorate and State Agriculture Management and Extension Training Institute (SAMETI), Gujarat. The program helped Yuvarajsinh to acquire knowledge and skills required for nursery management in vegetable crops. The important marketing aspects were also covered during the program.

Profits – Yuvarajsinh is able to save seedling raising cost and generate additional income of Rs 30,500/- by selling seedlings.



### Skill based program facilitating scientific management of nursery

- Yuvarajsinh is able to produce his own seedlings which has helped him in reducing the input cost.
- He is able to handle complexity associated with nursery management like seed treatment and pest control like Nematodes.
- He is producing good quality seedlings. He is using different techniques of raised bed, using bio-fungicides for seed treatment and applying vermicompost made by him.
- He has adopted nutrition management practices and using bio-pesticides for crop protection.

## Rural youths encouraged to take up nursery management

- Yuvarajsinh is sharing his knowledge with other fellow farmers and youths. He has so far trained 12 farmers on nursery management.
- Out of these farmers, three farmers have started nursery on small scale. All the three farmers are growing different crop seedlings and selling to customer through a common selling point.

## Coverage of the program

Introduction to nursery management, different types of nurseries, importance of seed treatment, types of raise beds and different types of soil treatments, how to start commercial nursery and cost details, different diseases and pests and their management, nematode and its control, nutrient management, sowing techniques for nursery, good nursery practices and government schemes and benefits available



## Details of associated STRY team

Training Coordinator  
**Dr B M Patel**  
 Phone No. – 9925520851

Nodal Officer (STRY)  
**Shri Prakash Sharma**  
 Email Id – sameti.gujarat1@gmail.com  
 Phone No. – 9601303434



## Clean milk production made dairy farming profitable

*An inspiring story of Shilpaben Mansukhbhai Bhojani from Gujarat in clean milk production*

Shilpaben Mansukhbhai Bhojani, aged 35 years, is having 12 acres of land and 5 cows. She participated in a skill based training program conducted on 'Clean Milk Production' during 17 – 23 January 2019 under STRY by Farmer Training Centre, Bhuj, Kutch under the coordination of Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Sadau, Mundra with the support of State Agriculture Management and Extension Training Institute (SAMETI), Gujarat and National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE), Hyderabad. The training helped Shilpaben acquire knowledge and skills required to identify good animal, their fodder, artificial insemination, vaccination in animal and clean milk production and processing.



Profit – Shilpaben is able to generate a net income of Rs 17,000/- per month.

### Skill based program promoting clean milk production

- The skills learned during the training program helped Shilpaben to implement the prescribed protocol and techniques involved in clean milk production, vaccination and artificial insemination.
- Shilpaben was able to take proper care of cow through timely vaccination whereas earlier she was not giving regular vaccine to cow like many other youths.
- She is now getting her cows artificially inseminated by availing services of local veterinary doctor whereas earlier she was relying on various other locally available means which were not following prescribed scientific procedure.
- She is now able to buy a good quality cow by taking into consideration factors like cow breed, cow milk quality and quantity, cow's parents and artificial insemination method.

## Shilpaben is inspiring many other young women farmers

- Shilpaben is sharing her knowledge with the interested women farmer by inviting them to her farm. A total of 260 women farmers have already been trained.
- About 150 women farmers have started scientific animal husbandry.

## Coverage of the program

Introduction to animal husbandry, selection of animal, vaccination, artificial insemination, selection of healthy bull for insemination, green and dry fodder for animal feed, other feeds, superstition prevailing and side out them for good health of animal, different fodder crop and their role in animal, disease and pest and their control measure in animal, toxic elements in green and dry fodder and their prevention, proper care of animal in all the season, diseases transfer from animal to human and their control, institutional bank support available for purchasing animals, different schemes and role of Animal Husbandry Department in promoting animal husbandry.



## Details of associated STRY team

Training Coordinator

**Dr K O Vaghela**

Email Id – [atmakutch@gmail.com](mailto:atmakutch@gmail.com)

Phone No. – 02832 220004

Nodal Officer (STRY)

**Shri Kalpesh H Maheshvari**

Email Id – [atmakutch@gmail.com](mailto:atmakutch@gmail.com)

Phone No. – 02832 220004

## Organic Farming leading to employment generation and improved income

*Success story of a rural youth, Bavaliya from Gujarat in organic farming*

G T Bavaliya, aged 27 years and having 5 acres of land, is mainly cultivating groundnut and cumin crops to sustain his family. A skill based training program conducted on 'Organic Farming' during 2 – 8 March 2020 by Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Gorkhijadiya, Morbi under the coordination of Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA), Directorate & State Agriculture Management and Extension Training Institute (SAMETI), Gandhinagar, Gujarat helped Bavaliya acquire knowledge and skill required to practice organic farming.

Profit – Bavaliya is able to generate a net income of Rs 28000/- per month.



### Program on organic farming helped in replacing chemical fertilisers by natural means

- Implementation of proper methods – The skills learned during the training program helped Bavaliya to implement the proper method and techniques like following nutrient management practices, proper utilization of manure and compost, crop rotations, cover crops (green manure and nitrogen fixing crops) and reducing nutrient losses due to leaching.
- Replacement of chemical fertilizers – Jeevamrut is an organic fertilizer and a great replacement of chemical fertilizers. It is a very good source of biomass, natural carbon, nitrogen, phosphorous, calcium and other nutrients which are essential for plant growth and development. The microorganisms which are present in the soil are responsible for increasing the fertility of the soil and the productivity of the crops. In order to increase the microorganisms in the soil Jeevamrut is used. Jeevamrut enhances microbial activity in soil and helps in improvement of soil fertility.
- Bavaliya learnt about different types of Jeevamrut like liquid state, semi-solid state and dry state of Jeevamrutham (Ghana jeevamrut)



## Attracting the rural youth for organic farming

- Bavaliya has started providing demand based on-farm training to interested farmers/ youth. A total of 45 farmers have already been trained by Bavaliya. In addition, there are six farmers having started organic farming/ natural farming through cross learning.

## Coverage of the program

Introduction to organic farming, importance of organic farming, advantages and disadvantages of organic farming, pests and diseases management in organic farming, use of fertilizers in organic farming, preparation of Jivamrut and Brahmastra, fertilizers management, crop selection for organic farming and marketing.



## Details of associated STRY team

Training Coordinator

**Shri D A Saradava**

Email Id – kvkmorbi@gmail.com

NodalOfficer (STRY)

**Shree B M Agath**

Email Id – atmamorbi@gmail.com

Director (SAMETI)

**Shri D V Barot**

Email Id – sameti.gujarat@gmail.com

## Value addition made agriculture profitable

*Success story of Sharmisthaben M Patel from Gujarat in making profits through post harvest management*

Sharmisthaben M Patel, 39 years old and having 2 acres of land, is mainly cultivating horticultural crops. A skill based training program was conducted on 'Post Harvest Processing and Packaging of Fruits and Vegetable' during 7 – 13 January 2019 by Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA), Navsari under the coordination of Directorate and State Agriculture Management and Extension Training Institute (SAMETI), Gandhinagar. The program helped Sharmisthaben acquire knowledge and skills required on various aspects of post harvest management, processing and packaging of fruits and vegetable of her farm produce.

Profit – Sharmisthaben was not able to generate an income of more than Rs 24,000/- per annum before participating in the skill based program. The skills acquired during the program have helped her earn about Rs 50,000/- per annum by selling processed products like pickles and mango syrup.



### Training program creating impact at ground

- Sharmisthaben acquired technical skills required for preparing different value added product from horticulture crops and is applying the same.
- The training has made her understand the importance of primary processing in case of horticulture crops. She is now grading her farm produce and approaching market based on their demand.
- She has started post-harvest care of fruits & vegetables for reducing post-harvest losses. Reduction in post-harvest losses has helped in increasing the surplus available with her.

### Inspiring other women in rural area

- Sharmisthaben is making various processed products like aam-churn, mango pickles, mango syrup, guava syrup and cake. She is also sharing the knowledge and skills with fellow farm women.

## Coverage of the program

Preservation of the fruits and vegetable after harvest, maintaining the losses during harvest, increase the value of fruits and vegetables by preserving, to encourage sale of seasonal fruits and vegetables and realisation of better income by adopting appropriate post harvest processing techniques.



## Details of associated STRY team

TrainingCoordinator  
**Shri Sanjaybhai Nayak**  
 Email ID – [naikjigar21@gmail.com](mailto:naikjigar21@gmail.com)  
 Phon No. – 9228877260

Director (SAMETI)  
**Shri D V Barot**  
 Email Id – [sameti.gujarat@gmail.com](mailto:sameti.gujarat@gmail.com)  
 Phone No. – 07923245043



## Efficient utilization of natural resources through vermicomposting

*A success story of Ajabsinh R Solanki from Gujarat who has established a small vermicompost unit*

Ajabsinh R Solanki is mainly cultivating cereal and vegetable crops on his 3.50 acre farm to sustain his family. He participated in a skill based training program conducted on 'Vermicompost' during 2 – 8 March 2019 under STRY by Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA), Panchmahal, Godhra (Gujarat) under the coordination of Anand Agriculture University, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Vejalpur (Panchmahal) and State Agriculture Management and Extension Training Institute (SAMETI), Gujarat. The training helped Ajabsinh acquire knowledge and skills required to produce vermicompost by making Vermi Bed.



**Profit** – Ajabsinh Solanki is able to generate a net income of Rs 5000/- per month through sale of vermicompost.

### Training program helped in improved use of vermicompost

- The skills learned during the training program helped Ajabsinh Solanki to produce vermicompost by making Vermi Bed.
- Most of the farmers were unaware and therefore, were not following scientific process for production of vermicompost from vermi bed. However, Ajabsinh learnt the scientific process of the production of vermicompost and reuse of vermi in vermi bed in order to save time and energy because it is considered as one of the most important step in efficient utilization of resources.

### Master trainer and role model for rural youth

- Ajabsinh is providing training to the interested farmers / youth in the district. About 100 farmers have already availed the benefit of his success and experience.
- Many farmers have also learnt the skill of producing vermicompost through cross learning and have started production of vermicompost from vermi Bed.
- Some of the trainees of the skill based program have come together and formed a group to market their produce as per the demand of the customers in the district.

## Coverage of the program

Introduction to vermicompost, methods of production of vermicompost, role of vermicompost in crop production, vermicompost & vermi water, how to start vermicompost unit, Gopca certificate for organic farming and financial details, vermicompost processing, vermi keeping bed, inspection and handling of vermi, preparation of food supplements, management of vermi bed in different seasons, pests management, value addition of vermicompost products, vermicomposting as an enterprise or business activity and role of agriculture department in promoting vermicompost production for organic farming.



## Details of associated STRY team

Training Coordinator

**Shri A I Pathan**

Email Id – aipathanada@gmail.com

Phone No. – 8511841551

Director (SAMETI)

**Shri D V Barot**

Email Id – sameti.gujarat@gmail.com

Phone No. – 07923245043

## Clean Milk Production boosting nutritional security

*Success story of Shankar Ram from Himachal Pradesh who has introduced techniques of clean milk production*

Shankar Ram after completing his schooling was practicing farming on his 3 acres of land to sustain his family. He participated in a skill based training program conducted on 'Clean Milk Production' during 22 – 27 April 2019 under STRY by Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Berthin, District Bilaspur and Department of Animal Husbandry, District Bilaspur under the coordination of State Agricultural Management & Extension Training Institute, Mashobra, Shimla (Himachal Pradesh). The training helped him in acquiring knowledge on balanced feeding of dairy animals, vaccination schedule in animals, importance of mineral mixture feeding in animals and artificial insemination.



Profit – Adoption of balanced feed by Shankar Ram helped in increased milk production and better income realization.

### Impact of training on balanced feed and disease management

- The exposure gained during the training program has helped Shankar Ram avail benefits available under different departmental schemes.
- After training, Shankar Ram has introduced the balanced feed of animals.
- Insemination of dairy animals at appropriate time.
- Adopted the method of spray for ectoparasites in cowsheds.

### Inspiring other rural youths for clean milk production

- The successful maintenance of farm by Shankar Ram and various other participants of the training program has created an awareness on scientific management of animals and providing them balanced fodder for increased milk production.



## Coverage of the program

Balance feeding in dairy animal, vaccination schedule in animal, importance of mineral mixture feeding in animal, dairy as commercial venture, stages of oestrous cycle in dairy animal, artificial insemination in dairy animal, importance of spraying of ectoparasitocides in sheds and common nutritional/metabolic disease in dairy animals.



## Details of associated STRY team

Training Coordinator  
**Dr Ritesh Gupta**  
 Phone No. – 8219191894

Director (SAMETI)  
**Dr Desh Raj Thakur**  
 Email Id – himsameti@gmail.com  
 Phone No. – 9418077407

## Rabbits farming scripted the empowerment of women entrepreneur

*Success story of Guddi Devi from Himachal Pradesh in rabbit farming*

Guddi Devi is a 34 years old small farmer. She was finding it difficult to sustain her family by practicing farming and was looking for some additional income generating activity. She got the opportunity to participate in a skill based training program on 'Integrated Development of Small Ruminants and Rabbits' during 7 – 13 March 2019 conducted under STRY by ICAR-NTRS-CSWRI, GARSA (KULLU) under the coordination of State Agricultural Management & Extension Training Institute, Shimla. The skills acquired during the training program proved to be boon for Guddi Devi in generating supplementary income for her family.



Profit – Introduction of rabbit rearing helped Guddi Devi in generating additional income to sustain her family.

### Training program introducing rabbit farming as an income generating activity

- Based on the skill acquired during the training Guddi Devi started rabbit farming.
- Changes in the housing and feeding of animals were adopted after learning the scientific management of animals. Guddi Devi was not able to adopt these changes earlier due to lack of knowledge and skills.

### Guddi Devi initiative encouraged various other rural youths

- The skill based training has generated interest among farmers towards small ruminants and rabbit farming as there is a rapid growth and the enterprise needs low investment with less space requirement.
- The farmer has learnt the skill of wool shearing. The sale of wool has contributed towards family income.

## Coverage of the program

Importance and potential of small ruminants and rabbit rearing as a livestock activity, package of common management practices prescribed for rabbit rearing, selection of breed, housing and location, environment management in terms of temperature and humidity, equipment, feed and its quality, selection of breed, breeding management, disease prevention and control, marketing and practical exposure.



## Details of associated STRY team

Training Coordinator  
**Dr Ritesh Gupta**  
 Phone No. – 8219191894

Director (SAMETI)  
**Dr Desh Raj Thakur**  
 Email Id – himsameti@gmail.com  
 Phone No. – 9418077407



## Better housing and feeding of birds catalysed the change in poultry farming

*An inspiring story of young farmer Ranvir Singh from Himachal Pradesh in poultry rearing*

Ranvir Singh aged 25 years is a marginal farmer. He was having a few poultry shed to generate some additional income. He participated in a skill based training program conducted on 'Poultry Rearing and Management' during 1 – 7 February 2019 under STRY by Department of Animal Husbandry, Mandi (HP) under the coordination of State Agriculture Management and Extension Training Institute (SAMETI), Mashobra at Him Hatchery/ Government Poultry Farm Sundernagar (HP). The program helped Ranvir Singh to acquire knowledge and skill required for poultry farming and scientific management of birds.

**Profit** – Ranvir Singh is able to generate additional income by rearing poultry birds.



### Impact of training program on poultry farming

- The training helped Ranvir Singh practice poultry farming scientifically following proper feeding and disease management. The training helped him in establishing the farm at a reasonable scale.
- The training helped him in following proper housing and feeding of birds. Ranvir Singh was not able to practice these things earlier due to lack of knowledge and required skills.

### Success inspiring many others

- The success of Ranvir Singh generated interest among farmers in poultry farming.
- Women are also coming forward to adopt this enterprise because of potential and ease associated with the enterprise.

## Coverage of the program

Introduction to poultry farming, types of poultry, different breeds, housing system of poultry, management of broilers, management of layers, feeding of broilers, feeding of layers, backyard poultry farming, economics of the poultry farming, common diseases and medication of birds, vaccination and prevention of common diseases, marketing and other trade related aspects and exposure visit.



## Details of associated STRY team

Training Coordinator  
**Dr Ritesh Gupta**  
 Phone No. – 8219191894

Director (SAMETI)  
**Dr Desh Raj Thakur**  
 Email Id – himsameti@gmail.com  
 Phone No. – 9418077407



## Organic farming – A way to realise improved income with reduced use of chemicals

*Success story of Narender Thakur from Himachal Pradesh who is encouraging rural youths to take up organic farming*

Narender Thakur is having 5 acres of land and cultivating mainly agricultural crops like foodgrains and vegetables to sustain his family. He participated in a skill based training program conducted on 'Organic Farming' during February 2021 under STRY by State Agriculture Management and Extension Training Institute (SAMETI), Mashobra. The training helped Narender in acquiring knowledge and skills on various aspects of organic farming like soil health management, management of insect pests and preparation of different organic formulations.



**Profit** – Narender is able to have enhanced income because of better production and direct marketing of organic produce at better price.

### Training program encouraging shift towards organic farming

- Narender was not able to adopt organic farming practices due to lack of knowledge on its different aspects. He is now able to apply soil health management and insect pest management as prescribed for organic farming cultivation.
- He has motivated other farmers to adopt organic farming and organized them in group. He is planning to develop a chain of such organic growers to be able to market their produce collectively within district and outside district.
- He follows natural farming practices along with organic methods.

### Inspiring other young farmers in rural area

- The success of Narender has resulted in increased confidence of farmers in organic farming. They have also been able to reduce the use of chemicals to a great extent and are gradually trying to switch to organic farming completely.



## Coverage of the program

Introduction and importance of organic farming, organic soil management and crop nutrition, integrated farm management systems, agronomic practices in organic farming, weed management in organic farming, determining organic solutions to different farming problems, techniques of vermi culture and vermicomposting, techniques of natural farming, biological control of insect pests, disease management of horticulture crops through cultural practices of organic farming and natural farming techniques, orchard management in organic farming, organic farming for entrepreneurship, method of organic certification, market issues in organic farming, soil testing and its importance and appropriate organic management systems for different organic farms.



## Details of associated STRY team

Training Coordinator  
**Dr Ritesh Gupta**  
 Phone No. – 8219191894

Director (SAMETI)  
**Dr Desh Raj Thakur**  
 Email Id – himsameti@gmail.com  
 Phone No. – 9418077407

## Balanced feed and proper livestock management transforming lives of rural women

*A success story of Veena Devi from Himachal Pradesh in management of improved breed of cattle*

Veena Devi w/o Parveen Kumar is a marginal farmer and cultivates mainly maize, cucurbits, sorghum (chari), wheat, cauliflower, radish, spinach, oats, berseem (rabi) to support her family. She attended a skill based training program conducted on 'Rearing of Improved Breeds of Cattle and their Management' during 27 May – 02 June 2019 under STRY by Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Una, under CSKHPKV, Palampur under the coordination of State Agricultural Management & Extension Training Institute

(SAMETI), Shimla. During the program, she was exposed to various aspects of rearing of improved breeds of cattle.



Profit – Veena Devi is able to generate better income based on higher milk production facilitated by proper management of livestock.

### Learnings from the training program

- Veena Devi was exposed to various benefits available under different departmental schemes. She availed benefits available under departmental schemes.
- Preparation of balanced feed at household level.
- Urea treatment of straws, azolla cultivation and silage making.
- She was now getting the animal artificially inseminated at proper time in the presence of a veterinary doctor.
- Regular deworming and vaccination. Preparation of jeevamrit, beejamrit and managing kitchen garden by organic practices.



## Inspiring other local farm women

- The success of Veena Devi has generated interest among women farmer. This has helped in increasing the awareness and resulted in better adoption of technologies like balanced feeding, mineral mixture and cleanliness in animal sheds by the dairy farmers in the village.
- Many rural youth in the vicinity approached officials of Animal Husbandry Department to start their own dairy business after seeing the success of beneficiary farmer.

## Coverage of the program

Improved breeds and their management, self-employment opportunities in cattle farming, improved breeds, balanced feed and its management, common diseases and their management in cattle, fodder production, linking farmers with organised credit, subsidies and other support available under different schemes and exposure visits.



## Details of associated STRY team

Training Coordinator  
**Dr Ritesh Gupta**  
 Phone No. – 8219191894

Director (SAMETI)  
**Dr Desh Raj Thakur**  
 Email Id – himsameti@gmail.com  
 Phone No. – 9418077407



## Mixed fruit orchard management – A success story for others to emulate

*A success story of young farmer  
Rajendra Yadav from Jharkhand*

Rajendra Yadav, aged 29 years and having 6 acres of land, is maintaining an orchard to sustain his family. However, the production was low due to limited knowledge on modern orchard management techniques. He participated in a skill based training program conducted on 'Orchard Management and Maintenance' during January 2021 under STRY by Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA), Godda under the coordination of State Agriculture Management and Extension Training Institute (SAMETI), Jharkhand. The program helped Rajendra revive his orchard and realise higher yield.



**Profit** – Rajendra is able to generate a net income of Rs 2.0 lakhs per year after 12 years.

### Training program defining the success in orchard management

- Rajendra based on his knowledge acquired during the training program has made a new orchard layout.
- Application of fertilizer management, water management by drip irrigation and weed management in new and old orchards.
- Pruning and propagation for proper management of orchard.
- Inter-cropping between two rows of papaya and vegetables.

## Role model to other farmers in the region

- Established as a successful farmer in orchard plantation and this has generated lots of interest among fellow farmers.
- Encouraging several farmers and rural youths for planting of fruit and timber plant for self-employment and livelihood.
- Number of orchard plantations increased after attending the training program.

## Coverage of the program

Scope, status and prospects of orchard management and maintenance, concept of orchard management, principal of good agricultural practices in mango orchard, concept of high density and ultra-density plantation of mango, water requirement and weed management in mango orchard, layout of planting and spacing for plantation of mango, fertilizer management, nutrient management and regular bearing in mango orchard and field visits for practical exposure to the participants.



## Details of associated STRY team

Training Coordinator  
**Dr Ritesh Gupta**  
 Phone No. – 8219191894

Director (SAMETI)  
**Dr Desh Raj Thakur**  
 Email Id – himsameti@gmail.com  
 Phone No. – 9418077407

## Pigs changed the fortunes of Manchan who is now a successful entrepreneur

*Success story of farmer Manchan from Jharkhand, a small change in enterprise leading to big success*

Manchan Beck, a 36 years old youth with four acres of land, is engaged mainly in the commercial pig rearing and management to sustain his family but at elementary level. He participated in a skill based training program on 'Commercial Pig Rearing and Management' conducted under STRY during 24 – 29 Sept. 2018 by Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA), Gumla under the coordination of State Agriculture Management and Extension Training Institute (SAMETI), Jharkhand. The program helped Manchan acquire knowledge and skill required to switch to commercial piggery rearing by following scientific production and reproduction techniques of pigs, their management and effective marketing strategy.



Profit – Manchan is able to generate an income of Rs 3.5 lakhs per year.

### Impact of training program on establishing a successful pig farm

- Manchan introduced various modification based on the knowledge gained during the program like changes in housing management as per age category and stages of pig growth.
- Improved care of piglets has resulted in increased survival rate and Manchan is also following proper feed management for better health.
- The training has also oriented him on the importance of proper vaccination and following disease control measures.



## Success made Manchan a role model for others

- Pig rearing is quite common in Gumla district but farmers are generally using desi breed and therefore are facing several problems related to diseases, poor feeding and low production. The training program has created interest among farmers and rural youth for use of improvement breed and better management practices.
- The success of Manchan in pig farming has helped in creating the awareness among rural youth on the importance of scientific pig rearing and willingness in moving gradually to commercial pig rearing.
- Manchan is now a point of contact for nearby farmers and rural youth to help them improve piglet breed.
- Manchan has exposed rural youth to a new source of income in addition to crop cultivation.

## Coverage of the program

Scope status and prospects of pig farming, handling systems of piggery, housing management of pigs, important breeds of pigs and their characteristics features, preparation and formulation of low cost feeds using locally available material, feed management, importance of water in nutrient management, production and reproduction of pigs and its management, management of pregnant sows and piglets and their housing management, disease management of pigs, prevention and control of contagious and non-contagious diseases, vaccination schedules in pigs, sustainable marketing strategy of pigs and handling and housing of pigs.



## Details of associated STRY team

Training Coordinator  
**Mr Mohit Kumar Singh**  
 Email Id – atmagumla@rediffmail.com  
 Phone No. – 7761994451  
 State Coordinator (STRY)  
**Sri Abhishek Tirkey**  
 Phone No. – 7070129443

Director (SAMETI)  
**Dr Subhash Singh**  
 Email Id – sametijharkhand@rediffmail.com  
 Phone No. – 9431123397

## Skill based training program scripts success story with mushroom cultivation in Jharkhand

*Story of Baijanti from Jharkhand who creates wealth by using farm waste*

Baijanti Devi, 28 year old and having five acres of land, has taken up mushroom production to earn additional income to sustain her family. She attended a skill based training program on 'Mushroom Production Techniques' conducted under STRY during 19 – 25 August 2019 by Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA), Latehar under the coordination of State Agriculture Management and Extension Training Institute (SAMETI), Jharkhand with the support of National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE), Hyderabad. The program helped Baijanti acquire knowledge and skills required to practice various Mushroom Production Techniques.



Profit – Baijanti is able to generate a net income of Rs 60,000/- per year.

### Impact of training program on mushroom production

- Baijanti has adopted technology and strategies to increase mushroom cultivation.
- Cultivation of oyster mushroom since it is easiest to grow, and by using methods like inoculation, incubation and fruiting.
- Made changes like preparation of growing room, inoculate bags, encourage colonization and monitor bags.
- Made changes regarding management of insects, pests and diseases. Experience of training made her confident in handling oyster mushroom cultivation with minimal loss and higher profit.

## Motivating other farm women

- Baijanti has emerged as a role model in her community as a mushroom producer and is providing trainings to other women farmers. She has trained about 100 groups of farmers / farm women on various aspects of mushroom production.
- Success of Baijanti has encouraged various other rural youths get involved with mushroom production to have additional income.
- The training program has helped in encouraging youths to practice improved cultivation practices and adopt proper market strategies to realize the best possible price.

## Coverage of the program

Introduction to mushroom production, principles and practices of their cultivation, types, use, food value, edible and poisonous mushroom, mushroom cultivation as an agribusiness activity, status of mushroom production at national and international level, opportunities and constraints, acquaintance with edible, non-edible, medicinal and poisonous mushrooms, importance of mushroom cultivation, cultivation procedure of paddy straw mushroom (out-door/ indoor), mushroom culture preparation, preservation technique and demonstration on raising of beds, spawn production technology covering quality attributes, storage and transport, cultivation procedure of oyster mushroom and milky mushrooms, method of compost production technology for white button mushrooms, management of white button mushrooms, demonstration on bag preparation of oyster and milk mushroom, infrastructure, economics of oyster and milk mushroom, competitor moulds/fungal and viral diseases, bacterial diseases and a biotic disorder of mushrooms, insect, pest and nematodes of mushroom crop and their management and exposure visit for practical orientation.



## Details of associated STRY team

Training Coordinator  
**Shri Saptami Kumar Jha**  
 Email Id – atmalatehar@gmail.com  
 Phone No. – 7543903898  
 Nodal Officer (STRY)  
**Shri Abhishek Tirkey**  
 Phone No. – 7070129443

Director (SAMETI)  
**Dr Subhash Singh**  
 Email Id – sametijharkhand@rediffmail.com  
 Phone No. – 9431123397



## Rural youth reaping benefit of protected cultivation of high value vegetables

*A story of Atwa Oraon from Jharkhand who has started protected cultivation of high value vegetables and earning regular income through better economics*

Atwa Oraon, with 8.5 acres of land, is mainly practicing the protected cultivation of high value vegetables to sustain his family. He participated in a skill based training program on 'Protected Cultivation of High Value Vegetables' conducted during 18 – 24 January 2021 under STRY by Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA), Lohardaga under the coordination of State Agriculture Management and Extension Training Institute (SAMETI), Jharkhand. The training program helped Atwa Oraon acquire knowledge and skills required for management of crops and resources under protected cultivation of high value vegetables.



Profit – Atwa is able to generate a net income of Rs 3.15 Lakhs per year.

### Training program helped in reduced use of chemical and better disease management

- Adoption of micro methods of irrigation to supply water in the crop by drop and sprinkler irrigation has helped Atwa Oraon to have efficient management of water.
- The knowledge on production of vermicompost has helped him in reducing the use of chemicals fertilizers.
- He is following scientific disease management on vegetables crops.
- He is able to apply essential plant nutrients based on their deficiency symptoms.

## Inspiring other rural youths to start low cost enterprise

- The success of Atwa Oraon has motivated various other rural youths to set up individual vegetable nursery to supply the local market.
- Farmers are now producing vermicompost for their internal use which has resulted in reduced use of chemical fertilizers.
- The awareness and understanding on the importance of Hi-tech agriculture like green house, plastic tunnel, shed net, mulching and availability of supports under different government schemes has improved because of the training program and success realized by various rural youths.

## Coverage of the program

Scope status and prospects of high-tech agriculture and nursery management, need of protected cultivation of high value vegetable, water management, production of vermicompost, awareness about crop rotation, inter and relay cropping for high yield, methods of weeds control in vegetable crops, essential plant nutrients and their deficiency symptoms, exposure to the concepts of farming system/ organic and precision farming and field exposure.



## Details of associated STRY team

Training Coordinator

**Ms Tripty Tirkey**

Email Id – atma.lohardaga@rediffmail.com

Phone No. – 7759960096

State Coordinator (STRY)

**Shri Abhishek Tirkey**

Phone No. – 7070129443

Director (SAMETI)

**Dr Subhash Singh**

Email Id – sametijharkhand@rediffmail.com

Phone No. – 9431123397

## Organic Farming - Source of income and employment generation

*Success story of Shashikumar from Karnataka who transformed waste into wealth*

Shashikumar M, aged 35 years and having 3 acres of agriculture land, is mainly growing field and horticultural crops like sunflower, maize, ragi, pulses and perennial fodder crops, turmeric, small onion, leafy vegetables, tomato and chilly to sustain his family. He participated in a skill based training program organised under STRY on 'Organic Farming' from 29.10.2018 to 03.11.2018 by ICAR – Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Chamarajanagara under the coordination of Directorate of Extension, UAS, GKVK, Bengaluru, Karnataka (SAMETI-S) and MANAGE, Hyderabad. Shashikumar acquired knowledge and skills on preparation of compost,



different pesticides and nutrients formulations and also gained the knowledge about organic production technologies of different crops. During training, he was also exposed to the importance of marketing and developing appropriate market strategies based on the emerging market environment. The knowledge has helped Shashikumar in establishing linkages to sell his organic products in Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Bengaluru, Mysore and Chamarajanagar.

**Profit** – Shashikumar is able to generate an income of Rs 2.50 lakhs per annum (about 50 percent more in comparison to his conventional method).

### Skill based program encouraged organic farming

- The knowledge acquired during the program has helped Shashikumar to completely start cultivating the crops organically. He has also purchased 4 desi cows for compost, pesticide and nutrients formulation purpose.
- He is preparing the neem astra a pesticide, and vermiwash, Jeevamrutha, panchagavya and Beejamrutha a nutrient formulation.
- He is using bio fertilizers like Rhizobium, PSB, Azospirillum and Azotobacter for seed treatment.
- For controlling soil borne diseases and pests, he is using trichoderma, Pseudomonas, Paecilomyces and Metarhizium.



- He is also using neem and pongamia cake as concentrated manures in horticultural crops.
- He is utilizing the cow urine for perennial fodder crop production like Hybrid Bajra napier and CoFS-29 & 31 multicut fodder sorghum.
- He is growing Nava dhanya for 45 days and adding them into soil to improve soil fertility.

### Sharing his experience with other farmers

- Shashikumar is sharing his knowledge and experience as a resource person in various training programs organized by different institutes. He has, so far, trained and shared his experience with 110 farmers.
- He has also started one FPO named by Sri Malai Mahadeshwara Susthira Savayava Krishikara Mahasangha having 75 farmer-members.
- He is commercially producing Jeevamrutha and Neemastra and selling that produce to other farmers. At present he has produced 500 liters of Jeevamrutha and 200 liters of Neemastra.

### Coverage of the program

Introduction to organic farming, role and scope of organic farming in agriculture, impact of organic farming on environment, techniques and methods of preparation of organic inputs, packaging and marketing of organic products and certification, organic farming as an entrepreneur/ business and role of agriculture department in promoting organic farming.

### Details of associated STRY team

Training Coordinator

**Dr Sunil C M**

Email Id – sunilcmuasb@gmail.com

Phone No. – 8867447384

State Coordinator (STRY)

**Dr H K Pankaja**

Email Id – pankaja4012@gmail.com

Phone No. – 9449429217

Director (SAMETI)

**Dr K Narayanagowda**

Email Id – deuasbangalore@gmail.com

Phone No. – 9449866904

## Organic Farming is the way of sustainable development

*A story of Santhosh from Karnataka who has taken small step to achieve big success*

Santhosh is 31 years old marginal farmer from village Hullenahalli of Mandya district. He is mainly cultivating crops like paddy, sugarcane, banana and papaya and vegetables. He was looking for a suitable training to shift to organic farming to generate additional income from the limited land available with him. Due to lack of awareness about organic farming and use of costly inputs to maintain the farm, income fetched from farming was low. Santhosh got the opportunity to participate in a skill based training program on “Production Technology, Usage and Importance of Organic Manures, Liquid Fertilizers and Bio-agents in Agriculture” organized under STRY by Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Mandya with the support of Directorate of Extension, UAS, GKVK, Bengaluru, Karnataka (SAMETI-S) and MANAGE, Hyderabad. The training exposed Santhosh to various aspects of organic farming.



Profit – Santhosh is able to generate a net income of Rs 12000/- per month.

### Impact of training programme on organic farming

- The skills acquired during the training program on preparation of Jevamrutha, Beejamrutha, liquid bio-fertilizer and bio-agent helped Santhosh in shifting to organic farming which resulted in increased humus content and earth worms in the soil. The use of bio pesticide and plant-based pesticide helped in achieving reduced cost of cultivation and organic products are fetching better prices in the market.

### Success inspiring others to shift to organic farming

- Santhosh started producing improved composts and liquid fertilizer and bio pesticides for internal use. He completely stopped the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides in horticultural crops. He is producing different extracts scientifically utilizing cow dung and using the same for the crops. He is of the opinion that the techniques he is using for nutrient management and pest and

disease management under organic condition are much more effective and helping him harvest good quality produce. This has helped in generating interest in organic farming among fellow farmers.

- He is sharing the information and knowledge with the fellow farmers and helping them in reducing the cost of production by reducing use of chemicals. This is also resulting in improved soil health.

## Coverage of the program

Introduction to organic farming, role of bio fertilizers and bio agents in organic crop production, liquid bio fertilizer and bio agent production and usage, organic pest and disease management practices, Bordeaux mixture preparation. Jeevamruta and panchagavya production methodology, experience sharing by organic farmers and organic vegetables marketing and exposure visits.



## Details of associated STRY team

TrainingCoordinator

**Dr Pavithra**

Email Id – Pavithra4157@gmail.com

Phone No. – 7892768087

State Coordinator (STRY)

**Dr H K Pankaja**

Email Id – pankaja4012@gmail.com

Phone No. – 9449429217

Director (SAMETI)

**Dr K Narayanagowda**

Email Id - deuasbangalore@gmail.com

Phone No. – 9449866904



## Beekeeping – A rags to riches success story

*Success story of Ashok from Karnataka  
who is earning sustainable income from beekeeping*

Ashok C, aged 32 and having 8 acres of land, is mainly cultivating horticultural crops to sustain his family. He participated in a skill based training program conducted on 'Beekeeping' during January 2020 by Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Ramanagara, University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore under the coordination of Directorate of Extension, UAS, Bangalore (SAMETI-S). The program helped Ashok acquire knowledge and skills required to practice beekeeping like identify the Queen in bee box, hiving of honey bee colonies, division and uniting of bee colonies, management of bee colonies in different seasons, extraction of honey and processing.



**Profit** – Ashok is able to generate an income of Rs 22000/- per month by practicing beekeeping.

### Program encouraging beekeeping enterprise

- The skills learned during the training program helped Ashok to implement the prescribed protocol and techniques involved in handling the bee colonies.
- He is able to take proper care of queens whereas earlier he was not even able to locate the queen like many other youths. He is now not only able to split the colonies as a technique to avoid the swarming but also understand about the timing and concepts like colony strength.
- Most of the farmers were unaware and not following scientific process for honey extraction from super chamber. The training has made them learn the scientific process of honey extraction and reuse of comb in super chamber to save the time and energy of honey bees which is considered as one of the most important step in efficient utilization of resources.

## Success of Ashok inspired various others rural youths

- Ashok is providing training program to interested farmers. He has trained about 120 farmers/ rural youths.
- A group of about 10 farmers practicing beekeeping has also been formed. The member-farmers are working together and producing as per the demand of customers.

## Coverage of the program

Introduction to beekeeping, methods of beekeeping, role of honey bee in crop production, honey and other bee products, honey extraction and processing, bee wax processing, bee keeping equipment, hiving of honey bee colonies, inspection & handling of bee colonies, division & uniting of bee colonies, preparation of food supplements, management of bee colonies in different seasons, pests and diseases management in honeybees, value addition of bee products, role of pollinators in vegetable seed production, Apis mellifera rearing experience for honey purpose, beekeeping as an entrepreneur/ business, FSSAI certificate and role of horticulture department in promoting bee keeping.



## Details of associated STRY team

Training Coordinator

**Dr Rajendra Prasad**

Email Id – rajendrayadav007@gmail.com

Phone No. – 9844305002

Nodal Officer (STRY)

**Dr H K Pankaja**

Email Id – pankaja4012@gmail.com

Phone No. – 9449429217

Director (SAMETI)

**Dr K Narayanagowda**

Email Id – deuasbangalore@gmail.com

Phone No. – 9449866904

## Soil testing and integrated nutrient management bringing efficiency in agriculture and making it profitable

*Story of young farmer Charan Kumar from Karnataka earning sustainable income through scientific management*

Charan Kumar is a 25 year old rural youth. He participated in a skill based training program on 'Soil Testing and Integrated Nutrient Management' organised under STRY during February 2021 by ICAR – Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Konehalli, Tiptur, Tumkur under the Coordination of Directorate of Extension, UAS, Bangalore (SAMETI-S). The program was organized mainly to create awareness on soil testing and importance of soil quality, soil health ecosystem, nutrient deficiencies and its management. The program also covered the aspects related to build own soil testing laboratories to provide soil health card reports which help the farming community.



Profit – Charan Kumar is now able to generate an additional income of Rs. 12000/- per month.

### Impact of soil testing at ground

- The training program helped Charan Kumar understand the importance of soil sampling, soil and water testing and use of soil test based fertilizers in different crops. The use of fertilizers based on soil health report has resulted in improved soil health and reduced use of inputs like urea and DAP fertilizers. This has resulted in improved crop production economics.

### Educating other farmers on the importance of soil testing

- Charan Kumar provided training to interested fellow farmers and guide them on various benefits of using inputs based on soil test report.
- The trainees of the program have created a WhatsApp group and using the same to share knowledge and experiences and guide each other. The application of fertilizers based on soil health has resulted in reduction in cost of cultivation roughly by 10 – 15 percent and there is an increase in crop yield also observed to the tune of 15 – 20 percent.



## Coverage of the program

Introduction to soil testing and demonstration on techniques of soil sampling, soil quality, deficiencies of nutrients occurring in plant, visit to soil and water testing laboratories, field visits related to deficiency identification in agriculture and horticulture crops, testing soil (macro and micronutrients) and water samples (macro nutrients, chlorides, carbonates, bicarbonates, SAR and RSC) and learning recommendations based on soil test results, visit to TAPCMS (Taluk Agriculture Produce Cooperative Marketing Society), Tiptur for gaining knowledge regarding available fertilizers in crop production and knowledge on how to start firm and financial details. The participants were also provided with soil testing manuals, files and certificates.



## Details of associated STRY team

Training Coordinator

**Dr Anitha M S**

Email Id – anithagkvk@gmail.com

Phone No. – 8867448610

Nodal Officer (STRY)

**Dr H K Pankaja**

Email Id – pankaja4012@gmail.com

Phone No. – 9449429217

Director (SAMETI)

**Dr K Narayanagowda**

Email Id – deuasbangalore@gmail.com

Phone No. – 9449866904

## Millets value addition – a boon to women empowerment

*Story of an award winning women farmer Jyothi from Karnataka who practiced value addition in millets for generating sustainable income*

The main occupation of Jyothi is to cultivate crops like ragi, maize and foxtail millet on the 8 acres of agriculture land available with her family. In her quest to try something new to increase the income, she participated in a skill based training program on 'Value Addition in Millets' conducted during February 2020 under STRY by Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Chikkaballapura, UAS Bangalore under the coordination of Directorate of Extension, UAS, Bangalore (SAMETI-S). The training helped Jyothi acquire knowledge and skills on the importance of millets, its health benefits, processing, and value added products of millets, branding, licensing, labelling, packing and marketing of the products. She also got the opportunity to interact with millet-based entrepreneurs during the program.



**Profit** – Jyothi is able to generate an income of Rs 20,000/- per month by preparing various value added products from millets.

### Impact of training program on millets value addition

- Jyothi is a member of Self Help Group (SHG). The knowledge acquired during the program helped them establish a millet processing unit. The group has also obtained FSSAI license for their millet-based products like malt powder, mixture and laddu.
- The group is following branding and labelling for the value added millet based products.
- The group is also following a strategy to market the products through Chintamani local shops and some places in Bangalore as well where millet products are high in demand mainly among diabetic patients.

## An icon who is inspiring many other women farmers

- Eight trainees from the program have formed a group and are working together in the district to meet the demand of the customers.
- Jyothi, has started home scale enterprise and set a model unit for budding entrepreneurs. She is facilitating in creating awareness on millets processing technology and value addition among other SHGs.
- She also participates as a resource person in many training programs. She has, so far, provided knowledge on millets value addition to 80 farm women and 15 SHGs.
- For her achievement, UAS, Bangalore honored her with Taluk level Best Farm Women Award during Krishi Mela 2020.

## Coverage of the program

Introduction to millets cultivation and its varieties, soil nutrient management in millets, role of millets in our daily diet and in therapeutic conditions, health benefits of millet, millet processing and value addition, entrepreneurship, millet processing equipment, FSSAI certificate and financial assistance by banks and other agencies, knowledge on branding, labelling and marketing and field visit.



## Details of associated STRY team

Training Coordinator

**Ms Bhavana A**

Email Id – bhavana7243@gmail.com

Phone No. – 9845659602

Nodal Officer (STRY)

**Dr H K Pankaja**

Email Id – pankaja4012@gmail.com

Phone No. – 9449429217

Director (SAMETI)

**Dr K Narayanagowda**

Email Id – deuasbangalore@gmail.com

Phone No. – 9449866904



## Organic Farming bringing positive changes in the life style of farmers

*Success story of Mruthyunjay N Nagashetti from Karnataka who is attracting rural youth into organic farming*

Mruthyunjay N Nagashetti is a youth from Kalas village (Tq-Kundagol, Dist - Dharwad, State - Karnataka). He is having 12 acres of agriculture land and cultivates crops like maize, chilli, fodder grass, mango, sapota, guava, jackfruit, jamun, drumsticks, sandalwood and neem. He is an organic farmer and attended the skill based training program on “Organic Farming” during March 2021 conducted by Staff Training Unit, UAS Dharwad under the coordination of Directorate of Extension, UAS, Dharwad, Karnataka (SAMETI-N). The training helped Mruthyunjay acquire knowledge on organic cultivation, production techniques and use of organic formulations, bio fertilizers, bio-pesticides and soil and water conservation.



**Profit** – Mruthyunjay N Nagashetti is able to generate higher income because of reduced use of chemicals and efficient utilization of other inputs.

### Impact of training program on preparation of organic inputs

- Established vermicomposting unit with production capacity of 20 tonnes per year.
- Established the biodigester, jeevamruth, waster decomposer, organic humic acid and panchagavya production unit with 1000 lts capacity.
- Successfully recharging the bore well by rain water harvesting in his farm.
- Adopted the use of biofertilizers to enrich the soil fertility. Adopted the use of biopesticides and plant based pesticides for pest and disease management. This has resulted in reduction of cost of cultivations and organic products are fetching high price in market.

## Attracting young farmers to organic farming

- The trained youth is encouraging the farmers in his village to adopt organic farming. He has so far guided 10 farmers in the village to take up organic farming. He has prepared the poster to popularize the organic farming.

## Coverage of the program

Organic farming for sustainable agriculture, vermiculture and vermicompost production technology, bio insecticides, production technology and management of pest in organic farming, green manure and their usage in organic farming, importance of bio fertilizers production technologies and their use in organic farming, plant disease management in organic farming, soil and water conservation and fertility management in organic farming and marketing of organic products.



## Details of associated STRY team

Nodal Officer (STRY)

**Dr S G Raju**

Professor

Directorate of Extension, UAS,  
Dharwad, Karnataka

Director (SAMETI)

**Dr Ramesh Babu**

Director of Extension

Directorate of Extension, UAS,  
Dharwad, Karnataka

## Use of homemade inputs transformed commercial nursery into a successful venture

*Story of Nizar E V Ellathvallappil from Kerala who has achieved success by maintaining nursery*

Nizar E V Ellathvallappil, a 34 years old rural youth with 0.75 acre agricultural land, participated in a skill based training program conducted under STRY on the Nursery Management during 24 – 30 November 2020 by Regional Agricultural Technology Training Centre, Malampuzha under the coordination of Directorate of Extension, Kerala Agricultural University, Mannuthy, Kerala (SAMETI). Training helped Nizar acquire knowledge on layout of nursery, method of plant propagation, landscaping knowledge about different nursery plants, cultivation techniques, aftercare and pest and disease management. He also acquired knowledge on Kokedama, Terrarium and Miniature garden.



Profit – Nizar EV Ellathvallappil is able to generate an income of Rs 20,000 to Rs 25000 per month.

### Training encouraged use of homemade inputs

- Training helped Nizar in collecting wide varieties of leafy and flowering nursery plants.
- He was also able to prepare and use herbal, cow dung and cow urine based growth promoters.
- He is able to practice grafting, budding and layering techniques for propagation in his nursery which provides employment to his family members.

### A role model for many other youths

- Nizar has become a successful garden, designer and layout specialist and encouraging many youths from his area.
- He has established a sale outlet which is helping him in marketing his output and also helping in creating awareness on nursery management.



## Coverage of the program

Site selection and nursery layout, seed extraction, cutting, layering, grafting and budding, Kokedama, terrarium and miniature garden, pest and disease management in nursery, preparation of botanical, employment potential of nursery management, nursery certification and other legal aspects. Field visit for identification of plants to Malampuzha garden and HD farm.



## Details of associated STRY team

Training Coordinator

**Shri Ashanth**

Email Id – [acashanth@gmail.com](mailto:acashanth@gmail.com)

Phone No. – 7012413709

Director (SAMETI)

**Dr Sushma**

Email Id – [sametikerala@gmail.com](mailto:sametikerala@gmail.com)

Phone No. – 0471-2740440

## Application of integrated pest management made vegetable growing profitable

*Success Story of Prajeesh from Kerala in vegetable cultivation*

Prajeesh, P is a rural youth and having three acres of land. He is engaged in different agripreneurial activities since 2016. His farm named Jeevaa Farms specializes in Aquaponics and precision farming. The participation in skill based training program on 'IPM in Vegetables' during 21 – 27 March 2019 conducted by RARS, Pattambi, Kerala Agricultural University, Kerala under the coordination of Directorate of Extension, KAU helped Prajeesh in adopting organic management of crops and take his business to new levels. The training helped Prajeesh acquire knowledge and skill in identification of pest and disease in vegetables, organic management of pest and diseases in crops, application of safer pesticides, preparation of Bordeaux mixture, use of egg cards and traps for pest management.



Profit – Prajeesh is able to generate a net income of Rs 20,000/- per month.

### Skill based program encouraged pest control in vegetables

- The knowledge acquired during the program has encouraged the use of Trichoderma and Pseudomonas.
- Prajeesh is now adopting egg amino acids and neem garlic emulsion to control pests in vegetables.

### Success of Prajeesh encouraging various others

- The success of Prajeesh has encouraged other farmers also to practice integrated pest management which has resulted in less dependence on chemicals for pest management.
- Farmers are now able to identify pest and disease on their own without depending on any technical help. The area has increased under crops like vegetables and banana.
- Customer preference has increased because vegetables and fish can be purchased at one point.



## Coverage of the program

General causes and symptoms of plant diseases, insect pests and nutrition deficiency in vegetables, identification of general symptoms of plant diseases and insect pest damage, diseases of pumpkin, ash gourd, cucumber, cool season vegetables, water melon, bitter gourd, snake gourd and ivy gourd, major pests of cucurbits and cool season vegetables and their management, uses of mycorrhiza for vegetable seedling production and methods of mass production, diseases of brinjal, chilli, tomato, cowpea, amaranthus and bhindi, pests of brinjal, chilli and tomato, management of viral diseases in vegetables, bio control agents for disease management, mass multiplication of Trichoderma, familiarization and preparation of botanicals for pest management, identification of pests and diseases of Solanaceous crops, cabbage, cauliflower, curry leaf, preparation of Bordeaux mixture and Bordeaux paste, demonstration of Soil Solarization, botanicals and biological control agents for pest management in vegetables, familiarization of safer insecticides and their uses, familiarization of safer fungicide molecules for disease management in vegetables and field exposure.



## Details of associated STRY team

Training Coordinator

**Dr P Raji**

Email Id – raji.p@kau.in

Phone No. – 9447880208

Nodal Officer (STRY)

**Dr B Shanmugasundaram**

Email Id – bs.sundaram@kau.in

Phone No. – 9446239318

Director (SAMETI)

**Dr Sushma**

Email Id – sametikerala@gmail.com

Phone No. – 0471-2740440



## Effective use of farm waste made vegetable farming profitable

*The story of Sheeja Suseelan from Kerala who has started organic vegetable farming*

Sheeja Suseelan is mainly into cultivation of vegetables to earn a livelihood. She knew that organic products have a good market and can be sold at a better price. However, she was lacking the knowledge and skills required to practice the same. The participation in a skill based training program on vegetable cultivation conducted during 15 – 22 March 2021 under STRY by Regional Agricultural Technology Training Centre, Ernakulam District, Kerala under the coordination of Directorate of Extension, Kerala Agricultural University, Kerala (SAMETI) helped her acquire knowledge and necessary skill to prepare various organic inputs.



Profit – Sheeja Suseelan is able to generate a net income of Rs 20,000/- per month.

### Training program encouraged organic vegetable farming

- Sheeja Suseelan is now able to implement crop rotation and also preparing organic inputs for use on her farm.
- She is now aware about installation of different irrigation methods such as micro-irrigation and wick irrigation.
- Sheeja Suseelan and other participants of the program are now managing waste by decomposing.

### Suseelan is encouraging other farm women in rural area

- Sheeja Suseelan provides skill based training to the interested fellow farmers on preparation of organic inputs and various irrigation techniques.
- She is also using various social media platforms for marketing as well as for creating awareness among farm women.
- Her efforts have resulted in about 10 – 15 farmers practicing organic farming.

## Coverage of the program

Introduction to organic farming, principles, nursery techniques, organic inputs and their quality parameters, irrigation techniques like micro-irrigation and wick irrigation, waste management by decomposing organic farming and IFS, organic input production, grow bag vegetable cultivation and maintenance of grow bag and field visit for practical exposure to the participants.



## Details of associated STRY team

Training Coordinator  
**Deputy Director of Agriculture**  
 RATTC, Vyttila  
 Kerala.

Director (SAMETI)  
**Dr Sushma**  
 Email Id – sametikerala@gmail.com  
 Phone No. – 0471-2740440

## Contract farming used as a tool for practicing poultry farming successfully

*The story of a young entrepreneur Rahul Mahadev Pawar from Maharashtra who is inspiring many other farmers*

Rahul Mahadev Pawar, aged 37 years, is having 5 acres of land and cultivating mainly bajra, tur and udid crops to support his family. He participated in a skill based training program on 'Poultry Rearing and Management' conducted under STRY during January 2020 by Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Babhaleshwar, Ahmednagar under the coordination of VANAMATI, Nagapur. The training helped Rahul in acquiring knowledge and skill required for rearing the broiler poultry covering housing, poultry, vaccination, feeding and disease management.



Profit – Rahul is able to generate an income of Rs 55000/- per batch and Rs 3.30 lakhs through 6 batch per year.

### Program helped in exploring the potential of contract farming

- The concept of Contract Farming was introduced by the KVK by taking into consideration various problems in poultry farming. The training helped in introducing poultry at large scale, adoption of technique of feed formulation, fogging system and water purification and low cost brooding management technique.
- Adoption of automatic water system and feeding system technique has resulted in limited labour requirement in poultry rearing.
- Rahul Mahadev has established broiler poultry shed 28X210 with capacity to accommodate 4500 broiler on contract farming basis with Baramati Agro.

### Emerging as a role model for various other rural youths

- Rahul Mahadev is sharing his knowledge with fellow farmers/ rural youths and has, so far, trained 26 farmers.



- Five participants of the program trained under the STRY Program have formed a group and are working together as per the market demand.
- The awareness created by the program and candidates trained under it, has helped not only in improving the productivity of broiler poultry but a large number of poultry units have come up. The district is now having roughly about 450 broiler units.

## Coverage of the program

Introduction to contract farming in broiler poultry, methods of brooding, role of vaccination for minimising mortality in poultry production, broiler poultry as an entrepreneurial activity/ business and role of animal husbandry department in promoting poultry.



## Details of associated STRY team

Training Coordinator

**Dr Vitthal Vikhe**

Email Id – vikhevm@rediffmail.com

Phone No. – 9921755364

Head of the Institute

**Dr Sambhaji Nalkar**

Sr. Scientist & Head

Phone No. – 9890577525

Nodal Officer (STRY)

**Dr Shivankar Prabhakar**

Phone No. – 942213374

## Tomato processing emerged as a lucrative business for young farm woman

*A motivational story of Ujwala Bhanje from Maharashtra in tomato processing*

Ujwala Bhanje is 33 years old and having 2 acres land. She is leading two Self Help Groups in her village and the members of these groups are mainly dependent on farming for livelihood. These member-families are cultivating horticultural and agricultural crops in their farms. Ujwala Bhanje participated in a skill based STRY training program on 'Post Harvest Processing and Packaging of Fruits & Vegetables' conducted during 20 – 26 February 2021 by Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Latur under the coordination of VANAMATI, Nagapur. The program helped Ujwala acquire knowledge and skill required to curtail post harvest losses in fruits and vegetables through processing.



Profit – Ujwala is now preparing value added products from tomato like tomato ketchup and sauce and earning additional income.

### Training helped realise the potential of processing

- Training program helped Ujwala to implement the techniques involved in processing of vegetables especially in tomato.
- She is also using machines for packaging the processed products.
- She is also able to take up the activity as a business based on the knowledge acquired during the program on entrepreneurship and importance of safety and health at workplace.

### The icon inspiring many others

- Ujwala motivated other women members of the group for cultivation and processing of tomato.
- The members of the farm women group have come together for cultivation, processing marketing of processed products.

- Ujwala is guiding 24 women farmer not only in working together as a group but also on value addition through processing and marketing the processed products within the district.

## Coverage of the program

Importance of fruits and vegetables for human health, identification of spoilage of fruits and vegetables, importance of personal hygiene, cleaning and sanitation, common food processing equipment, practical demonstration of various methods of drying, value added products from fruits & vegetables, sealing pouches machines, entrepreneurship, FSSAI certificate and other registration process and financial details and schemes related to processing & value addition.



## Details of associated STRY team

Training Coordinator  
**Shri A A Gunjal,**  
SMS Home Science  
KVK Latur  
Maharashtra

Director (SAMETI)  
**Dr Madhavi Khode Chaware** IAS

Nodal Officer (STRY)  
**Dr Uday Patil,** Addl Director  
VANAMATI Nagpur ( Maharashtra)  
Email Id – sameti123@yahoo.co.in



## Dairy business brings happiness through increased income to farmers

*An inspiring story of Ganesh Kavindra Suramwar from Maharashtra in dairy business*

Ganesh Kavindra Suramwar, resident of village Navegaon of Gadchiroli district of Maharashtra, was a traditional dairy farmer. He is having about 7 acre of land including his house and cattle shed. After completion of his Graduation degree he was struggling to become a successful entrepreneur in dairy sector. He approached the scientists of Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Sonapur, Gadchiroli and was advised to attend a program on scientific dairy farming focused on breeding and feeding improvement of cattle. He subsequently attended a skill based program conducted under STRY by Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Sonapur, Gadchiroli under the coordination of VANAMATI, Nagpur. He started his dairy business in 2019 with 4 cows with average production of 35 litres per day on trail basis. Very soon he realised the potential of dairy farming.



Profit – Ganesh is able to generate an income of Rs 2.5 – 3.00 lakhs per year.

### Training program facilitating desirable change at ground

- Under the guidance of Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Sonapur, Gadchiroli, Ganesh Kavindra is maintaining a healthy herd and producing the best quality milk.
- He has established a retail counter in addition to home delivery faculty. He is selling milk at the rate of Rs 50 per litre at retail counter and @ Rs 60 per litre to home delivery customer.
- The training knowledge has helped him establish a brand. He owns about 10 cows producing at an average of 50 litres milk per day and is able to sell entire production under his own brand.
- He is also offering wide range of products through the retail counter like farm fresh cow Dahi, Ghee and Paneer.
- He is also planning to establish Biogas plant to use the cow dung produced at his farm.

## Inspiring other rural youths

- Ganesh Kavindra is sharing his knowledge and experience with other farmers and rural youths.
- Ganesh Kavindra has motivated the rural youths and formed a farmers group with the name “Navyuvak Gondwana Dughdavyavsaiik Bachat Gat”.
- The trainees motivated by the potential of dairy sector have formed a group and are working together for production and marketing.

## Coverage of the program

Various skills related to dairy farming, cattle breeds, judging the dairy cattle, dairy industry in India, future scope of dairy farmer, various challenges in dairy farming, preparing and maintaining livestock accommodation, provide feed and water for livestock, maintaining healthy performance of livestock, hand and machine milking, forage conservation, entrepreneurship skills and maintaining healthy and safe environment at the work.



## Details of associated STRY team

Training Coordinator  
**Dr Vikram Kadam**  
 SMS KVK  
 Sonapur ( Gadchiroli)  
 Maharashtra

Director (SAMETI)  
**Dr Madhavi Khode Chaware** IAS

Nodal Officer (STRY)  
**Dr Uday Patil**  
 Additional Director  
 VANAMATI Nagpur ( Maharashtra)  
 Email Id – sameti123@yahoo.co.in

## Story of Punjab farmer earning sustainable income through organic farming

*The story of Akashdeep Singh from Punjab realizing better price through direct marketing the produce*

Akashdeep Singh is from Sangrur and has 2 acres of land available for cultivation. He has completed schooling upto 10th standard and has 6 members to feed. Low level of education left him with farming as the only option to earn livelihood. In order to learn skills required to earn sufficient from farming, he attended a skill based training program on organic farming conducted under STRY in the month of May 2019 at Punjab Agricultural Management and Extension Training Institute (PAMETI), Ludhiana. After the training he started organic farming on half of the agriculture land available with him.

Profit – Akashdeep is able to generate an income of Rs 20000/- per month.



### Training encouraged organic production of vegetables

- The skills learned during the training program helped Akashdeep to convert a part of land into organic farm.
- The application of natural techniques to control pests and diseases resulted in reduction of cost of inputs because of reduced consumption of chemical fertilizers and pesticides.
- Majority of the farmers sell their produce in wholesale markets. However, a session on Road Side Display gave an insight to Akashdeep to sell his produce directly to consumers. Selling fresh vegetables directly to the customers without any involvement of middle man helped him realize better income.



## A role model for other youths

- Akashdeep started Farmer's Field School on his farm to provide training to the interested farmers.
- Farmers from nearby areas have also been motivated by the success of Akashdeep to produce safe food and sell directly to consumers.

## Coverage of the program

Introduction to organic farming, concept, principles and prospects, integrated pest management, bio fertilizers, integrated disease management, natural farming, identifying and reducing residual effects in crops, lecture-cum-lab session, rodent control in organic farming, soil quality testing and its management for organic farming, integrated nutrient management, practical, herbal garden, control of diseases in organic crops, branding and labelling of organic products, organic farming for horticulture crops, packaging of fruits and vegetables, marketing of organic farm produce, organic farming as business and role of Agriculture Department in promoting organic farming.



## Details of associated STRY team

Training Coordinator

**Shri Lakhwinder Singh Brar**

Email Id – pametiludhiana@gmail.com

Phone No. – 0161-2770059

Director (SAMETI)

**Dr HSDhaliwal**

Email Id – pametiludhiana@gmail.com

Nodal Officer (STRY)

**Dr Harmeet Kaur**

Email Id – harmeetchadha007@rediffmail.com

## Commercial nursery sprouting enhanced income for farmers from Punjab

*Story of Sandeep Singh from Punjab who is earning sustainable income through nursery farming*

Sandeep Singh, 26 years old was an unemployed youth who adopted nursery raising at small scale at Hari Naur village, Faridkot. He was in touch with officials at ATMA, Faridkot and attended STRY training program on nursery management in the month of February – March 2019. The program was conducted by ATMA, Faridkot under the coordination of Punjab Agricultural Management and Extension Training Institute (PAMETI), Ludhiana.

Profit – Sandeep Singh is able to generate an income of Rs 20,000/- per month



### Skill based program encouraging nursery farming

- The skills learned during the training program helped Sandeep to convert his land into nursery.
- The skill learned during the program helped him produce good quality planting materials for selling to local customers.
- With the scientific knowledge acquired, he is able to produce disease free vegetable seedling.

## Success of Sandeep inspiring other youths

- Sandeep success has created awareness among farmers on the potential of nursery management in helping farmers realize better income from same level of limited resources like land availability.

## Coverage of the program

Introduction to nursery raising, soil sampling, nursery bed preparation, pest & disease management, nursery of Rabi season and Kharif season, paddy transplanting, machinery for nursery, nursery of fruits, vegetables and flowers, lecture and visit to PAU, agro- forestry nursery raising, nursery management as business and role of Department of Agriculture in promoting nursery and producing good quality planting material.

### Details of associated STRY team

Training Coordinator

**Dr Amandeep Keshav**

Email Id – pdatma.faridkot@gmail.com

Phone No. – 81467-55422

Director (SAMETI)

**Dr H S Dhaliwal**

Email Id – pametiludhiana@gmail.com

Nodal Officer (STRY)

**Dr Harmeet Kaur**

Email Id – harmeetchadha007@rediffmail.com



## Wealth and health from use of organic waste in mushroom production

*Story of mushroom grower Charanjeet Singh from Punjab earning income from mushroom production*

Farmers of Punjab follow wheat and paddy cycle and use subsidiary agricultural occupations in the time between two seasons to use their time and also supplement their income. With this view, Charanjeet Singh along with his friend visited Punjab Agricultural Management and Extension Training Institute (PAMETI), Ludhiana to attend a skill based training program conducted under STRY on Mushroom Production Techniques during November and December, 2018. The skill learnt during the program helped Charanjeet to use the wheat and paddy straw, a by-product from his traditional farming, to raise mushroom using make shift sheds during the months of November to February. As the season is cold, the open sheds can be used for mushroom production. He has been doing seasonal mushroom production of about 1000 bags but has not thought of investing in AC unit as the marketing in local market has always been an issue.



Profit – Charanjeet is able to generate an income of Rs 20,000/- per season by investing Rs 2000.

### Training program facilitated proper disease and pest management in mushroom production

- The skills learned during the training program helped Charanjeet to produce mushroom in cold seasons.
- He was able to follow appropriate diseases and pest management practices, proper post-harvest management and value addition of mushrooms through packaging, drying and making powder.

- Majority of the farmers are relying on traditional channels for marketing the produce. Whereas, Charanjeet has come up with some innovative channels to approach customers directly like selling at marriage functions as winter is the season for marriages in Punjab.

### Charanjeet has emerged as a role model for others

- Farmers of nearby area have also been motivated by the success of Charanjeet to use the lean period of December to March to grow mushroom on small scale.

### Coverage of the program

Compost preparation for button mushroom using long method, practical on mushroom composting, mushroom spawn preparation and spawning, casing soil preparation, casing and cropping of button mushroom, cultivation of oyster and shiitake mushroom, cultivation of tropical mushrooms, diseases and pest of mushrooms, post-harvest management of mushrooms and packaging, drying of mushroom & making powder and business related issues like economics of mushroom production, marketing of mushroom and entrepreneurship.

### Details of associated STRY team

Training Coordinator

**Shri Lakhwinder Singh Brar**

Email Id – pametiludhiana@gmail.com

Phone No. – 0161-2770059

Director (SAMETI)

**Dr H S Dhaliwal**

Email Id – pametiludhiana@gmail.com

Nodal Officer (STRY)

**Dr Harmeet Kaur**

Email Id – harmeet Chadha007@rediffmail.com

## Skill based training program encouraging changes in Post-Harvest Management practices

*Story of Dhandeep Singh from Punjab who is earning income through adoption of Post-Harvest Management practice*

Dhandeep Singh attended a skill based program conducted under STRY on 'Post Harvest Management, Value Addition and Marketing of Agricultural, Horticultural and Livestock Produce' during September, 2019. The program was conducted under the coordination of Punjab Agricultural Management and Extension Training Institute (PAMETI), Ludhiana. He was already producing vegetables and was selling in farmers' market in Ludhiana. After training, he started packing his produce into poly packs and use it to improve his income. Population in urban market is willing to pay premium price for processed products like peeled garlic and peas. He availed this opportunity by supplying peeled garlic and peas which helped him realise better price.

Profit – Dhandeep was able to improve his income from the same produce by following various post-harvest practices.



### Appropriate skills encouraging better post-harvest management

- The skills learned during the training program encouraged Dhandeep to pack his produce properly as per market demand and realize better prices.
- The session on marketing helped him to approach consumers directly as he belong to Ludhiana. He has created a WhatsApp group and customers place their orders through the same. Dhandeep home delivers the produce as per the requirement of the customers.



## Dhandeep is educating others about value addition

- Farmers of nearby area have also been motivated by the success of Dhandeep and have shown interest in adopting various value addition practices and approach customers directly.

## Coverage of the program

The concept of value addition in agriculture and its importance, various options of value in dairy, fruit & vegetable, different aspects of livestock sector like recent trends and future prospects, mushroom cultivation, economics and marketing of mushroom, value addition in meat & meat products & exposure visit to slaughter house, exposure visit to agro processing unit, value addition in fruits and vegetables through packaging, storage and transport for wholesale and retail marketing, processing like preparation of pickles and jams, FSSAI registration and certification, visit to CIPHET, recent processing technologies, food product development, packaging, labelling, branding and various aspects related to entrepreneurship.

### Details of associated STRY team

Training Coordinator

**Shri Ravneet Singh**

Email Id – pametiludhiana@gmail.com

Phone No. – 0161-2770059

Director (SAMETI)

**Dr H S Dhaliwal**

Email Id – pametiludhiana@gmail.com

Nodal Officer (STRY)

**Dr Harmeet Kaur**

Email Id – harmeet Chadha007@rediffmail.com

## Organic farming promoting livelihood options for rural women

*Story of Thangamani from Tamil Nadu who is earning sustainable income from organic farming*

R Thangamani is an innovative young farmer from Konnur village, Namakkal block of Namakkal district. After completing her graduation, she opted for agriculture as occupation for her livelihood. She is having her own agriculture land (9.5 acres) and 4 desi cattle. She started commercial cultivation of sugarcane and tapioca in different seasons. The crops were frequently infested by pest and diseases leading to low yield and high production cost. She interacted with KVK Namakkal Agronomist, regarding farming issues faced by her and asked for solutions. As solution, KVK Namakkal suggested her to go for organic farming methods to improve soil fertility, reduce cost of cultivation, improves yield and reduction of pest and diseases incidence. She was also advised to attend organic farming training organized by KVK, Namakkal. She attended the week long training program in January 2019 on 'Production of Biocontrol Agents' organised under Skill Training of Rural Youth (STRY) by KVK, Namakkal with the support of SAMETI, Tamil Nadu and MANAGE Hyderabad. The training helped her acquire immense knowledge about organic farming practices like production of biocontrol products, other organic liquid products and practical applicability of bio-products. The training provided her the confidence to control all pests and diseases using bio-products. She cultivated different crop viz., paddy, finger millet, groundnut, sugarcane, turmeric and tapioca under pure organic farming. After successful implementation of organic cultivation, she observed reduction in cost of production in comparison to inorganic pest management (Rs.4500–6000 per ha), achieved higher yield in sugarcane (52 tons/acre), Thuyamalli paddy (1550 kg/acre) and Finger millet (625kg/ac). Very less incidence of pest and diseases were observed and these infestations were also controlled easily using biocontrol products. Soil organic carbon has also been observed to increase from 0.45 percent to 0.74 percent. She applied for organic certification for her land.



**Profit** – The practice of organic farming has helped Thangamani bring down the cost of cultivation through reduced use of chemicals.

### Training encouraged changes in cultivation practice

- Training helped Thangamani implement organic farming practices and techniques. Cultivation of Thuyamalli paddy, sugarcane, groundnut, Finger millet, Tapioca under organic methods.
- Prepared organic liquid products (Herbal plant extract, Panchagaviya and Fish amilam, EM) and applied in fields. Regular use of Pseudomonas, Trichoderma, VAM fungi, Trichogramma egg card, Metarhizium, Beauveria and Verticillium and Neem cake in crops. Application of bio-fertilizer and organic mulches in sugarcane.

## A success story encouraging various others

- Thangamani encouraged 3 women farmers to follow organic farming practices. Nearby rural youths visit her farm to have advice based on her experience.
- Because of her initiatives, 12 farmers are applying Beauveria, Pseudomonas, Trichoderma, Fish amilam and waste decomposer regularly in their fields.
- She also acted as resource persons for local training (4 programs and 124 farmers benefitted) in pest and diseases management through bioproducts.
- A farmers Anitha from Konur village applied Beauveria, Pseudomonas and Fish amilam for their cucumber cultivation and controlled pests and saved Rs.3000/40 cents area as cost of cultivation and yield recorded was 1655 kg.

## Coverage of the program

Introduction to production and potential of biological products and bio-control agents in agriculture, role of biological agents in organic farming, pest management of agricultural crops through bio-control products, bio-control agents and their applications in agricultural crops, mass production of Trichoderma Viride and pseudomonas fluorescence, nuclear Polyhedrosis virus of Helicoverpa Armigera & Spodoptera Litura, green and white Muscardine fungus (Metarhizium Anisopliae & Beauveria Bassiana), application of Verticillium Lecanii and bacillus subtilis, papaya mealy bug Parasitoids production, biological control agents in horticultural crops, bio control products in nutritional kitchen garden for quality vegetable production, traps in pest management of agricultural and horticultural crops, quality control aspects in bio – control products and marketing, demonstration of organic liquid bio-products, visit to tapioca and castor research institute, Yethapur, visit to KVK demonstration units, visit to government bio-control lab, Salem, visit to organic farm at Ondikadai village and scientist – extension officer – farmers interaction on bio-control agents and their application.

### Details of associated STRY team

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#### Training Coordinators

##### Dr N Akila

Email Id – akila2528@gmail.com  
Phone No. – 9790885431

##### Dr P Murugan

Email Id – agrimuruga@gmail.com  
Phone No. – 9600520698

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## Application of organic inputs resulted in reduced cost and improved income

*Story of P Selvam from Tamil Nadu in organic farming*

P Selvam is 35 year old progressive farmer from Kothapetta village of Krishnagiri Taluk of Krishnagiri District having an educational qualification of B.A. He owns 3.5 acres of land in which he used to cultivate vegetables like onion and tomato and also paddy and oilseed crops. He was planning to shift to organic cultivation mainly for vegetables. In order to understand different aspects of organic cultivation, he participated in a week long training program on “Organic Farming” conducted under STRY by ICAR-KVK, Elumichangiri, Krishnagiri during September 2018. The program was coordinated by State Agricultural Management and Extension Training Institute (SAMETI), Tamil Nadu. In the training, Selvam learnt about organic inputs for cultivation and concept of IPM and INM and also acquired the knowledge of preparation of Vermicompost and Panchakavya for IPM.

Profit – Economics of production has improved for Selvam because of reduced use of chemicals. Production of bio-agents is also helping him earn additional income of Rs 15000 per month.



### Changes encouraged by the training

- Selvam has introduced various organic inputs which have helped in bringing down the cost of cultivation and resulted in better returns.
- The knowledge acquired through the training program helped him prepare the vermicompost and Panchagavya for pest management.

- He is able to produce in a month approximately 250 liters of Panchagavya, 1500 Kgs of Vermicompost and 20 Kgs of NSKE. This is helping him earn an additional income of Rs 15000/month

### Master trainer for youths in his village

- Selvam is providing training to interested fellow farmers. Farmers are also encouraged to visit his field for gaining field experience.
- He is also participating as a resource person in various program conducted by KVK, Elumichangiri.

### Coverage of the program

Importance of organic farming, vermicompost preparation, application of bio-fertilizers and preparation of organic manure, organic vegetable cultivation, bio-pesticide and importance of Light Trap and Pheromone Trap.

### Details of associated STRY team

Training Coordinator  
**Dr K Sundarajan,**  
Programme Coordinator,  
KVK, Elumichangiri  
Tamil Nadu

Director (SAMETI)  
**Shri P Sankaralingam**  
Email Id – tnsameti@gmail.com  
Phone No. – 9787705025

Nodal Officer (STRY)  
**Shri Ibramsa**  
Email Id – tnsameti@gmail.com  
Phone No. – 8220029811

## Mushroom cultivation emerged as a livelihood option for farmer from Tamil Nadu

*An inspiring story of Ramasubramani from Tamil Nadu in mushroom production*

Ramasubramani is a 32 years old progressive farmer from Uralpatti village of Pannaikadu area in Kodaikanal taluk of Dindigul district having an educational qualification of B.Sc. He was mainly taking plantation crops like coffee, pepper, orange and avocado at 10 acres of land. Though, he was taking these crops successfully but always wanted to experiment with something with potential to yield higher returns with minimum investment. He participated in a week long training program conducted under STRY on ‘Mushroom Cultivation’ during August 2019. The program was conducted by Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Gandhigram and coordinated by State Agricultural Management and Extension Training Institute (SAMETI), Tamil Nadu. He acquired knowledge on different aspects of mushroom cultivation.



**Profit –** Mushroom cultivation has helped Ramasubramani earn additional income using the same level of resources. Able to earn additional income of Rs 15000 – 30000 per month from mushroom production.

### Impact of training programme on practices followed by Ramasubramani

- Ramasubramani established oyster mushroom unit with 100 number of beds, initially he realised yield of 2 – 5 kgs per day and was unable to market the same leading to wastage. He approached locals for marketing the harvest. He is now able to market 5 – 10 Kgs @ Rs 150 per Kg of mushroom in his farm itself and earn Rs 500 – 1000 per day.
- He has established a rural laboratory at his farm and plays an active role in tissue culture of mushroom, mother and bed spawn production.
- Following scientific production techniques, the production of oyster mushroom has gone up and he is also able to check the contamination of mushroom beds.
- Scientific method of mushroom growing and mushroom mother spawn and F1 spawn production.



## Inspiring others in mushroom production

- He is providing training on mushroom cultivation to school students of his village and nearby villages. He is also providing training to interested farmers free of cost.
- Rural youths also visit his mushroom unit to gain knowledge of scientific mushroom cultivation.
- About four rural youths have taken up the mushroom enterprise through his guidance.

## Coverage of the program

Importance and benefits of mushroom cultivation, usage of mushroom in daily life, types of mushroom and their varieties, cultivation techniques of mushroom, instruments and media required for mushroom cultivation, tissue culturing of mushroom, mother spawn and F1 spawn production, oyster mushroom varieties and their characters, cultivation techniques of oyster mushroom, mushroom bed preparation, composting techniques of farm wastes using oyster mushroom spawn, importance of milky mushroom, milky mushroom shed requirement, milky mushroom cultivation techniques, pest and diseases affecting mushroom, button mushroom varieties and its production in Tamil Nadu, different methods of compost preparation for mushroom substrate, preparation of base spawn and mother spawn of button mushroom, cultivation techniques of button mushroom.

### Details of associated STRY team

Training Coordinator  
**Shri P P Saravanan**  
Senior Scientist and Head (i/c)  
Krishi Vigyan Kendra,  
Gandhigram Rural Institute, Gandhigram  
Tamil Nadu.

Director (SAMETI)  
**Shri P Sankaralingam**  
Email Id – tnsameti@gmail.com  
Phone No. –9787705025

Nodal Officer (STRY)  
**Shri Ibramsa**  
Phone No. – 822002981

## Income enhancement through vermicomposting

*A motivational story of Lingesh Sekar from Tamil Nadu in vermicomposting*

Lingesh Sekar is a progressive farmer from Duraikudi village of Srirangam (Taluk) Trichy (District). He is having educational qualification of HSC and own 10 acres of agricultural land. He cultivates mainly paddy, vegetables and coconut. He is also having 20 milch cows and was interested in vermicomposting to utilize the cow dung effectively. According, he attended a week long training conducted under STRY on Vermicomposting during March 2020. The program was conducted by Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Sirugamani, Tiruchirappalli and coordinated by State Agricultural Management and Extension Training Institute (SAMETI), Tamil Nadu. The training helped Lingesh Sekar acquire knowledge about vermi composting.



Profit – Lingesh Sekar is able to generate additional income of Rs 10,000/- for month.

### Vermicomposting based better input management

- Lingesh Sekar established five vermiompost unit at his farm and is able to harvested 1000 kg of vermicompost per month. After meeting his own need, he is marketing the surplus.
- The application of vermicompost has resulted in reduced chemical use.
- Cost of cultivation has come down and production and income has improved due to production and use of vermicompost.

## Lingesh Sekar motivating others

- Lingesh Sekar is creating awareness among farmers and convincing them to start use of products like vermicompost to reduce cost and reap associated benefits.
- Nearby farmers use to visit his field to understand production and use of vermicompost and to experience the benefits of using vermicompost.

## Coverage of the program

Importance of vermicompost production and benefits of vermicompost, different methods in vermicomposting, grading, packing and labelling techniques, application of vermicompost in horticultural crops, different species of earthworm and selection of suitable earthworm species for vermicomposting, watering and maintenance of vermi-bed, predator and its effect on vermicompost production, promotion, marketing techniques and publicity, preparation of project proposal for financial assistance, role of composting in agriculture, site selection for vermicomposting, vermicompost and earthworm harvesting techniques, economics in vermicomposting, different composting techniques, wastes and input used for vermicomposting, partial decomposition technique, storage and value addition of vermicompost techniques and application of vermicompost to agriculture.

### Details of associated STRY team

Training Coordinator  
**Dr Noojehan A K A Hanif**  
Programme coordinator,  
KVK – Sirugamani  
Tiruchirappalli,  
Tamil Nadu.

Director (SAMETI)  
**Shri P Sankaralingam**  
Email Id – tnsameti@gmail.com  
Phone No. – 9787705025

Nodal Officer (STRY)  
**Shri Ibramsa**  
Email Id – tnsameti@gmail.com  
Phone No. – 8220029811



## Millet based processed products open the gateway of success

*Story of Prabhakar from Telangana  
in value added products of millet*

D Prabhakar, a rural youth from Telanagana was mainly practicing farming on his one acre land to sustain his family which obviously was not sufficient and therefore he was looking for some enterprise to earn sufficient to meet his family needs. He participated in a skill based training program conducted under STRY on ‘Value Addition to Millets’ during March – April 0018 by Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Jammikunta, District Karimnagar, Telangana under the coordination of State Agricultural Management and Extension Training Institute (SAMETI), Telangana. The program helped Prabhakar acquire knowledge and skill required to start mobile Millet Jawa (Porridge) unit.



Profit – Prabhakar is able to generate an income of Rs 18000/- per month by selling of millets food snacks.

### Skills acquired helped in production of various millet products

- Prabhakar established a mobile millet Jawa (Porridge) unit.
- He is preparing various millet based products like multigrain atta with millets, multigrain sattu with millets, korra products (upma and biscuits), and finger millet products (laddu). He is also maintaining proper hygiene during processing and preparing different products.
- Introduced packing and labelling for better acceptability of his products.
- Preparing the millet based products as per the requirement of the customers and marketing the same efficiently as per the knowledge gained during the program.

## Inspiring various other rural youths

- The success of Prabhakar has encouraged other farmers and rural youth to consider millet processing as a viable business proposition.
- He has also provided employment to one person at his processing unit.

## Coverage of the program

Nutritional importance of millets in our daily menu, preparation of finger millet malt, preparation of multigrain atta with millets, preparation of multigrain sattu with millets, preparation of korra products (payasam), preparation of korra products (upma and biscuits), preparation of finger millet products (porridge), preparation of finger millet products (laddu), preparation of pearl millet products (laddu), preparation of pearl millet products (roti) and preparation of products with jowar (roti and gataka), the training also focussed on field exposure, business aspects, proposal preparation and availability of different financial options.

## Details of associated STRY team

Training Coordinator

**Dr N Venkateshwar Rao**

Email Id – neelamrao2000@gmail.com

Phone No. – 9848573710

Director (SAMETI)

**Smt G Nareemani**

Email Id – telanganasameti@gmail.com

Phone No. – 7288894796

Nodal Officer (STRY)

**Smt G Kalpana**

Email Id – gkalpana57@gmail.com

## Woman farmer strides ahead with value added products

*Inspirational story of a women farmer, Manemma from Telangana in millet value addition*

D Manemma is practicing farming at her four acres of land to support her family. She attended a skill based training program on 'Value addition to Millets' during 14 – 20 September 2019 by Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Gaddipalli, District Suryapet, Telangana under the coordination of State Agricultural Management and Extension Training Institute (SAMETI), Telangana. The program helped Manemma acquire knowledge and skill required to understand the importance of millets consumption in daily life for good health and also the business potential of various millet based products.

Profit – Manemma is able to generate an income of Rs 15000/- per month by selling the millets based food products.



### Training changes the life of Manemma

- After attending the training program Manemma in association with another participant started preparing various millet based ready to eat food items like Ragi Laddu, Jowar Murukulu and chekkalu. They market these products either through exhibitions conducted by KVK, Gaddipally or by supplying directly to the consumers based on the orders received.

### Encouraging value addition for income enhancement

- The program has created awareness on the health benefits of millet. Realizing the taste and health benefits of millet, women have expressed interest in including millets and millet based products in their daily diet.



## Coverage of the program

Importance of millets and nutritional value, processing of millet and various ready to eat products possible using millets, demonstration on products preparation, practical exposure on preparation of bakery products and introduction of multigrain atta.



## Details of associated STRY team

Training Coordinator  
**Dr S Narsimha,**  
 KVK Gaddipalli Suryapet Dist  
 Phone No. – 9441703198

Director (SAMETI)  
**Smt G Nareemani**  
 Email Id – telanganasameti@gmail.com  
 Phone No. – 7288894796

Nodal Officer (STRY)  
**Smt G Kalpana**  
 Email Id – gkalpana57@gmail.com

## Fresh water carp fish farming helped a landless farmer in hunting good income

*Success story of Gaddam Yadagiri from Telangana who is encouraging youths to take up fish farming as an income generating activity*

Gaddam Yadagiri, a youth from Udutalagudem, Warangal Urban, practice farming on three acres of agricultural land available with him. Yadagiri is always interested in new things related to agriculture and also has a good social network. He participated in a skill based training program conducted under STRY on Fresh Water Carp Culture and Management during February 2020 under the coordination of State Agricultural Management and Extension Training Institute (SAMETI), Telangana. After successful completion of the training program Yadagiri has established the fish pond on a very small scale with the technical support of KVK Mamnoor.

**Profit** – With the help of fish pond, Yadagiri is able to earn an income of about Rs. 58000/- per annum.



### Training program encouraged scientific fish farming

- Yadagiri was able to practice fresh water fishery by applying good quality seed and following all prescribed measures to ensure proper care of the fishes.
- The training program helped him understand the importance of following best management practices to prevent fishes from common diseases.

### Making fish farming attractive for others

- Various rural youth are encouraged by the potential of fresh water fishery as suggested by the success of Yadagiri.
- He encourages rural youths and farmers to visit his farm to get inspired by the potential of the enterprise.

- Majority of them feel encouraged by the potential and the ability of the enterprise to generate income.
- Many motivated farmers has applied under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) Scheme for fish pondexcavation.

## Coverage of the program

Present status and scope for development of fresh water fisheries, identification of good quality seed, care and precautions associated with the fisheries, best management practices to be followed in inland fisheries, common fish diseases (protozoan, fungal, bacterial and parasitic) and their prevention, harvest and post-harvest handling of fish and marketing of fish, species of fish suitable for culture in reservoirs and practical exposure visit.



## Details of associated STRY team

Training Coordinator  
**Dr J Narsimha**  
 KVK Mamnoor  
 Phone No. – 9440671108

Director (SAMETI)  
**Smt G Nareemani**  
 Email Id – telanganasameti@gmail.com  
 Phone No. – 7288894796

Nodal Officer (STRY)  
**Smt G Kalpana**  
 Email Id – gkalpana57@gmail.com



## Skills in repair and maintenance of tractor helped in getting employed

*Story of Vanguru Lokesh Kumar from Telangana getting employed based on his skill to repair and maintain tractors*

Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Madanapuram, Wanaparthy District, Telangana organised a training program under Skill Training of Rural Youth (STRY) on 'Repair and Maintenance of Tractor' during 12 – 17 March 2018 in association with Youth for Action under the coordination of State Agricultural Management and Extension Training Institute (SAMETI), Telangana for a batch of 15 rural youths. A job fair/drive was also organized after completion of the program by inviting four tractor companies (Mahindra, John Deere, Captain and Tafe tractors). A total of 8 out of 15 candidates were employed as tractor mechanic with an average salary of Rs 7,500 per month with food expenses extra. Vanguru Lokesh Kumar, aged 23, also participated in the program. He was having Diploma in Diesel Mechanic Course and used to work as a milk vendor after completing his studies. He was not satisfied with his work and was looking for a job related to his subject. Lokesh also got placed based on his participation in the skill based program.



**Profit –** Vanguru Lokesh Kumar was selected as tractor mechanic for Mahindra Tractors showroom, Kothakota with highest package in the drive of Rs 8,000 per month.

### Training helped in improving employable skills of rural youths

- Vanguru Lokesh Kumar has gained knowledge on tractor parts dismantling and assembling, repair and maintenance of the different models and makes of tractor during the training. In job fair, he was selected as tractor mechanic by Mahindra Tractors. He has now been promoted at the same company as senior mechanic and is earning Rs 15,000 per month. Taking into consideration the knowledge and experience, he is now planning to set-up own shed for tractor repair as self-employment.

### Success inspiring other young farmer

- After Vanguru Lokesh Kumar placement as mechanic at the Mahindra tractors, various other farmers/rural youths have shown interest in the similar kind of training programs.

## Coverage of the program

Introduction to tractor and farm machinery, carrying out tractor repair and maintenance, performing necessary routine checks and maintenance of the tractor, carryout overhauling and repair of engine, carry out overhauling and repair of transmission, hydraulic and tractor electrical systems, carryout assembly of repaired and serviced parts, maintaining health and safety at the work place and providing participants practical experience of repair and maintenance.



## Details of associated STRY team

Training Coordinator  
**Shri Masthanaiah Adusuri**  
 Email Id – mastiitkqp@gmail.com  
 Phone No. – 8978433314

Director (SAMETI)  
**Smt G Nareemani**  
 Email Id – telanganasameti@gmail.com  
 Phone No. – 7288894796

Nodal Officer (STRY)  
**Smt G Kalpana**  
 Email Id – gkalpana57@gmail.com

## Rural youth generating consistent income through poultry farming

*An inspiring story of Ashok Kumar Ray from West Bengal from unemployed to successful entrepreneur*

Ashok Kumar Ray, aged 36 is having 122 decimal of land. He participated in a skill based training program conducted on 'Poultry Rearing' under STRY during November-December 2018 by SAMETI – West Bengal, Ramakrishna Mission Ashrama, Narendrapur, Kolkata. The training helped Ashok acquire knowledge and skill on various aspects of poultry rearing like selection of proper poultry breed, its management, low cost feeding techniques and common diseases and their prevention.

**Profit** – Ashok Kumar Ray is able to generate an income of Rs 15000/- per month.



### Impact of poultry rearing training program

- Ashok is able to establish a poultry farm by following the prescribed technique of poultry housing, feed and feeding practices, litter management, brooding management and proper vaccination.
- He is able to maintain the health of the birds by following appropriate disease management.
- He is able to minimize the cost by following balanced feed, vaccination and having improved feed conversion ratio.

### Extension services available locally

- The training has helped Ashok Kumar Ray in increasing the number of low cost poultry shed.
- He is also sharing his experience with other and providing extension service to the interested poultry farmers.
- Started an innovative business of bio-fertilizer by utilizing poultry droppings.



## Coverage of the program

Introductory session on poultry farming, different breeds of poultry, backyard poultry farming, poultry housing, feed and feeding practices, litter management, brooding management and various diseases of poultry and their management through proper vaccination.



## Details of associated STRY team

Training Coordinator

**Shri Ranapratap Chattaraj**

Email Id – ranaatcsameti@gmail.com

Phone No. – 6294693519

Director (SAMETI)

**Dr Manas Ghosh**

Email Id – sametiwbbrkm@gmail.com

Phone No. – 9433390828

Nodal Officer (STRY)

**Shri Debabrata Giri**

Phone No. – 9143044313

## Beekeeping emerging as a regular source of additional income

*Story of Amit Pramanik from West Bengal who is able to generate additional income from beekeeping*

Amit Pramanik, aged 27 years is having 0.26 acres of land and is mainly cultivating greengram and vegetables to sustain his family. He was not able to generate sufficient income to support his family and was looking for some supplementary source of income. He participated in a skill based training program on 'Beekeeping' during 1 – 7 February 2021 conducted under STRY by Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Ramkrishna Ashram, Nimpith, South 24 PGS, under the coordination of SAMETI – West Bengal, Ramakrishna Mission Ashrama, Narendrapur, Kolkata. The training program helped Amit acquire knowledge and skill required to practice bee farming like identify the Queen in bee box, hiving of Honey bee colonies, division and uniting of bee colonies, management of Bee colonies in different seasons and extraction of honey and processing.

Profit – Amit is able to generate an additional income of Rs 3700/- per month.



### Impact of training program on the ground

- Amit is an active member of the "Kultali Farmer Producer Company". The Company has an apiary that was in bad shape. The members had no idea about seasonal management and artificial feeding during the dearth period. Hence, there was no honey production and the bee strength was declining day by day. Amit approached KVK, Nimpith to increase the productivity in the apiary. He was selected for the STRY training at Nimpith.



- The training helped him identify the knowledge gap and efficient management of apiary. After going back to the village, he started giving sugar syrup and pollen supplements to strengthen the colonies. The members also transferred the colonies near the Mangrove forest full in bee forage.

### Amit emerging as a role model for others

- After seeing the results, other farmers and rural youths started demanding for similar training program.
- Two more trainings have been conducted for participants from the neighboring villagers under NBHM scheme of National Bee Board.

### Coverage of the program

Introduction to beekeeping, importance of bee-products, pollination, classification, morphology, behaviour, classification, standards, sources, establishment of apiary and routine management, record keeping on egg laying, honey and pollen store, pest and disease management, winter, summer and rainy season management, sugar syrup supplement, pollen supplement, food preparation and feeding time and practical exposure.



### Details of associated STRY team

Training Coordinator

**Dr Prabir Kumar Garain**

Email Id – pkgarain79@gmail.com

Phone No. – 9830342244

Director (SAMETI)

**Dr Manas Ghosh**

Email Id – sametiwbbrkm@gmail.com

Phone No. – 9433390828

Nodal Officer (STRY)

**Shri Ranapratap Chattaraj**

Phone No. – 6294693519



## Sprouts of livelihood – success story of commercial nursery farmer from West Bengal

*A story of Monisha Debbarman from West Bengal who is earning sustainable income through nursery farming*

Monisha Debbarman, 27 year old youth and having 0.05 Acres (3 cottah) of land, is mainly cultivating horticulture crops round the year to sustain her family. STRY Skill based training program conducted on 'Nursery Management' during 21 – 27 February 2021 by Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Ramkrishna Ashram, Nimpith, South 24 PGS, under the coordination of SAMETI – West Bengal, Ramakrishna Mission Ashrama, Narendrapur, Kolkata helped Monisha Debbarman acquire knowledge and skill required on various aspects of nursery management like propagation methods, seedling raising techniques and cutting and layering technique of propagation.

Profit – Monisha Debbarman is able to generate an income of Rs 6500/- per month.



### Impact of program on efficient management of nursery

- Monisha Debbarman has started her own nursery with main focus on ornamental plants as she thought ornamental plant nursery may give return in short run.
- She is using different liquid fertilizers and foliar nutrients to achieve good crop growth.

### Master trainer for rural youth

- Monisha Debbarman has now started her own nursery business in the backyard with minimum investment. She is confident enough to develop and take her nursery business in the coming winter season to next level.
- She is serving as a master trainer and source of motivation for other farm women.

## Coverage of the program

Importance of seedlings in horticulture, different propagation methods, details about seed, seedling raising for vegetable and flower crops, exposure to different tools, testing of soil pH, EC, its interpretation, basic principles in cutting and layering, different uses of shade house, soft wood, semi hard wood and hard wood cutting techniques, talc rooting hormone preparation technique, practice of different layering techniques, identification of major fruit varieties and ornamental plants, details about manure and fertilizers, foliar fertilizers and their dose and time of application, details about different types of grafting, budding, identification of insect pests and control measures, different water management techniques applicable in nursery and exposure visit and practical exposure on various techniques.



## Details of associated STRY team

Training Coordinator

**Dr Chandan Kr Mondal**

Email Id – drchandanmondal@gmail.com

Phone No. – 9239443957

Director (SAMETI)

**Dr Manas Ghosh**

Email Id – sametiwbkrkm@gmail.com

Phone No. – 9433390828

Nodal Officer (STRY)

**Shri Ranapratap Chattaraj**

Phone No. – 6294693519

## Application of good quality inputs made seed production a successful venture

*Success story of Pradyut Kumar Biswas from West Bengal in generating improved income through seed production*

Pradyut Kumar Biswas, aged 33 years, is having five acres of land and cultivating mainly rice-maize or potato-rice to sustain his family. He participated in a skill based training program on 'Seed Production' conducted during 1 – 7 December 2020 under STRY by Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Uttar Dinajpur under the coordination of State Agriculture Management and Extension Training Institute(SAMETI), West Bengal, Ramakrishna Mission Ashrama, Narendrapur, Kolkata. The program helped Pradyut acquire knowledge and skills required on different aspects of seed production like identification of seeds, seed germination technique, seed rate and sowing techniques of field crops and seed treatment of various crops.



Profit – Pradyut Kumar Biswas is able to generate a net income of Rs 1.80 lakhs per year.

### Training program facilitated scientific seed production

- The training program helped Pradyut Kumar Biswas take seed production scientifically. He has now understood the importance of use of good quality and reliable inputs in seed production. He is using good quality inputs and procuring right seeds from the Krishi Vigyan Kendra.
- The training has also helped him follow scientific production practices like cultivation by sowing lines which is having advantage in following various weed control and pest control practices.

### Inspiration for other youths

- Witnessing the progress of Pradyut Kumar Biswas, many farmers of his village took advice from him and started farming in a new way. He has also helped them in integrating with Krishi Vigyan Kendra for adoption of better technology.



## Coverage of the program

Importance of seed production, identification of seeds, seed pathology, field preparation technique, nutrient management, irrigation technique of field crops, seed germination technique, seed production of vegetable crops, use of vermicompost in crop production, pest management in field crops, integrated farming system, soil sample collection, seed production of cereals crops, disease management of rice, identification of weeds, integrated farming system, seed treatment of various crops, production technology of pulse crops, identification of various fertilizer, production technology of oilseed crops and fields visits.



## Details of associated STRY team

Training Coordinator

**Dr Moutusi Dey**

Email Id – moutusi\_koley@rediffmail.com

Phone No. – 7584063332

Director (SAMETI)

**Dr Manas Ghosh**

Email Id – sametiwbbrkm@gmail.com

Phone No. – 9433390828

## Vermicomposting proving to be a lucrative source of income for rural youths

*Story of Arijit Sen from West Bengal earning regular income from low investment vermicomposting*

Arijit Sen is a 36 year old youth and practicing agriculture on 2.5 acres of land. He participated in a skill based training program on 'Vermicomposting' conducted under STRY during 09 – 15 February 2020 by SAMETI –West Bengal, Ramakrishna Mission Ashrama, Narendrapur, Kolkata. The program helped Arijit acquire knowledge and skill required on various aspects of vermicomposting like importance of vermicompost on soil health, selection of raw material for vermicomposting, preparation of vermicompost bed by heap method and pit method along with advantages and disadvantages.



Profit – Arijit Sen is able to generate an income of Rs15000/- per month.

### Training program helped in promoting vermicompost production

- Arijit is able to select proper site and arrange raw materials required for preparation of vermicompost using different methods.
- He is applying vermicompost and vermiwash in different crops.
- Application of vermicompost has helped in improving the soil health and economics of crop production by reduced use of chemicals.

### Success of Arijit attracting others youths into vermicomposting

- Arijit is providing training to farmers to disseminate the knowledge of vermicomposting.
- Interested farmers can also visit his fields to understand the concept better.

## Coverage of the program

Introduction to the concept of organic manures and vermicomposting, importance of organic manure in modern agriculture, nutritional status of vermicompost, importance of vermicompost for soil health, selection and collection of raw material for vermicomposting, different species of earthworm used in vermicomposting, explaining the decomposition process of raw materials on the bed preparation of vermin-bed materials by cutting and chopping of raw materials, preparation of vermicompost bed by heap method, poly-vermi method and pit method along with advantages and disadvantages, anatomy of earthworm, process to release earthworm on vermicompost pit, harvesting/ collection of casting, intercultural operations (including control of predators), vermiwash, application of vermicompost and vermiwash in different crops, preparation of different types of liquid organic manures, preparation of panchagavya, preparation of botanical pesticide with neem, karanj, etc., enrichment of vermicompost with different ingredients, entrepreneurship development with special emphasis on vermicompost, economics of vermicompost production, preparation of bankable project on vermicomposting and exposure visit to vermicompost unit.

## Details of associated STRY team

Training Coordinator

**Shri Biplab Pal**

Email Id – biplabpsb@gmail.com

Phone No. – 6290726012

Director (SAMETI)

**Dr Manas Ghosh**

Email Id – sametiwbkrkm@gmail.com

Phone No. – 9433390828

Nodal Officer (STRY)

**Shri Ranapratap Chattaraj**

Phone No. – 6294693519



## A Chhattisgarh farmer write a success script on vermicomposting

*Inspiring story of housewife Bhwneshwari Sahu from Chhattisgarh, who becomes a successful entrepreneur*

Bhwneshwari Sahu, aged 38 years and having 3 acre of land, is mainly cultivating horticultural crops to sustain her family. A skill based training program on “Vermicompost Production” was conducted under STRY during March 2021 by Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Mungeli under the coordination of Directorate of Extension Services, IGKV, Raipur. The training program helped Bhwneshwari in acquiring knowledge and skill required to establish vermicompost unit, selection of earthworm, material required for vermicomposting and use of their different products.



Profit – Bhwneshwari is able to generate an income of Rs 12000/- per month.

### Training helped in generating additional income

- The skill learned during the training program helped Bhwneshwari in preparing the vermicompost using different techniques.
- She was able to avoid the mistake committed earlier in bedding and layering of organic material for earthworms.
- Knowledge on the extraction of vermi-compost from the unit and also acquire the knowledge about the use of different byproduct such as vermi-wash.

### Encouraging in converting waste into wealth in rural area

Five trainees from the STRY Program have formed a group. The group is working for production and marketing of vermicompost.

## Coverage of the program

Importance and scope of vermicompost, income and employment generating potential under vermicompost, information on different varieties of crop leaves used in vermicomposting, site selection for establishment of vermin-compost unit, information about materials used for preparation of vermicompost, information about designing of vermicompost unit, information about the equipment used for vermicomposting, technique of preparation of vermicomposting, importance of vermicomposting in horticultural crop, importance of vermicomposting in integrated farming system, use of bio-pesticides, filling the vermicompost bedding material on the tank, precautions to be taken after filling the vermi tank, vermi wash collection from the vermi tank and its importance in agriculture, preparation of bio-pesticides from the vermi-wash and its application in field and field exposure.



## Details of associated STRY team

Training Coordinator

**Dr R L Sharma**

Email Id – kvkmungeli@gmail.com

Phone No. – 9926685117

STRY Team (SAMETI)

**Dr S C Mukherjee**

Email Id – skvhort2014@gmail.co

Phone No. – 9425585249

**Dr Deepti Jha**

Email Id – deepti.igkv@gmail.com

Phone No. – 8109132602

## Poultry farming emerges as a potential source of income and employment generation for farm-women

*A story of housewife Sarita Mandavi from Chhattisgarh who has converted her hobby into successful enterprise*

Sarita Mandavi, aged 26 years and having 2.5 acres of land, is mainly cultivating horticultural crops to sustain her family. The rural youth participated in a skill based training program on poultry farming conducted under STRY during 2019 by Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Kanker under the coordination of Directorate of Extension Services, IGKV, Raipur, Chhattisgarh. After completing the training program Sarita Mandavi has started a hatching unit for production of Kadaknath chicks and supply the same to interested buyers within district. KVK provided all the essential support required for establishment of hatching unit and also the regular supervision by the the subject specialist.



Profit – Sarita Mandavi is able to generate an income of Rs 95000/- per annum.

### Training helped in starting own enterprise

- Based on the knowledge acquired through the training program, Sarita started her business in poultry farming. She has established a hatching unit for production of Kadaknath chicks.
- She is practicing scientific rearing of Kadaknath poultry birds under the supervision of subject matter experts from KVK.
- She has introduced timely vaccination and following proper hatchery management.
- She has also established market linkage based on the understanding earned during the training on market and supplying as per the requirement of the market.

### Inspiring other farm women to enter into a poultry rearing

Sarita has emerged as an icon among the rural women farmers and share her knowledge and experience by arranging visits to her hatching unit.



## Coverage of the program

Importance of poultry rearing and management, site selection and housing for broiler poultry/duck farming, day to day activities of broiler poultry farming (0 days to market age), management of chicks and demonstration on preparation of brooding area for new arrival of chicks, feeding of broiler poultry and duck, various breeds of poultry and duck for higher meat and egg production, common diseases of poultry/duck and preventive/control measures, practical demonstration on vaccination of poultry, important post mortem lessons for diagnosis of common diseases of poultry/duck, different management system of various poultry birds, role of integrated farming system in poultry production, preparation of homemade incubator for hatching of eggs, hatchery management and marketing of ready birds.



## Details of associated STRY team

Training Coordinator

**Dr Birbal Sahu**

Email Id – kvkkanker@gmail.com

Phone No. – 9424710953

State Coordinator (STRY)

**Dr Deepti Jha**

Email Id – deepti.igkv@gmail.com

Phone No. – 8109132602

Nodal Officer (SAMETI)

**Dr SC Mukherjee**

Email Id – skvhort2014@gmail.co

Phone No. – 9425585249

## Determination and courage of farm women transformed Quail production into a successful venture

*Success story of Rukmani Bai of Chhattisgarh in profitable production of quail bird*

Rukmani Bai, aged 34 years and having 4 acres of land, is mainly cultivating cereals like rice and vegetables and fruits crops to sustain her family. She participated in a skill based training program on “Poultry Management in Quail” organised during January 2021 under STRY by Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Bhalesar Mahasamund under the coordination of Directorate of Extension Services, IGKV, Raipur/ SAMETI, Raipur, Chhattisgarh with the support of National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE), Hyderabad. The program helped Rukmani Bai acquire knowledge and skill required to practice quail farming.



Profit – Rukmani Bai is now able to generate a net income Rs 45,000/- per month

### Impact of training program on encouraging quail farming

- The training helped Rukmani Bai to gradually move from backyard poultry rearing to semi intensive form of housing in poultry.
- She is now following the proper vaccination schedule of the poultry birds.
- There is an enhancement in the feeding strategies for poultry birds.
- The training helped Rukmani Bai to follow collective marketing strategies to sell the birds in Mahasamund districts and in other areas.

### Rukmani Bai act as an inspiration to various other women farmer

- She is providing training to other farmers and rural youths. She has, so far, trained around 50 farm women.
- Other farmers visit farm established by Rukmani Bai and learn various techniques related to poultry farming and try to adopt the same.
- Various other farm women are also encouraged to take up quail farming. About 20 farm women through cross learning have started quail farming.

## Coverage of the program

Introduction to breeds of poultry, external body parts of poultry, handling and restraining of poultry, feeding management of poultry, selection of site for poultry shed, design and construction of poultry buildings, identification methods of farm poultry (branding, tattooing, notching and tagging), feeding management of poultry, hatchery operations, incubation and hatching equipment, vaccination schedule for poultry, prevention of infectious diseases in poultry, control infectious diseases in poultry, debeaking, dusting and vaccination of poultry and economic of poultry production.



## Details of associated STRY team

Training Coordinator

**Dr Satish Kumar Verma**

Email Id – kvkmahasamund@gmail.com

Phone No. – 9424214626

Nodal Officer (STRY)

**Dr S C Mukherjee**

Email Id – des\_igkv@yahoo.com

Phone No. – 9425585249

State Coordinator

**Dr Deepti Jha**

Email Id – deepti.igkv@gmail.com

Phone No. – 8109132602



## Tackling marketing issue through processing made mushroom production a sustainable income enterprise

*Success story of Balak Das from Chhattisgarh who is able to generate regular income from mushroom production based on processing and market understanding*

Balak Das, aged 37 years, was looking for some low investment income generating activity as he was not having any agricultural land to practice farming. After completing his schooling, he used to do photo framing and petty work to support his family. During this time only, he got the opportunity to participate in a skill based training program conducted on Mushroom Production during 26.02.2021 to 04.03.2021 under STRY by Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Kawardha in coordination with Directorate of Extension Services, IGKV, Raipur. The training program helped Balak Das in acquiring knowledge and skills in advanced mushroom production techniques, spawn preparation techniques and button mushroom production techniques.



Profit – Balak Das is able to generate a net income of Rs 25,000-30,000 per month.

### Utilisation of bio-waste making mushroom production profitable

- After undergoing the training program, Balak Das was able to produce good quality mushroom by following all the prescribed practices.
- Balak Das was now able to understand the factors responsible for contamination, weather parameters suitable for cultivation and importance of sanitation around the surroundings to overcome insect-pest attack during cultivation.
- Learnt value addition and processing to overcome market glut. During season of mushroom cultivation, huge amount of mushroom was produced by farmers. In order to avoid market during peak season, he used to practice drying of mushroom and prepare many value added products like pickle and badi. He has now started producing button mushroom by preparing his own compost required for button mushroom production.

## Rural youth emerging as a role model for others

- Balak Das has started on-farm demand based training programs for nearby villagers and youths. So far, he has trained 500 farmers. About 20 – 25 SHGs have now started Oyster mushroom cultivation.

## Coverage of the program

Introduction to mushroom cultivation, present status and prospects of mushroom production in Chhattisgarh, production technology of oyster mushroom, production technology of paddy straw mushroom, techniques of producing commercial mushroom spawn, fungal contaminants encountered during mushroom production, insect – pest and their management, production technology of button mushroom, identification of quality of mushroom spawn, its storage and means of transportation, preparation of pure culture of different mushroom, economics of oyster mushroom cultivation and project preparation, identification of poisonous and beneficial mushroom, prospects of mushroom spawn production in rural areas, problems and their solution in mushroom production, value added products of mushroom, constraints in mushroom production and their possible solution.



## Details of associated STRY team

Training Coordinator

**Dr B P Tripathi**

Email Id – kvkkawardha@gmail.com

Phone No. – 9826199312

Nodal Officer (STRY)

**Dr S C Mukherjee**

Email Id – skvhort2014@gmail.co

Phone No. – 9425585249

State Coordinator (SAMETI)

**Dr Deepti Jha**

Email Id – deepti.igkv@gmail.com

Phone No. – 8109132602

# STRY Team



**Dr P Chandra Shekara**

Director General  
MANAGE, Hyderabad  
dgmanage@manage.gov.in



**Dr Shalendra**

Deputy Director (BS)  
MANAGE, Hyderabad  
shalendra@manage.gov.in



**Dr Sangamesh Angadi**

Consultant (STRY)  
MANAGE, Hyderabad  
stry-manage@manage.gov.in





राष्ट्रीय कृषि विस्तार प्रबंध संस्थान (मैनेज)  
(कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार का एक स्वायत्त संगठन)

**National Institute of Agricultural Extension Mangement (MANAGE)**

(An Autonomous Organization of Ministry of Agriculture & Farmer's Welfare, Govt. of India)  
Rajendranagar, Hyderabad-500 030. Telangana, India.