

Empowering Rural Youth through Skill Development

Success Stories under Skill Training of Rural Youth
(STRY)

100
Success
Stories



National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE)

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

Rajendranagar, Hyderabad, Telangana.

Empowering Rural Youth through Skill Development
Success Stories Experienced under Skill Training of Rural Youth (STRY)

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

**NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF
AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION MANAGEMENT**

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

Empowering Rural Youth through Skill Development ***Success Stories Experienced under Skill Training of Rural Youth (STRY)***

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The publication is a compilation of 100 Success Stories experienced 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. The stories are only indicative in nature and interested person/s may please contact the success story or the facilitating institute before considering any part of it for the purpose of implementation. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted without prior permission of the publisher. Publisher and editor do not give warranty for any error or omissions regarding the materials in this publication.

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About MANAGE



National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE), Hyderabad is a national level organisation working under the aegis of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (GoI) with mandate for training, research, consultancy, education and policy advocacy in the field of agricultural extension Management.

About STRY

MANAGE is implementing Skill Training of Rural Youth (STRY) in different states with the support of SAMETIs since 2015-16. STRY is a component under Sub-Mission on Agricultural Extension (SAME) of National Mission on Agricultural Extension and Technology (NMAET), which is scheme of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (GoI). Under the component, short duration skill based training programs are conducted for rural youth on various vocational areas in agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry, dairy and fisheries to promote self-employment in rural areas and create skilled manpower in agriculture and allied sectors. The training activities are implemented through training partner institutes like KVKs, Farmer Training Centres or any other training institutes identified with the help of SAMETIs at State level and coordinated through ATMA at district level. More than 50,000 rural youth have so far been trained under the Component.

Foreword



National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE), an institute operating under the aegis of the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (GoI), has been assigned the task to organise skill based training programs under Skill Training of Rural Youth (STRY). STRY as a component under Sub-Mission on Agricultural Extension (SMAE) of National Mission on Agricultural Extension & Technology (NMAET) is being implemented since 2015-16 with the support of SAMETIs. Though, the training programs are conducted by identifying suitable training partners at district level like KVKs, ATMA, Farmer Training Centres or any other training institute identified with the help of SAMETIs. The component has made a remarkable progress since its inception in terms of number of programs organized, rural youth trained, skilling areas covered and success stories experienced. More than 50,000 rural youth have so far been trained under the Component.

I am happy to share that MANAGE is bringing out a compilation of 100 Success Stories experienced under STRY to highlight the impact created through skill based short duration training programs. The publication is expected to facilitate all the relevant stakeholders mainly extension field functionaries in understanding the relevance of short duration skill based training programs and the kind of impact such programs can create in the lives of rural youth. Each success story attempts to showcase the complete journey of rural youth covering the background, the details of the program, impact created, influence on the lives of others and content coverage.

I am quite confident that the document prepared on STRY Success Stories will not only make all the relevant stakeholders, mainly the extension field functionaries, understand the relevance of skill development for agricultural growth but also facilitate adopting skilling as an effective approach to bring desired changes in the lives of rural youth by helping them realise better income.



(Dr P Chandra Shekara)
Director General

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(1) Mushrooming ventures – skilling in mushroom cultivation transformed a farmer into entrepreneur

Story of Shri Kalapureddy Ganesh from Anakapalle district of Andhra Pradesh

Background

Shri Kalapureddy Ganesh is from Vakapadu village of Anakapalle district, Andhra Pradesh. After completing his board examinations, he decided to assist his father in farming activities. Due to lack of knowledge in the field of agriculture, he was unable to get expected profitability. Hence, he sought new income-generating avenues. Shri Ganesh being an explorer, started looking for innovative ideas on YouTube. After going through some videos, he found mushroom cultivation effective and gave it a try but failed to get the desired results as the videos did not provide him appropriate information and practical exposure to those techniques.

Training & Motivation

Shri Ganesh started seeking information from reliable sources on the cultivation of mushrooms. In the process, he came across an advertisement related to Mushroom training at BCT Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Haripuram. He contacted the given number in the notification and collected the details related to the training program. He then enrolled himself for a week long training program on “Mushroom Production Techniques” from 18 – 24



December 2021 at BCT Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Haripuram conducted under STRY. During the training program, he gained skills required to practice mushroom cultivation and regulate and maintain the conditions required to grow mushroom. Additionally, he learned how to make value-added products from mushroom.

Socio-economic impact of program

- STRY program helped Shri Ganesh to acquire the knowledge and skills required for Mushroom cultivation which encouraged him to take up Mushroom cultivation as main source of income.
- He started his own enterprise named as Maha Lakshmi Milky Mushrooms. Now he supplies Milky mushrooms during social functions, retail units and other super markets in the surrounding areas.

- Before undertaking training, he was able to generate an annual income of only Rs. 1.5 lakhs. After the training program he started implementing various skills acquired during the training which helped him generate an income of more than Rs 3.5 lakhs annually from selling fresh Mushroom and its value-added products.

Contribution of the program

- Training program helped him understand the suitable environmental conditions required to grow Milky Mushrooms.
- He learnt the importance of maintaining cleanliness and choose the Paddy straw materials and Mushroom spawn required for mushroom cultivation.
- Skills are also gained on how to regulate and maintain the humidity and temperature required for Mushroom cultivation.

Influence on other Farmers

- Earnings from mushroom cultivation of Shri Ganesh attracted other farmers and retailers from his surroundings. They approached Shri Ganesh for advices on improved mushroom cultivation practices and marketing information on value addition in mushroom.
- He shared his knowledge with more than 25 farmers and retailers in his locality.
- He is an active participant in various activities conducted by BCT, KVK.

Training Coverage

During skill training, various topics on mushroom cultivation related to production, principles and practices in mushroom cultivation, different types of mushrooms and their uses, food value, edible and poisonous mushrooms and how to differentiate them, how mushroom cultivation can be undertaken as an agribusiness activity, opportunities and constraints in mushroom cultivation, acquaintance with edible, non-edible, medicinal and poisonous mushrooms, importance of mushroom cultivation, cultivation procedure of Milky mushroom (in door), mushroom culture preparation, room sterilization, selection of site, raw material procurement, preservation techniques and demonstration were conducted on raising of beds, bag preparation of Oyster and Milky mushroom, cultivation procedure of Oyster and Milky mushrooms were covered. Training sessions were also given on spawn production technology covering quality attributes, storage and transport infrastructure. The different fungal and viral diseases, bacterial diseases and abiotic disorder of mushrooms, insect, pest and nematodes of mushroom crop and their management and control practices were also covered.

STRY Team

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(2) From farm to fortune – an inspiring success story in dairy

Story of Shri Pentakota Ganesh from Anakapalle district of Andhra Pradesh

Background

Shri Pentakota Ganesh from Anakapalle district of Andhra Pradesh is an enthusiastic dairy farmer. After completing his Matriculation, he started working on his 8 acres farm mainly cultivating Rice in Kharif and Sunflower or Pulses during Rabi season. After the death of his father, he had to support his family financially. In order to earn regular income, he opted dairy farming with 2 cows in 2019. Currently he is having 15 crossbred HF cows and is operating successfully as a progressive farmer.



Training & Motivation

Shri Pentakota Ganesh was not able to harness the full potential of dairy due to limited scientific knowledge on dairy rearing practices. He got exposed to scientific management practices of dairying through his participation in a week long skill based training program conducted under STRY. The program was conducted on “Rearing of improved breed and rearing of cattle and management” during 1 – 8 September 2022 by BCT KVK, Haripuram in association with State Agricultural Management and Extension Training Institute (SAMETI), Andhra Pradesh and MANAGE, Hyderabad.

Socio-economic impact of program

- The skill based training program helped Shri Ganesh to acquire scientific knowledge and the skills required for efficient dairy management.
- The scientific knowledge on feeding, breeding, fodder production and health management practices acquired through the training program helped him to generate monthly income of more than Rs 1.50 lakhs from dairy component alone.

Contribution of the program

- The training program equipped Shri Ganesh with valuable skills and knowledge related to breeding management and health care practices in dairy farming. By implementing these skills, he is able to enhance the overall health, productivity, and reproductive performance of his dairy herd.
- By learning about the appropriate timing and methods of deworming, he is able to effectively control parasites and minimize the risk of health issues in the herd.
- He also gained knowledge about different vaccinations required for dairy cattle, the recommended schedules for administering vaccines, and the potential benefits of vaccination programs at farmer level.

Influence on other Farmers

- The achievements and knowledge of Shri Ganesh inspired other farmers in his village to pursue dairy farming. Recognizing the potential benefits, other farmers were motivated to start their own dairy farming ventures. In response to their enthusiasm and to support their endeavours, Shri Ganesh took on the role of assisting and guiding his fellow villagers in their dairy farming journey.
- Fodder plays a crucial role in dairy farming as it directly impacts the quantity and quality of milk yield. One significant way Shri Ganesh is helping his villagers is by distributing fodder seeds and fodder slips. By freely distributing fodder seeds and slips, Shri Ganesh is encouraging the expansion of fodder lands in the village.

Training Coverage

Introduction to various breeds of cattle, basic principles for construction of cattle shed, whether to choose cow or buffalo for dairying, how to select an animal while purchasing and productivity of cross bred cattle were explained. Information was provided on various fodder varieties, cultivation of fodder crops and improved multi cut fodder varieties suitable for Anakapalli district. Training was provided on feeding management of cattle, low cost feed preparation, silage making, Azolla cultivation, enhancement of dry fodder with Urea and TMR preparation. Training on machinery to be used in animal husbandry and dairying, setting up bio gas plant, usage of milking machine and its advantages, chaff cutter, brush cutter and grass cutter usage in fodder cultivation. Setting up of vermicompost unit was also explained. Field visit to demonstration unit of KVK was made and general practices were explained to trainees. A class on disease and health management was taken and participants were exposed to various types of diseases, their symptoms and prevention. A class on Ethno veterinary practices was also taken by STRY team.

STRY Team

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(3) Waste picker to successful mushroom cultivator – a journey facilitated by skill development

Story of Smt Ruthu from Guntur District of Andhra Pradesh

Background

Smt Ruthu, a 20 years old woman, is a resident of Ippatam village of Guntur district, Andhra Pradesh. She used to collect waste (waste picker) which she was not happy about and thought of doing something independently. Participation in a training program conducted by Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Guntur helped her establish her own Mushroom production unit with the help of KVK, ATMA and DBRC. Today, she is a successful mushroom producer.

Training & Motivation

A short duration skill based training on 'Mushroom Production Techniques' for waste pickers was conducted by KVK, Guntur during 24 – 30 March 2022 under Skill Training for Rural Youth (STRY) to enhance their entrepreneurship capacity. During the training programme, Smt Ruthu got exposure to various technical aspects of Mushroom production which includes composting, spawning, casing, pinning, cropping and harvesting. The program was conducted by KVK Scientist Dr. M. Ganga Devi in association with State Agricultural Management and Extension Training Institute (SAMETI), Andhra Pradesh and MANAGE, Hyderabad.

Socio-economic impact of program

- Skill-based training program had a positive impact on the life of Smt Ruthu. The knowledge and skills acquired by Smt Ruthu on Milky Mushroom production helped her pursue mushroom production as a means of livelihood.
- With her expertise and the knowledge gained during the training program, Smt Ruthu is able to produce 8 kg of mushrooms per day and is maintaining a consistent and high-quality mushroom production ensuring a regular supply of fresh mushrooms in the local market. As a result, she is able to generate an income of Rs. 35,000 per month, which is a significant improvement compared to her previous earnings.

Contribution of the program

- Skills learnt during the training program helped Smt Ruthu to understand the significance of hygiene and cleanliness in different aspects of mushroom cultivation. She learnt the importance of selecting clean and disease-free paddy straw for mushroom cultivation, material sterilization, how to maintain good spawn quality, regulation and maintenance of humidity and temperature in mushroom cultivation room.

Influence on other Farmers

- After starting to sell fresh mushrooms at various melas organized by Government Organizations and NGOs, Smt Ruthu began to witness both income and success in her mushroom cultivation venture. Her dedication and

achievements caught the attention of her neighbours, who became interested in acquiring knowledge from her.

- Recognizing the opportunity to share her expertise and help others, Smt Ruthu began providing training sessions to her neighbours and other individuals in the community.
- The success of Smt Ruthu inspired 3 – 4 members of the community to start their own mushroom cultivation operations on a small scale under her guidance.

Training Coverage

The training program covered different aspects of mushroom production like the principles and practices of mushroom cultivation, different types of mushrooms, their uses, food value, and distinguish between edible and poisonous varieties. The participants were also exposed to business aspects of mushroom



production. The training programme also provided an overview of edible, non-edible, medicinal, and poisonous mushrooms, highlighting their significance in various industries. Importance of mushroom cultivation and specific cultivation procedures for different mushroom varieties, outdoor and indoor cultivation techniques of paddy straw mushroom were discussed in depth during the program. The training also covered mushroom culture preparation and preservation techniques, along with a demonstration of raising beds for mushroom cultivation. Spawn production technology was discussed, focusing on the quality attributes, storage, and transportation of mushroom spawn. The training addressed issues related to moulds, fungal and viral diseases, bacterial diseases, and abiotic disorders that can affect mushroom cultivation. Furthermore, management strategies for controlling insects, pests, and nematodes that can pose a threat to mushroom cultivation were discussed. The training also included an exposure visit to provide practical orientation to the participants.

STRY Team

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Training Coordinator	Dr M Ganga Devi	Scientist	--

(4) From corporate to cultivator – an organic farming triumph amidst COVID

Story of Shri Kolluri Chinnabbayi from Prakasam district of Andhra Pradesh

Background

Shri Kolluri Chinnabbayi from Rudravaram village, Prakasam district of Andhra Pradesh was working for a private company. He took a bold step to return to his roots by leaving his stable job. His passion for agriculture helped him transform 1.5 acres of inherited land and 5.5 acres of leased land into a thriving organic farm. He is cultivating crops like green manure, paddy and vegetables on his own land whereas crops like jowar, maize, jute, paddy, and fodder on leased land by applying organic manures, vermicompost, and reduced use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides. A cattle and vermicompost units has also been established with the support and guidance of ATMA. This has not only helped him achieve financial success but also paved the way for sustainable and eco-friendly farming practices through organic farming.

Training & Motivation

Despite achieving success in organic farming, his determination and desire to explore innovative technologies and methods that could enhance productivity and profitability made him to participate in a week long skill based training program conducted under STRY, the component implemented under SMAE by the Ministry. The training program on 'Organic Farming' conducted during 3 – 9 March 2021 by ATMA, Ongole, Prakasam in association with State Agricultural Management and Extension Training Institute (SAMETI), Andhra Pradesh and MANAGE, Hyderabad exposed participants to different aspects of organic farming.

Socio-economic impact of program

- The program helped Shri Chinnabbayi to acquire the knowledge and skills required for organic farming which encouraged him to prepare organic fertilizers on his own to get high yield and higher returns with minimum investment.
- The applicable of knowledge gained during the program helped Shri Chinnabbayi increase his annual income from Rs. 1.25 lakhs to more than Rs. 2.60 lakhs. This substantial growth in income demonstrates the effectiveness of the skill-based training program in equipping him with the necessary tools to maximize the potential of available resources.

Contribution of the program

- Training program enabled him to acquire valuable skills and knowledge related to the importance and use of organic fertilizers like green manuring, drava jeevamrutham, Ghana jeevamrutham, and various botanical extracts. These skills empowered him to make informed decisions in agricultural practices, promote sustainable farming methods, and contribute to the overall health and productivity of the soil and plants.

- By incorporating organic manures with high organic carbon content into their farming practices, he observed reduced incidence of pests and diseases.
- Skill training enabled him to prepare several botanical extracts, such as Neemasthram, Agnasthram, Brahmasthram, and Dasaparni kashayam, which have shown promising results in pest and disease management.

Influence on other Farmers

- By observing the success of Shri Chinnabbayi, other farmers in the locality have come forward and took his advice on pest and disease control in a cost effective manner. He has emerged as a role model for local young farmers in production and marketing of organic products.
- By sharing his expertise and advising others on organic pest and disease management techniques, he is helping in promoting sustainable and environmentally friendly practices in the region.
- He is actively participating in various activities and programs of ATMA and Department of Agriculture.

Training Coverage

Training programme aimed to provide a comprehensive understanding of organic farming, from its principles and practices to the importance to maintain soil health and fertility, how to cultivate crops with gradual reduction of chemical inputs, the role of dairy cattle and crop rotation in organic farming, and the status of organic farming at national and international levels, and lastly farmers practicing organic farming were encouraged to share their experiences and success stories. Training also facilitated discussion on the techniques, strategies, and challenges faced in organic farming. Practical tips for achieving good yields, maintaining quality, and maximizing returns with less investment were also shared with participants.



STRY Team

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(5) Synergy of success – creating impact through integrated farming system

Story of Shri M Lakshmipathi Raju from Vizianagaram district of Andhra Pradesh

Background

Shri M Lakshmipathi Raju is a farmer from Marrivalasa village in Vizianagaram district. He is sustaining his family by taking mango on his 7 acres of dry land. He is able to generate annual income of about Rs 4.00 lakhs by following integrated farming system approach.

Training & Motivation

Keenness of Shri Raju to experiment and explore alternate options of income generation with limited investment motivated him to participate in a week long skill based training program conducted under STRY on 'Reverse Migration through Integrated Farming' during 12 – 18 February 2020 by ATMA, Vizianagaram in association with State Agricultural Management and Extension Training Institute (SAMETI), Guntur and MANAGE, Hyderabad.



Socio-economic impact of the program

- The program helped Shri Raju acquire the knowledge and skills required for sheep and goat rearing and desi poultry rearing. He realised the importance of practicing supplementary income generating activities alongside mango orchard.
- The knowledge gained during the program has helped Shri Raju generate an income of more than Rs. 4.00 lakhs per annum through sheep and goat rearing and desi poultry rearing along with mango orchard.

Contribution of the program

- The skills learned during the training program have provided Shri Raju with a broader understanding of income generation activities in agriculture and allied sectors. These skills have opened up new avenues for him to explore and diversify his income generating sources.
- By learning about these income generation activities from allied sectors, Shri Raju has now diversified his farming activities. He selected the activities that best suit his resources, interests and market demand expanding his income potential and enhancing the overall profitability of his farming operations.

Influence on other Farmers

- The success of Shri Raju has not only helped him realise improved income from agriculture and allied activities but has also motivated various other farmers in the locality to take up integrated farming
- Shri Raju emerged as a role model inspiring others to avail similar opportunities, leading to a more prosperous agricultural landscape in the locality.
- He shared his knowledge with about 50 farmers from his village and is also contributing by participating in various activities of ATMA and KVK.

Training Coverage

The training program on Integrated Farming System (IFS) covered various important aspects like need, and objectives of Integrated Farming System, scope and goals of IFS and ideal situations for introduction of IFS, components of Integrated Farming Systems, types of Integrated Farming System and major crops in IFS, poultry rearing (Desi Breeds), dairy, sheep and goat rearing, vegetable cultivation on pandals and shade nets,



సమీకృత వ్యవసాయం లాభదాయకం

విజయనగరం పోర్ట్: సమీకృత వ్యవసాయం లాభదాయకమని, రైతులు కోట్ల పశువులు, చేపల పెంపకంతో పాటు పుట్టి గొడుగులు, కూరగాయల సాగు చేపట్టాలని వ్యవసాయ సాంకేతిక యాజమాన్య సంస్థ (ఆత్మ)పీడి ఎస్. లక్ష్మణరావు సూచించారు. స్థానిక ఆత్మ కార్యాలయంలో బుధవారం సమీకృత వ్యవసాయంపై రైతులకు ఆరు రోజుల పాటు నిర్వహించనున్న శిక్షణను బుధవారం ఆయన ప్రారంభించారు.

● ఆత్మ పీడి లక్ష్మణరావు

ఈ సందర్భంగా మాట్లాడుతూ సమీకృత వ్యవసాయంతో నిరంతరం ఆదాయం పొందవచ్చని తెలిపారు. సమీకృత వ్యవసాయం కేయడం వల్ల గ్రామీణ యువత వలసలను నివారించవచ్చన్నారు. కార్యక్రమంలో పశు సంవర్ధకశాఖ జేడీ మర్రిల వెంకట అప్పలనరసింహులు, ఏరువాక కేంద్రం కో ఆర్డినేటర్ కెల్లె లక్ష్మణ్, కృ



కార్యక్రమంలో మాట్లాడుతున్న లక్ష్మణరావు

షీ విజ్ఞాన కేంద్రం కో ఆర్డినేటర్ తేజేశ్వరావు, ఏపీఎంపీ పీడి పాండురంగారావు తదితరులు పాల్గొన్నారు.

సాక్షి Thu, 13 February 2020
<https://eapaper.sakshi.com/c/48960348>

individual family wise IFS model preparation, mushroom cultivation and exposure visits were organized to successful IFS models in practice providing participants with an opportunity to witness and learn from established IFS farms and encouraging interactions with experienced farmers to exchange ideas and experiences.

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(6) Skills training made protected cultivation of high value crops a profitable venture

Story of Shri Yogendra Kumar Mahto from Bokaro district of Jharkhand

Background

Shri Yogendra Kumar Mahto hails from Picturesque village of Jaridih in the block of Petarwar, Bokaro district, Jharkhand. As a young and enthusiastic man, he recognized the potential of farming to generate sufficient income to support his family. Earlier, Shri Mahto was working as a JCB driver and lost his job during the challenging times of COVID Pandemic. This was really challenging time where his family was facing scarcity of food and his children were even forced to leave school due to his inability to pay the fee. The couple was forced to work as labour to meet basic need. Despite owning a three-acre plot of agricultural land, Shri Mahto was not able to generate sufficient resources due to his lack of knowledge and sufficient skills required to harness the true potential of agriculture.



Training & Motivation

It was during this challenging period only when he came to know about a skill based training program on protected cultivation of high value crops being organised under STRY. Shri Mahto participated in the week long training program on protected cultivation organised by ATMA, Bokaro during 17 – 23 January 2022. The program provided him with invaluable insights and practical techniques required to practice farming efficiently.

Socio-economic impact of program

- The skill-based training program had deep impact on the way Shri Yogendra Kumar Mahto was practicing farming. Inspired by the training, he diversified by incorporating greenhouse, shade-net, drip and sprinkler and tunnel farming systems.
- Earlier, Shri Mahto cultivated mainly paddy, maize, and pulses during the kharif season, which resulted in modest annual income ranging from Rs 150,000 to Rs 200,000. However, after the training with expanded horizons, he ventured into growing various types of vegetables. This shift brought remarkable results in his income realisation from the same resources, ranging between Rs 5.00 – 8.00 lakhs annually.
- The success encouraged Shri Mahto to bring addition area under cultivation through leasing. He at present is cultivating an impressive area of 23 acres and providing employment to 17 individuals within his farming enterprise.

Contribution of the program

- The learnings of the program have helped Shri Mahto in adopting various modern techniques promoting water conservation, soil preservation, and environmental sustainable agriculture.

- The training program also introduced Shri Mahto to new scientific approaches of vegetable cultivation. This exposure allowed him to expand his expertise in cash crops and gain valuable insights into maximizing their yield. Incorporation of these scientific techniques and application of latest knowledge, has helped him increase the income significantly.

Influence on other Farmers

The remarkable journey of Shri Mahto showcased the potential of skill-based training programs to uplift farmers and empower them to achieve greater success. His story serves as an inspiration for other farmers to embrace change, adopt new techniques, and explore the vast potential within the agricultural sector. His achievements have inspired and motivated many people around him, and they are now actively learning from his techniques to improve their own farming practices. Recognizing the importance of knowledge-sharing, Shri Mahto extends his expertise to women Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and Farmers Producer Organizations (FPOs). He empowers these groups by sharing his knowledge and experiences, particularly women, to adopt sustainable farming practices and enhance their agricultural activities.



Training Coverage

During skill training, various topics on protected cultivation of high value crops were covered like crop selection, management, labour and yield, introduction of different type of vegetables under green house, types of protected cultivation like green house, plastic tunnel, shade net and plastic mulching. Program also included factors affecting construction of green house, ideal location of greenhouse in plains and hilly areas, management of water and fertilizers, method of micro irrigation integrated nutrient management, awareness of improved quality of seed and planting material, crop diversification and its impact, organic farming and preparation of vermin compost, crop rotation, inter and relay cropping, disease management in vegetables, weed controls, essential plant nutrients and their deficiency, organic and precision farming, insects pests and disease control, technique of nursery raising, value addition and marketing, method of fertilizer application and importance of farm equipment and role of mechanization.

STRY Team

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(7) Successful poultry farming - a story of moving from dearth to prosperity

Story of Shri Gautam Kumar Singh from Deoghar district of Jharkhand

Background

Shri Gautam Kumar Singh hails from Kendbaria village in Deoghar district, Jharkhand. After completing his graduation, Shri Gautam migrated to Delhi and worked at a private company for three years. Lack of satisfaction in his job assisted him in his decision to return to his hometown. With 10 acres of land, 4 acres of which was irrigated and 6 acres rainfed, Shri Gautam decided to take farming to sustain his family and faced various challenges early on mainly in utilizing the non-irrigated land properly. The limited income generated out of farming made it difficult for him to meet daily need of his family.



Training & Motivation

During 2019-20, eagerness of Shri Gautam to explore new avenues led him to join a skill based training program on Poultry Farming conducted during 10 – 14 February 2020 by Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA), Deoghar, in collaboration with State Agricultural Management and Extension Training Institute (SAMETI), Jharkhand. Shri Gautam also diversified towards vegetable cultivation with support from ATMA and Department of Horticulture, Deoghar to further enhance his income.

Socio-economic impact of program

The STRY Program proved instrumental in providing Shri Gautam with the necessary knowledge and skills for poultry farming and motivated him to adopt it as a supplementary income-generating activity. Prior to the training, he struggled to sustain his family financially. However, diversification towards high value crops and poultry farming due to acquired skills, Shri Gautam is now able to generate an annual income of Rs 9 – 10 lakhs, utilizing the same resources. This newfound stability has allowed his family to live a more comfortable life, and his children are now attending a prestigious school available in the city.

Contribution of the program

- Knowledge and skills acquired through the STRY training program played a pivotal role in the growth of Shri Gautam as a successful poultry farmer. He diligently followed a comprehensive vaccination program for chicks, resulting in remarkably low mortality rates. With his enhanced understanding of brooding management, he was able to achieve better growth and performance among his poultry.

- Firm commitment of Shri Gautam to maintain health, hygiene, and sanitation within his poultry houses has further contributed to the improved performance of his flock.

Influence on other Farmers

The proficiency of Shri Gautam in poultry farming has made him a role model for other farmers in the area. Observing his success, many local farmers are inspired to pursue poultry farming as a primary source of income. Shri Gautam actively shares his knowledge with fellow farmers in his community and actively participates in various activities organized by ATMA and other agencies. His participation in agricultural fairs and seminars further expands his knowledge and enables him to create awareness among farmers.



Training Coverage



During the training program, various topics on poultry rearing were covered like sheds-site and selection, poultry equipment, chicks guards, shed cleaning, washing, flaming & drying of poultry shed and equipment, preparation of chick guard/ring, fumigation, hygiene and sanitation, early chick management, brooding management, space

requirement for chicks, technique of drinker and feeder arrangement, vaccination schedule and poultry diseases and their treatment and control.

STRY Team

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(8) From piglets to profits – skill training transforms pig rearing into a thriving business

Story of Shri Manchan Beck from Gumla district of Jharkhand

Background

Shri Manchan Beck is a dedicated and hardworking farmer from Majhatoli village in Jharkhand Gumla district. He owns a small piece of land, 4 acres with 1.5 acres having assured irrigation. Previously, he and his father used to cultivate paddy as the sole crop, which was not able to generate sufficient income to meet the family need. This made him worried about education



and future of his children. This made him search for alternative income source. Recognizing the tremendous potential in pig rearing due to high demand for pork meat in rural areas, Shri Manchan decided to venture into this field. In 2015, he initiated on trial basis with six piglets but soon realized the need for greater knowledge and skills in managing pigs mainly their habitat, medication and issues related to making proper feed arrangements for efficient management of farm.

Training & Motivation

Determined to improve, Shri Manchan recognized the need for training but faced challenges due to family obligations and the inability to attend complete courses at Agriculture University or KVK. Fortunately, through the STRY program, he seized the opportunity to enhance his understanding on 'Commercial Pig Rearing and Management' which was conducted during 24 – 29 September 2018 at ATMA Gumla in collaboration with SAMETI, Ranchi, Jharkhand. This experience motivated him to fully engage in pig rearing.

Socio-economic impact of program

- Empowered by the training, Shri Manchan revolutionized his pig rearing operations. He became skilful in selecting pig breeds that aligned with the demand in local market, ensuring profitability and sustainability.
- The training provided valuable insights into proper care for pregnant sows and piglets, significantly reducing mortality rates and enhancing the overall well-being of the herd.
- The newfound knowledge and skills enabled him to establish a successful pig rearing enterprise.

Contribution of the program

One of the crucial lessons Shri Manchan learned from the training was the importance of proper feed management. Recognizing the voracious appetite of pigs and their increasing nutritional needs, he devised innovative solutions. Collecting waste food from nearby hotels and school hostels became a sustainable and cost-effective approach to meet his pigs' dietary requirements. This not only reduced expenses but also ensured the adequate nutrition necessary for healthy and thriving pigs.



Awards & Recognition

- Department of Animal Husbandry, Gumla as well as the Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Gumla, acknowledged him as the best achiever farmer for his outstanding work in pig rearing.

Influence on other Farmers

- Success of Shri Manchan in pig farming had a profound impact on the farming community in his locality and even beyond. He emerged as an icon and a role model, igniting interest in pig farming among farmers in his and neighbouring villages.
- Shri Manchan became a valuable resource and mentor, providing guidance and advice based on his experiences in pig rearing.

Training Coverage

Training program was comprehensive and covered different aspects of commercial pig rearing and management like bringing required changes in housing management as per age category and stages of pigs, extra care of piglets for increased survival rate, selection of pig breed, medication and feed management and skills required for effective nutrients management and vaccination of pigs. The program also provided practical exposure to the candidates.

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(9) Growing green – skill development made vegetable cultivation fruitful

Story of Shri Niranjana Kumar from Palamu district of Jharkhand

Background

Shri Niranjana Kumar hails from the village of Jamune in Palamu District. Despite facing economic challenges, determination of Shri Niranjana Kumar to support his family led him to explore opportunities in agriculture. He possessed two acres of land, where he practiced farming with traditional techniques with his father. However, Shri Niranjana aspired for a brighter future and sought to increase their income through vegetable cultivation.



Training & Motivation

Recognizing the potential in vegetable cultivation, Shri Niranjana participated in a week-long skill-based training program on Integrated Pest Management (IPM) in vegetable cultivation under the STRY program which took place during 8 – 14 February 2022. The training, conducted by ATMA Palamu in collaboration with SAMETI Jharkhand exposed Shri Niranjana to a wide range of vegetable crops and provided comprehensive knowledge of vegetable cultivation and pest management techniques.

Socio-economic impact of program

- STRY training program had a profound impact on life of Shri Niranjana, enabling him to acquire the necessary skills and knowledge for successful vegetable cultivation.
- Prior to the training, his annual income was limited to Rs. 50,000. However, armed with expertise on vegetable cultivation, he saw a significant increase in his earnings, generating over Rs. 1,50,000 per year.
- Consequently, his family's overall condition improved, and they now enjoy a better quality of life.
- With improved financial stability, he could now pursue his dream of preparing for the UPSC (Union Public Service Commission) exams, attending a reputed institute in the nearby city while continuing his farming activities.

- The confidence gained due to new skill set required to practice commercial vegetables farming has encouraged him to bring more area under cultivation acquired on lease from fellow farmers.

Contribution of the program

- The skills acquired during the STRY training program transformed Shri Niranjana into a successful commercial vegetable cultivator.
- Shri Niranjana is not only implementing the techniques learned during the STRY Skill based training program, but he is also exploring new innovative methods motivated by the requirement and experience.
- The training equipped him with knowledge on identifying and effectively managing diseases and pests prevalent in his area/field. Inspired by his success, he expanded his farming operations by leasing additional land and adopting modern technologies like greenhouse cultivation.

Influence on other Farmers

The inspiring journey of Shri Niranjana and remarkable financial transformation have made him a role model within the local community. Observing his success, various other youth in the area have shown interest in pursuing farming as a viable livelihood option. He encourages them to adopt scientific vegetable cultivation and help them enhance their income-generating skills. He maintains regular contact with ATMA and actively participates in various agricultural activities, including Farm Schools, Krishak Gosthis, Expos, and other training programs on similar subjects.

Training Coverage

The skill training program covered various topics essential for successful vegetable cultivation including basic principles and practices of farming, high-yielding vegetables varieties, nutrition management, weed control, post-harvest management, value addition, and the use of drip irrigation and greenhouse cultivation. With a focus on integrated pest management, participants were exposed to identification and control of insects and pests to ensure better production and reduce input cost.

STRY Team

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(10) Inspiring journey of a rural youth from traditional farming to thriving pig farmer

Story of Shri Kadey Tudu from East Singhbhum district of Jharkhand

Background

Shri Kadey Tudu, a dedicated farmer from Lawkeshra village in Musabani block with responsibility of his family, used to practice traditional farming. He also had a special interest in animal husbandry, particularly pig farming. Recognizing his interest in pig farming, the ATMA functionaries recommended him to enrol in a transformative seven-day training program on pig farming being organised under STRY Scheme.



Training & Motivation

With great enthusiasm, Shri Tudu participated in the skill-based training program on pig farming organized by ATMA, East Singhbhum at the Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Darisai. During the intensive training conducted during 7 – 13 January 2019, he learned invaluable skills required for efficient management of pig farming covering vaccination techniques, nutrition management and effective farm management. Knowledge gained during the program encouraged Shri Tudu to expand his pig farming operations.

Socio-economic impact of program

- The skill-based training program played a pivotal role in transforming pig farming initiative of Shri Tudu into a flourishing commercial venture. Empowered with his newfound knowledge, he constructed a modern pig shade which helped in optimizing the living conditions for the animals. Starting with just two piglets, he now boasts a thriving herd of seven female pigs and a male boar.
- The program created a significant impact on income realisation. Shri Tudu is now earning an impressive additional annual income of Rs 50000 – Rs 60000. Even during the challenging times of the Covid-19 pandemic and subsequent lockdowns, when most businesses came to a halt, his agriculture and livestock based enterprise continued to thrive. Customers flocked to his residence to purchase pigs directly, ensuring a steady source of income throughout the crisis.

Contribution of the program

The comprehensive training program equipped Shri Tudu with essential skills and knowledge, allowing him to grasp the importance of breed selection, disease control measures, and care of pregnant sows and piglets. Additionally, he learned about optimal housing and feed management practices, which significantly improved his pig

rearing efficiency. The program also enlightened him on marketing strategies for both pork meat and piglets, empowering him to generate a sustainable income.

Influence on other Farmers

Inspiring story of Shri Tudu and success have not gone unnoticed. Many farmers from his village and around have been inspired by his achievements and have followed in his footsteps, embracing pig farming as a viable livelihood option. Shri Tudu has become an icon and a beacon of hope, not only for those



aspiring in animal rearing but also for the Department of Animal Husbandry. He actively shares his knowledge and experiences with fellow farmers, and his contributions extend beyond his own farm. Shri Tudu actively participates in various activities of ATMA and KVK, which helps in further strengthening the agricultural community.

Training Coverage

The training program covered a wide range of topics crucial for practicing successful pig farming. Participants were exposed to changes in housing management tailored to different age categories and stages of pigs, resulting in a decreased mortality rate of piglets. The training also emphasized on the importance of feed management and nutrient optimization, enabling participants in understanding the importance of providing animals with optimal nutrition. Vaccination techniques were also taught to safeguard the health of the herd effectively.

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(11) Skill training for mushroom maestros – unlocking the secrets of success in mushroom production

Story of Shri Binod Mehta from Garhwa district of Jharkhand

Background

Shri Binod Mehta, a determined and passionate farmer from village Jata in Garhwa district, Jharkhand, is committed to support his family through agricultural efforts. While pursuing his education, Shri Binod recognized the potential of farming to improve livelihood of his family. He initially used to cultivate vegetables and traditional crops such as rice, maize, wheat, and mustard at the two acres of land available with him. Despite his hard work, he was not able to generate income sufficient to take care of his family which compelled Shri Binod to explore other more profitable avenues to enhance his income.

Training & Motivation

Seeking additional income opportunities, Shri Binod participated in a week long skill-based training program on horticulture with focus on Mushroom Production Technique organized by ATMA Garhw in association with SAMETI, Jharkhand under the scheme STRY of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare implemented through National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE),



Hyderabad. The training, conducted during 17 – 23 January 2022 provided comprehensive exposure to the participants on the package of practices for mushroom production. The knowledge gained during the program helped Shri Binod to transform into a successful mushroom producer with ability to generate better resources to support his family.

Socio-economic impact of program

- The skill-based training program proved to be a game-changer for Shri Binod, equipping him with the necessary knowledge and skills to pursue mushroom production as a lucrative enterprise.

- Prior to the training, annual income of Shri Binod was in the range of Rs. 30,000. However, after attending the program, he is able to generate an additional income of over Rs. 60,000 per year practicing mushroom production.

Contribution of the program

The program played a pivotal role in the journey of Shri Binod from practicing conversational agriculture with limited income to taking up mushroom cultivation as a supplement enterprise which helped him in generating better income. He is able to realise the potential of agriculture and supplementary activities and support his family in a better way.



Influence on other Farmers

- Shri Binod has emerged as a role model for other farmers in his locality. Inspired by his accomplishments and unwavering passion, several youth from the area have expressed interest in taking up farming as a profession.
- Shri Binod actively shares his knowledge and experiences with fellow farmers and encourages them to take up mushroom cultivation as an alternative source of income.
- Shri Binod is regularly contributing in various activities of ATMA and Krishi Vigyan Kendra on mushroom cultivation and has proved to be an effective resource mainly for motivating and making farmers understand the potential of such enterprises in enhancing income.

Training Coverage

During the skill training, participants gained valuable insights into the principles and practices of mushroom production. As the program was conducted under horticulture practices, participants were also exposed to the use of drip irrigation and polyhouse techniques and integrated pest management to help participants develop viable farms.

STRY Team

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(12) From training to tenderness – skill based training makes protected vegetable cultivation a fruitful venture

Story of Smt Girja Devi from Koderma district of Jharkhand

Background

Smt Girja Devi, an enthusiastic farmer from Laxmipur village in Koderma district, Jharkhand, has transformed her life by practicing modern agriculture facilitated by acquiring required skills. In a district known as the "MICA CITY," she harnessed the potential of her 4.2 acre agricultural land and explored opportunities beyond traditional farming. Smt Girja Devi realized the need for additional income to support her family. She became a member of a Self-Help Group (SHG) involved in various sectors, including agriculture and animal husbandry. Her efforts helped her explore the potential of protected cultivate of high value vegetables.



Training & Motivation

Recognizing the limitations of traditional farming methods, she sought ways to modernize her agricultural practices and attended different training programs organized by ATMA Koderma. Journey of Smt Girja Devi took a significant turn when she participated in a week long skill based training program conducted under STRY. The training program on 'Protected Cultivation of High Value Vegetables' conducted by ATMA, Koderma during 19 – 24 January 2023 introduced her to different aspects of high value vegetables along with mushroom production.

Socio-economic impact of program

- The training program introduced Smt Girja Devi to commercial and scientific approaches to farming. It provided her with knowledge and skills required for protected cultivation of high-value vegetables. The knowledge gained during the program motivated her to venture into cultivation of cucumber, tomato, and capsicum within protected structures, while also engaging in mushroom production as a supplementary income-generating activity.
- Before the training, annual income of Smt Girja Devi was less than Rs. 1.20 lakhs. However, implementation of technology and skill acquired during the program helped her increase her income to over Rs. 2.3 lakhs per year. This remarkable increase was achieved by leveraging the same resources more effectively and efficiently.

Contribution of the program

- The training program provided her with valuable knowledge and skills to improve agricultural practices, enhance crop quality, and optimize production in a sustainable manner.
- The training program helped her to understand the use of various protected structures/ method like plastic mulching, plastic low tunnel, high roof tunnel, naturally ventilated poly house and climate controlled greenhouse.

Influence on other Farmers

The success of Smt Girja Devi has helped her emerge as a role model for local women, demonstrating the potential for success in high-value vegetable production and marketing, along with mushroom cultivation. She actively shares her knowledge with about 50 women farmers from her village and participates in various activities organized by ATMA and KVK.

Training Coverage

Training program covered various aspects of vegetable cultivation like nursery raising technology, varieties for protected cultivation, scientific production through protected cultivation, protected cultivation of vegetables crops



through mulching, tray nursery raising technology, off season vegetable cultivation, IPM and INM in vegetable production, importance of micro-nutrients in protected vegetable cultivation, low tunnel technology for off-season cultivation, hydroponic and organic farming practices.

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(13) Nurturing young agripreneurs – skill based training transformed lives through innovative farming

Story of Shri Sudama Prasad Sahu from Lohardaga district of Jharkhand

Background

Shri Sudama Prasad Sahu, used to practice farming under rainfed conditions making it very uncertain and challenging mainly during Rabi season. His agricultural activities were limited mainly to the Kharif season due to lack of assured supply of water for irrigation.



Training & Motivation

In pursuit of a solution, Shri Sahu seized the opportunity by attending a skill-based training program organized on protected cultivation by ATMA, Lohardaga during 5 – 11 August 2019. The training exposed him to innovative farming techniques, specifically with focus on drip and sprinkler methods of irrigation. The knowledge on techniques to efficiently use irrigation water helped him in practicing diversified farming leading to transforming the way he used to practice farming.

Socio-economic impact of program

Implementing the skills acquired during the training, Shri Sahu embraced diversified farming. He began cultivating various vegetables such as bitter gourd, watermelon, beans, sponge gourd, brinjal, and chili. Furthermore, he ventured into flower cultivation, expanding his agricultural enterprise. With these changes, Shri Sahu witnessed a significant change in his socio-economic condition. He is now able to generate an income on Rs 3.00 – Rs 6.00 lakhs per year from a meagre Rs 1.50 – Rs 2.00 lakhs annually, he used to earn earlier.

Contribution of the program

Adopting measures like greenhouse, shade-net, drip and sprinkler irrigation methods, Shri Sahu has successfully conserved water, protected soil, and promoted environmentally sustainable agriculture. These measures not only improved water-use

efficiency but also reduced labour costs, minimized fertilizer application, and decreased overall cultivation expenses.

Influence on other Farmers

The success of Shri Sahu is inspiring many youth from his and nearby villages. He is also sharing the knowledge and experience gained with different aspirants and actively contributing in various programs and activities of ATMA and KVK like farm schools, Kisan Goshtis (farmer meetings), training programs, Kisan Melas (farmer fairs), and exposure visits.

Training Coverage

During skill based training, various topics on protected cultivation of high value crops were covered like crop selection, management, labour and



yield, different type of vegetables under green house, types of protected cultivation like green house, plastic tunnel, shade net and plastic mulching. Factors affecting construction of green house, ideal location of greenhouse in plains and hilly areas were also covered. Management of water and fertilizers, method of micro irrigation integrated nutrient management, awareness of improved quality of seed and planting material, crop diversification and its impact, organic farming and preparation of vermicompost, crop rotation, inter and relay cropping, disease management in vegetables, weed controls, essential plant nutrients and their deficiency, organic and precision farming, insects pests and disease control, technique of nursery raising, value addition and marketing, method of fertilizer application and importance of farm equipment and role of mechanization were also covered during the program.

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(14) Seed to success – a remarkable journey in production and marketing of planting material

Story of Smt Riwanka Pale from West Jaintia Hills, Meghalaya

Background

Smt Riwanka Pale is from West Jaintia Hills district of Meghalaya. She owns one acre of land and is mainly cultivating horticultural crops to sustain her family. Her efforts in horticultural cultivation demonstrate her resilience and determination to optimise the resource utilisation and maximize the productivity of her land.



Training & Motivation

Handling planting materials effectively is crucial for ensuring success in crop production mainly horticultural crops. Smt Pale believed that by learning the best practices in handling and managing planting materials, she can improve the quality and health of crops right from the initial stages. This will also have a direct impact on the overall production and yield from her limited land. These things motivated her to participate in a skill based training program conducted on 'Production and Marketing of Planting Materials' by Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Jowai and MAMETI, Meghalaya under STRY Scheme. This training program helped her in acquiring the knowledge and skills required for handling the planting material efficiently and adopt beneficial nursery management techniques.

Socio-economic impact of program

The training program helped Smt Riwanka Pale to acquire the knowledge and skills required to manage her planting material efficiently. With the help of skills acquired during the training program, she is now able to generate a net income of Rs 15,000 per month.

Contribution of the program

- The knowledge and expertise gained during the program has made Smt Riwanka Pale well-equipped to handle planting material efficiently and implement nursery management techniques on her farm.
- The training program provided Smt Riwanka Pale with knowledge on the crop specific nutrient requirements and adoption of the best practices for their application.
- Adaptation of new practices and management strategies further enhanced the quality of planting material.

Influence on other Farmers

- The success of Smt Riwanka Pale in production of planting material had positive influence on other farmers, especially women in her community. She motivated many other neighbouring women to start their own nurseries.
- She also provided training on nursery management techniques to her neighbours empowering them with the skills required to pursue their own enterprises.

Training Coverage

- During the training program, various aspects of nursery management were covered like planting techniques and its establishment, significance of the nursery trays, production and marketing of the products, skills required on entrepreneurship, different irrigation methods, harvesting and grafting of planting material.
- Manuring aspects as required for different horticulture crops like lettuce, cabbage, cauliflower, radish, mustard, garlic, peas, coriander, soybean and flowers were covered during the training program.



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(15) Woman farmer experienced hive of prosperity due to successful management of beekeeping as an enterprise

Story of Smt Ontina Syngkli from Ri-Bhoi district of Meghalaya

Background

Smt Ontina Syngkli is a 32 years old married women from Sohlaitem village of Meghalaya. She is cultivating crops such as paddy, ginger, broomstick and vegetables. Financial constraints did not allow her to continue her education after 8th Standard. However, her zeal to improve financially motivated her to diversify toward beekeeping and establishing a tea shop with ultimate aim to have a better standard of living.



Training & Motivation

Financial struggle of Smt Ontina Syngkli made her to explore new endeavours. Seeking something relatively more profitable, less labour-intensive and requiring minimal investment, she enrolled for a short-duration skill based training programs on beekeeping organized by ATMA, Ri-Bhoi in association with SAMETI, Meghalaya in 2021.

Socio-economic impact of program

- The knowledge acquired during the training program enabled Smt Ontina Syngkli to expand her beekeeping enterprise.
- After the skill based training, she experienced a significant increase in honey production from her beekeeping enterprise. The quality has also gone up with potential to fetch better price. The unit price realisation has gone up from Rs 600 per kg to Rs 1000 per kg. The income has also gone up to Rs 35000/- surpassing the previous income of Rs. 25,000/- she was able to achieve prior to the training.

Contribution of the program

- The skill training program gave an opportunity to gain a range of new scientific knowledge and skills. These include colony management, seasonal management, artificial feeding of bees, and scientific extraction of honey, among others. By adopting these new methods of beekeeping, Smt Ontina Syngkli has achieved favourable results compared to the old methods she used to practice previously.
- Skills acquired during the training program enabled her to produce high-quality honey with an extended shelf life, leading to increased customer satisfaction and potential for higher profits.

- The training program has motivated her to opt for hygienic packaging material for honey, recognizing its importance in attracting more consumers.
- She also got her harvested honey registered with FSSAI as it not only helped her comply with regulations but also built trust, ensure product quality, expand market opportunities and prioritize consumer safety.
- She also learned about the various products that can be obtained from beekeeping unit through which she can maximize the value and profitability of her beekeeping unit.

Influence on other Farmers

- Her success in beekeeping has had a remarkable impact on the community, inspiring youth and farmers in and around her village. She also empowered other women in the village by encouraging them to form a group of women farmers with focus on beekeeping.
- Farmers from adjoining areas have visited her farm, seeking her knowledge and experiences in beekeeping.
- Few youths from her village have embraced beekeeping as an integrated farming practice by maintaining bee colonies in traditional beehive boxes.



Training Coverage

During the training program, a wide range of topics related to beekeeping were covered, providing participants with valuable knowledge and skills on advantages and potential of beekeeping in the region, identifying beekeeping equipment, identifying different species of honeybees and their characteristics, challenges in beekeeping, seasonal management of bees, management of bee colonies in rainy season, making sugar syrup and feeding to bees, catching of feral bee colony from the tree trunk, division of bee colony, scientific extraction of honey using honey extractor, adding honey chamber, comparison between old method and modern method of beekeeping, processing of honey, packaging and labelling of honey, record keeping of apiary unit and integration with market.

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(16) Skill training facilitated the joinery of a woman farmer from field to flavour in value addition

Story of Smt Saralin Wahlang from Ri-Bhoi district of Meghalaya

Background

Smt Saralin Wahlang, a 26-year-old hardworking and energetic farm woman from Umksih village in Ri-Bhoi district, Meghalaya, is from an agrarian family mainly depends on cultivation of crops such as paddy, ginger, maize, and vegetables for livelihood. Dissatisfaction with market value of traditional field crops led her to aspire to diversify towards new farming practices. After witnessing the market potential of strawberries, Smt Saralin decided to experiment with cultivation of strawberry on a small piece of land. Through her hard work, dedication and support of family mainly her husband, she is able to realise good yield and a decent profit from this venture.



Training & Motivation

Entrepreneurial spirit of Smt Saralin was fuelled by her desire to improve her livelihood and her keen interest in adopting new skills and techniques. She recognized the potential for adding value to her produce, specifically strawberries. She envisioned creating products such as jams, juices, pickles, and chips from these fruits and vegetables. In order to enhance her knowledge and skills in post-harvest processing and packaging, she attended a week long skill-based training program on 'Post-harvest processing and packaging of fruits and vegetables' organized in February, 2021 by ATMA, Ri-Bhoi district under STRY Scheme.

Socio-economic impact of program

- The skill-based training program played a significant role in her journey towards value addition and becoming an entrepreneur. The program provided her with valuable information and modern skills related to adding value to agricultural produce. This empowered her to explore value addition as a supplement source of income.
- Previously, main source of income for Smt Saralin Wahlang was cultivation and sale of strawberries. This would generate an annual net income ranging between Rs. 80,000/- to Rs. 90,000/-. However, after she embarked on her new venture of value addition in fruits and vegetables, her annual income has experienced a significant increase.

Contribution of the program

- The skills learned during the training program have empowered Smt Saralin to recognize the importance and potential of value-added products in current market scenario.

- The training emphasized on the importance of sanitation for value-added products which is critical in ensuring safety standards as per the regulations defined for such products.
- The knowledge influenced her entrepreneurial journey and contributed to her success in expanding her business and income realisation through value addition.

Influence on other Farmers

- After witnessing the success of Smt Saralin Wahlang, many farmers in her village and from surrounding areas, particularly the youth, visited her work place to witness her enterprise. She highlighted the benefits and opportunities that are offered by value addition, especially in terms of reducing post-harvest losses of fruits and vegetables and better income realisation.
- Smt Saralin Wahlang entrepreneurial journey has served as a source of inspiration for women and other youth in her village who are seeking to adopt new and innovative farming activities to improve their livelihood. Her success showcases the potential for diversification and value addition in agriculture, motivating others to explore alternative avenues beyond traditional farming methods.



Training Coverage

During the training program, different topics on introduction to post-harvest technology, principles of post-harvest technology, post-harvest losses, market potential of value added products, value addition in local produce, food safety and FSSAI Registration were covered. The program also included exposure visit to an NGO farm with hands on training on pickle making, juice and squash making, jam and jelly making, candy making, chips making, wine making, sealing and packaging, labelling and branding.

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(17) Skill development on pruning made youth financially independent

Story of Shri Ishtiyag Ahmad Shah from Ganderbal district of Jammu & Kashmir

Background

Shri Ishtiyag Ahmad Shah comes from a remote village of Wayil Wudur in district Ganderbal. He belongs to the schedule tribe community and owns a small plot of land for farming. However, the land alone was not sufficient to sustain livelihood of his family, which forced him to work as labourer in neighbouring areas. Limited employment opportunities in the village due to underdevelopment made it difficult for him to earn enough to meet his family needs.



Training & Motivation

Shri Ishtiyag, always eager to improve his skills and knowledge, actively sought opportunities for growth. His dedication led him to participate in a week-long skill-based training program conducted under Skill Training for Rural Youth (STRY) Scheme. The program with focus on 'Training and pruning of fruit trees' was conducted by KVK Ganderbal in association with SAMETI, Srinagar and MANAGE, Hyderabad. Shri Ishtiyag grasped the opportunity with enthusiasm and attended the training program with sincerity.

Socio-economic impact of program

The skill based training program helped Shri Ishtiyag acquire the necessary expertise in training and pruning of fruit trees, a task for which orchardists in district Ganderbal often relied on pruners from other areas to perform. After completing the training, Shri Ishtiyag started working as a skilled pruner in the district. The transformation was remarkable as the income of Shri Ishtiyag increased to over Rs 40,000 within a month and a half during the autumn and early winter season which previously as a labourer was a mere Rs 12,500. The newly acquired skills not only helped him improve his economic status but also complemented his small farming venture.

Contribution of the program

The program played a pivotal role in uplifting economic status of Shri Ishtiyag. The training helped him quip with essential skills and transformed an unemployed and unskilled individual into a skilled professional. Success story of Shri Ishtiyag serves as a testament to the effectiveness of the program in empowering rural youth and improving their livelihoods.

Influence on other Farmers

Inspired by remarkable progress made by Shri Ishtiyag, other youth from his area, who had also undergone skill training, joined hands with him. They formed a cohesive team and began operating in different fruit belts within the district as skilled pruners. This collective effort gained recognition among orchardists, who now seek out their services instead of relying on unskilled pruners from other districts. The success of Shri Ishtiyag sparked a positive ripple effect, inspiring other youth to embrace skill development and agriculture-related endeavours.

Training Coverage

The skill training program covered various crucial topics, including the concepts, principles, and importance of training and pruning. The participants received comprehensive instruction on training and pruning traditional apple fruit trees, pest management in apple orchards, canopy management of stone and nut fruits, training and pruning techniques for high-density apple trees, insect pest management in fruits, and canopy management/pruning of grape vines. The training combined theoretical knowledge with practical hands-on classes, ensuring a well-rounded learning experience for the participants.



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(18) Cultivating profitability – skilling transforms mushroom cultivation into a lucrative business

Story of Smt Uffaira Bano from Ganderbal district of Jammu & Kashmir

Background

Smt Uffaira Bano, the wife of Shri Irfan Ahmad Mugal, is a farmer from the remote village of Chaunti-Waliwar in block Lar, district Ganderbal, Jammu and Kashmir. Coming from a financially disadvantaged family, Smt Uffaira struggled to make ends meet with limited income of her husband. She was determined to find alternative means to have financial stability while practicing conventional farming on her small plot of land, where she used to cultivate crops like rajmash, maize and vegetables.



Training & Motivation

Smt Uffaira was looking for a breakthrough in her farming journey. The quest for new opportunities and agricultural knowledge, led her to KVK Ganderbal, where she registered herself for a skill-based training program on mushroom cultivation organized under Skill Training for Rural Youth (STRY) component implemented by the Ministry under SMAE. The training was conducted in collaboration with State Agriculture Management and Extension Training Institute (SAMETI), Directorate Extension SKUAST-Kashmir and the National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE), Hyderabad.

Socio-economic impact of program

- The skill-based training program proved to be transformative for Smt Uffaira Bano, enabling her to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary for button and oyster mushroom cultivation. The program played a pivotal role in motivating her to take up mushroom production as a viable income-generating venture.
- Prior to the training, Smt Uffaira had no alternative source of income and was solely dependent on home-based activities and earning of her husband. However, her participation in the skill-based training exposed her to new opportunities in mushroom production. Utilizing the same available resources, she harnessed her newfound expertise to undertake various activities related to mushroom cultivation. With her dedication and application of the skills learned during the training, she was able to generate an income of over Rs 70,000 per year. This significant boost in earnings not only provided financial stability to her family but also instilled a sense of empowerment and self-reliance in Smt Uffaira.

Contribution of the program

The training program played a crucial role in transforming Smt Uffaira. She gained valuable insights into the fundamentals of mushroom cultivation, including selecting the right paddy straw and casing materials, maintaining cleanliness and hygiene, managing cultivation room conditions, handling mushroom spawn and understanding the impact of environmental factors on mushroom production.

Awards & Recognition

The exceptional achievements of Smt Uffaira in mushroom cultivation earned her the prestigious Champion Farmer Award during the Kisan Divas/ Farmers Day Celebration in 2022-23 at the Directorate of Extension, SKUAST-Kashmir.

Influence on other Farmers

The success of Smt Uffaira became an inspiration for many other women and farmers in her community, leading them to approach KVK for training and demonstration on mushroom cultivation. Mushroom cultivation not only provided nutritional security but also served as a source of income for families, making it an attractive option for landless and small-scale farmers. Smt Uffaira also took the initiative to train members of NRLM and SHGs, resulting in the establishment of several small-scale mushroom production units.

Training Coverage



The skill training program covered various crucial topics, including mushroom production, the agribusiness potential of mushrooms, farm design and infrastructure for commercial mushroom growing units, the nutritional and medicinal value of mushrooms, types of mushrooms (edible, medicinal, and poisonous), crop management of white button mushroom cultivation and disease management. The program also covered practical demonstrations on cultivation of oyster mushroom and exposure visit for practical orientation.

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(19) From cows to cash – skill development ensures sustainable income in dairy farming

Story of Shri Abaid Gul from Budgam district of Jammu & Kashmir

Background

Shri Abaid Gul hails from Batapora Kanihama in the Budgam district of Jammu & Kashmir. As a young and energetic individual, he faced difficulties in securing a suitable job after completing his graduation, leading to financial strain for his family. Determined to make a positive change, Shri Abaid decided to explore opportunities in the agriculture and allied sectors. With his own capital and support of the Department of Animal Husbandry, Government of J&K, under the Integrated Dairy Development Scheme (IDDS), Shri Abaid established his own dairy unit called Royal Dairy Farm, Batapora, consisting of five crossbred dairy cows.



Training & Motivation

Although Shri Abaid was managing the dairy farm successfully, he desired to implement scientific practices to maximize returns while minimizing cost. This led him to attend a week long skill-based training program conducted under STRY on 'Integrated Dairy Farming'. The program conducted during 6 – 12 February 2021, was organized by KVK Budgam in collaboration with State Agriculture Management and Extension Training Institute (SAMETI), SKUAST-K and National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE), Hyderabad. During the training, Shri Abaid gained knowledge and expertise on various aspects of integrated dairy farming. Additionally, the program facilitated a connection between Shri Abaid and the Animal Husbandry Department in Budgam.

Socio-economic impact of program

- Acquiring scientific knowledge and skills in integrated dairy farming empowered Shri Abaid to diversify towards additional income-generating activities such as dairy processing.
- Prior to the training, annual income of Shri Abaid was less than Rs. 2.50 lakhs per year. Adopting skills acquired during the training such as scientific dairy farming, milk processing and value addition, helped him increase his income to over Rs. 4.40 lakhs per year, that too by utilizing the same level of resources.
- The training has helped Shri Abaid in managing the dairy business more efficiently by reducing input cost and realising better quality and price.

Contribution of the program

The knowledge acquired during the program has helped Shri Abaid to manage the dairy farm more efficiently and profitably which also get reflected in the quality of production and diversification towards value added products. Shri Abaid has been able to increase the number of animals in his dairy farm over time from five to eight.

Awards & Recognition

The success and transformation of Shri Abaid did not go unnoticed. He received the Champion Farmer Award and Medal from the Honourable Vice-Chancellor of SKUAST-Kashmir during KISAN SAMAN DIWAS 2022. He was also honoured with a Certificate of Appreciation by KVK, Budgam, SKUAST, Kashmir.

Influence on other Farmers

The accomplishments and passion shown by Shri Abaid have had a profound impact on the local community. Witnessing the success in terms of increased income of Shri Abaid, other farmers in the area have become interested in pursuing integrated dairy farming. Shri Abaid has emerged as a role model for rural youth in the locality, inspiring them to avail the opportunities available in agriculture and allied sectors.

Training Coverage

The skill training program covered a wide range of topics related to integrated dairy development, including feeding management of dairy animals during winters, demonstrations on feed block and urea molasses mineral block preparation, dairy entrepreneurship development schemes offered by the J&K Government, estrous detection and breeding management of dairy cows, preparation and management of quality FYM, practical demonstrations on dairy health management (with special reference to mastitis and production diseases), farm record keeping, vaccines and vaccination schedules for dairy cattle, managing repeat breeding, processing and value addition of milk, quality evaluation of milk, farmer producer organizations in relation to dairy farming, conservation and preservation of feed and fodder, winter management of livestock, and principles and design of dairy housing.

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(20) From seeds to saplings – skill training transforms nursery raising into a successful venture

Story of Shri Ajaz Ahmad Wani from Budgam district of Jammu & Kashmir

Background

Shri Ajaz Ahmad Wani, a determined and ambitious graduate from Galwanpora area of district Budgam in Jammu and Kashmir, sought to establish his own enterprise to sustain his family. Initially disappointed in his attempts to secure a good job, he realized the untapped potential of his land for agricultural ventures. With approximately 4 kanals of land available with him, he was practicing vegetables and paddy cultivation but mainly for domestic use and not for commercial purpose.

Training & Motivation

Motivated to utilise his land efficiently and maximize his returns on investment, Shri Wani decided to undergo a week long skill-based training program called 'Nursery raising of vegetable crops under protected condition'. This program was conducted under STRY, a component of SMAE implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India, in collaboration with SAMETI and National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE), Hyderabad. The training helped Shri Wani acquire knowledge and skills on various aspects of nursery raising of crops under protected structures. Subsequently, he received additional training on other enterprises as well to further diversify and enhance his income.

Socio-economic impact of program

The program had a remarkable socio-economic impact on Shri Wani. He was an unemployed youth without any assured source of income. However, with the skills acquired during the training, he managed to generate more than Rs 1.50 lakhs per season by selling seedlings of vegetables and flowers. Encouraged by the income generating potential and skills and expertise gained during the program, he established Gulshan Nursery, which specialises in the production of seedlings for vegetables such as tomato, cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli, lettuce, and capsicum. Additionally, he also ventured into flower nursery raising.

Contribution of the program

The knowledge gained during the program helped Shri Wani understand the significance of early nursery raising for vegetable and floriculture crops to capture the early market. He also gained insight into various schemes available through agriculture and allied departments to support the development of agri-entrepreneurs. As a result, he received LDPE coated cladding material for his low-cost polyhouse from the Department of Horticulture, Budgam. Furthermore, he acquired a semi hi-tech polyhouse from the Department of Floriculture, Budgam.

Awards & Recognition

He was honoured with an award of appreciation from KVK, Budgam and the Directorate of Extension, SKUAST-K Shalimar during a farmer fair on April 27, 2022. Additionally, the Department of Floriculture, Budgam also recognized his contribution to the production of planting material of flowers under protected structures.

Influence on other Farmers

The success of Shri Wani has inspired other farmers in the community. Witnessing his success in terms of impressive income generation, other educated youth from the locality have expressed interest in pursuing farming as a career. He has become a role model for rural youth, showcasing excellence in seedling production, marketing of fresh vegetables and flowers, and serving as an example of success. Shri Wani has also opened a shop in his locality dedicated to the sale of potted ornamental plants. Continuing his quest for knowledge and growth, Shri Wani participates in various other programs and activities of Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Budgam and various other public organisations.



Training Coverage

The skill training program covered various topics, including the scope and importance of nursery raising, different methods of nursery raising (open field and protected), and raising seedlings under low tunnels, walk-in tunnels, low-cost playhouses, and polybags. Participants were also exposed to the concept of nursery raising under soil-less cultures using pot trays with coco peat, vermiculite, and perlite as growing media, along with liquid fertilizers. The program also covered aspects related to effective management of diseases and pests affecting production of vegetable and flower crops.

STRY Team

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(21) Veterinary emergency services made available through skill development

Story of Shri Altaf Ahmad Bhat from Ganderbal district of Jammu & Kashmir

Background

Shri Altaf Ahmad Bhat, a resident of village Busserbugh, district Ganderbal, created an effective livelihood options in the welfare of animals and veterinary services. As an unemployed youth involved in livestock farming, he lacked the technical know-how to provide scientific emergency services to livestock animals and realized the need to acquire technical knowledge in the scientific emergency management of road traffic accidents involving pets and livestock animals.

Training & Motivation

Determined to make a difference, Shri Bhat participated in a seven-day skill-based training program on 'Veterinary Emergency Treatment and First Aid' during 25 – 31 March 2022. The training was conducted by Directorate of Extension/ State Agricultural Management and Extension Institute (SAMETI) in collaboration with the Division of Veterinary Surgery and Radiology, Faculty of Veterinary Sciences and Animal Husbandry under the Skill Training of Rural Youth (STRY). The component of STRY is implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare under SMAE with the support of National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE), Hyderabad.

Socio-economic impact of program

- The training had a significant impact on the life of Shri Bhat. Prior to attending the program, he was an unemployed youth practicing livestock farming to support his family and earning about Rs 7000 – Rs 8000 per month.
- The scientific knowledge acquired during the program on veterinary emergency treatment and first aid, helped him in offering his services to various animal welfare non-governmental organizations on a payment basis.
- At present, Shri Bhat is able to earn about Rs. 12,000 per month which is a significant jump over his previous monthly income.
- Furthermore, he actively serves as a rescuer in and around neighbouring areas, contributing to the welfare of animals in need.

Contribution of the program

The program played a vital role in professional growth of Shri Bhat. The skills he acquired during the program enabled him to understand the importance of veterinary emergency services and first aid. He gained knowledge about selecting appropriate materials, emergency drugs, surgical instruments and techniques required for scientific management of animal practice.

Influence on other Farmers

The expertise of Shri Bhat in veterinary emergency treatment and first aid has made him a role model for aspiring livestock farmers. By witnessing his achievement and impact on income generation, others have also been inspired to pursue similar path. Through his work and advocacy, he raises awareness about the importance of providing proper care and assistance to animals in distress. Additionally, he actively participates in other agricultural training programs and contributes to the activities of agriculture and other line departments, further amplifying his influence and impact.



Training Coverage

During the skill training, the participants were exposed to various topics related to veterinary first aid services. This included areas such as fracture management, burn and scald treatment, urolithiasis first aid, wound management, horn fracture first aid, lumps and bumps treatment, antiseptics and disinfectants in veterinary practice, udder disease first aid, emergency management in poisoning cases, and dystocia in animals and their emergency management. The training also included clinical exposure visits to provide practical orientation and hands-on experience.

STRY Team

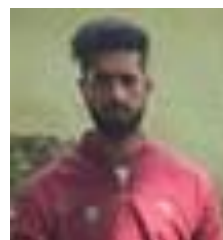
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(22) Apiculture transformed a rural youth into successful agripreneur

Story of Shri Sajad Ahmad Bhat from Pulwama district of Jammu & Kashmir

Background

Shri Sajad Ahmad Bhat is an aspiring entrepreneur from Kamla Buchoo in district Pulwama, Jammu & Kashmir. He is a young and enthusiastic individual engaged in bee farming to earn sufficient to sustain his family of six. Along with cultivating paddy, apple and other field crops on his 12 kanals of agricultural land, he decided to venture into beekeeping as an additional source of income. Starting with 20 bee colonies last year, he has expanded his beekeeping enterprise to 100 colonies. Apart from honey, he also extracts valuable bee products such as pollen, propolis and wax.



Training & Motivation

While Shri Sajad was already a skilled agriculturist successfully cultivating apple and other crops, he desired to explore new opportunities to improve economic condition of his family. Recognizing the importance of beekeeping for entrepreneurship development among unemployed rural youth, he eagerly participated in a week long skill-based training program conducted on 'Apiculture' during 8 – 13 February 2021. The program, exclusively organized for unemployed youth in district Pulwama, was conducted by KVK/ETC Pulwama in collaboration with the State Agriculture Management and Extension Training Institute (SAMETI), SKUAST-K and the National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE), Hyderabad. The program was conducted under STRY which is a component under SMAE implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare to promote skill development in agriculture vocational areas among rural youth.

Socio-economic impact of program

- The skill-based training program equipped Shri Sajad with both theoretical knowledge and practical skills required for efficient bee farming. The knowledge gained during the program inspired him to pursue apiculture as a supplementary income generating activity.
- Before the training, he was not even able to generate annual income of Rs. 2.25 lakhs. However, with the implementation of the skills acquired during the training, he has seen a significant increase in his earnings. He is now able to generate more than Rs. 4.25 lakhs per year by engaging himself in various apiculture activities.

Contribution of the program

The skills learned during the training program have enabled Shri Sajad to understand the significance of apiculture, including honey production, pollination and value addition of other bee products. The program has not only allowed him to earn more compared to other enterprises but has also facilitated his ability to employ additional manpower in his venture.

Influence on other Farmers

Shri Sajad Ahmad Bhat has inspired various other rural youth in his locality to pursue bee farming through his success and passion. He has become a role model for local youth by showcasing his expertise in honey production and marketing. Shri Sajad is actively involved in sharing his knowledge with over 60 rural youth from his community and contributes to various activities conducted by Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Pulwama.



Training Coverage

The skill based training program encompassed various topics related to apiculture, including the scope and role of beekeeping in Kashmir, starting a beekeeping venture, seasonal management of honeybee colonies, the role of honeybees in apple pollination, their contribution to vegetable seed production, the significance of wild flora and floriculture in beekeeping, management of insect pests affecting honeybees and honey extraction and processing. The program also provided practical exposure to the participants on efficient honey production and also covered aspects related to importance of bee products for human health.

STRY Team

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(23) Skill based training made vegetable cultivation a success

Story of Shri Shabir Ahmad Khanday from Baramulla district of Jammu & Kashmir

Background

Shri Shabir Ahmad Khanday is a farmer from Urtikwoo village in the Baramulla district of Jammu and Kashmir. He owns 30 Kanals of land where he cultivates rice, maize, oats and various vegetable crops. In addition to crop farming, he is also involved in livestock and poultry farming. As an unemployed youth, he aims to utilize his land effectively to improve his financial resources to maintain his family decently.



Training & Motivation

Due to a lack of scientific knowledge in crop cultivation, Shri Shabir was not able to achieve the desired result as per the potential of the crops. Over the past two years, he has been in contact with the Division of Vegetable Sciences at SKUAST-K, where he receives appropriate advisories, scientific know-how, and inputs such as seeds and vermicompost. Shri Shabir also attended a week long skill based training program on 'Kitchen gardening - a way towards nutritional security and economic empowerment' conducted during 13 – 19 December 2021 under Skill Training of Rural Youth (STRY), a component under SMAE. The knowledge acquired during the program has helped him diversify towards crops like Kashmiri chilli, cockscomb and potatoes as major crops and sells them at profitable price. STRY training has left the youth highly motivated to adopt the technologies and knowledge shared during the program.

Socio-economic impact of program

The annual income of Shri Shabir has increased to Rs. 7.00 lakhs by selling fresh vegetables and seeds of different vegetable crops at good prices, which is significantly higher than before.

Contribution of the program

The skill-based training program helped Shri Shabir Ahmad Khanday acquire skills and knowledge required for production of vegetable and hybrid seed of vegetable crops. Integration with market is vital in case of vegetable production. The training program helped him market his production efficiently and realise better price leading to higher returns. The confidence gained during the program has allowed Shri Shabir to dedicate 10 kanals of land exclusively for vegetable cultivation and seed production of various crops such as cole crops, root crops, cucurbits, tomatoes, and chillies.

Influence on other Farmers

The progress made by Shri Shabir Ahmad Khanday has motivated various other farmers from the neighbourhood, having interest in vegetable cultivation and seed production as an enterprise. The success of Shri Shabir has helped various other youth understand the potential of agriculture to generate sustainable income and therefore encouraging them to participate in similar training programs offered by the Division of Vegetable Sciences and other public organisations.

Training Coverage

The skill training covered various topics related to vegetable crops, kitchen gardening, aspects of kitchen gardening, scientific methods of growing vegetable crops, seed production of vegetable crops, economic analysis, and marketing strategies for selling fresh vegetables and seedlings of vegetable crops. The program also exposed participants to practical aspects of seed production and vegetable cultivation through visits to fields.



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(24) Traditional to high value crops – skill training transformed vegetable cultivation into a successful venture

Story of Shri Aijaz Ahmad from Baramulla district of Jammu & Kashmir

Background

Shri Aijaz Ahmad is an educated farmer from the village of Watergam in Baramulla district. He comes from an agrarian family and resides in an area known for fruit and vegetable cultivation. As an unemployed individual, he was interested in pursuing agriculture as an enterprise to generate income for his family. This led him to experiment with vegetable cultivation.



Training & Motivation

Shri Aijaz Ahmad participated in the week long skill based training program on 'Kitchen gardening - a way towards nutritional security and economic empowerment' conducted during 13 – 19 December 2021 under Skill Training of Rural Youth (STRY), a component under SMAE being implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare through SAMETI, Srinagar and MANAGE, Hyderabad in Jammu and Kashmir. Through this training, he acquired technical knowledge on various aspects of vegetable cultivation and also received inputs such as seeds. The training provided by the Division of Vegetable Science motivated him to practice vegetable farming more scientifically as per the requirement of the market to fetch better price in comparison to conventional farming.

Socio-economic impact of program

- The skill acquired by Shri Aijaz Ahmad helped him in diversifying towards scientific vegetable production leading to better income realisation.
- The income of Shri Ahmad increased substantially. He is able to earn an impressive amount of Rs 5.00 lakhs per annum from vegetable farming enterprise alone which was not possible earlier.

Contribution of the program

- The skill-based training program provided Shri Aijaz Ahmad with the necessary skills and knowledge for scientifically growing different types of vegetables in kitchen gardens.
- The training also included imparting marketing skills to achieve better integration with market which is vital in case of perishable produce. The training also helped him realise better price leading to higher returns.

- Confidence gained encouraged Shri Ahmad to dedicate 7 Kanals out of the 20 Kanals of land towards vegetable cultivation, where he raises vegetable nurseries, produces fresh vegetables and harvests seeds of selected vegetable crops.

Influence on other Farmers

The success and progress of Shri Aijaz Ahmad have motivated various other farmers from the area, who are now interested in pursuing vegetable cultivation as an alternative enterprise. The achievement of Shri Ahmad in vegetable cultivation has helped in generating interests in youth to participate in different training programs organised by Division of Vegetable Science, KVK and other public organisations.



Training Coverage

The skill training program focused on various aspects of kitchen gardening and vegetable cultivation

covering kitchen gardening and its impact on nutritional security, scientific methods of growing vegetable crops, vegetable seed production, economic analysis, and marketing strategies for selling fresh vegetables and vegetable seedlings. The participants were also provided with practical exposure through field visits.

STRY Team

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(25) From nectar to prosperity – rural youth thriving with financial independence in beekeeping

Story of Shri Zaffar Abbas Qureshi from Kupwara district of Jammu & Kashmir

Background

Shri Zaffar Abbas Qureshi is a resident of Yemlar village of Kupwara district. He is young and enthusiastic individual currently pursuing his studies. His family owns a small farm of 4 kanals where he cultivates maize mainly for their own consumption. He has a few walnut trees on his farm but with limited production which is not sufficient to meet the need of his family. Shri Zaffar had a strong desire to become independent and own a business that can fulfil his dream and earn sufficient to support his family. He recognized the potential in agriculture and actively sought opportunities in this field.

Training & Motivation

Shri Zaffar registered himself for a short duration skill based training program on 'Scientific Beekeeping' conducted by the Division of Entomology, Faculty of Agriculture under Skill Training of Rural Youth (STRY), a component under SMAE being implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare in association with the Directorate of Extension, SKUAST Kashmir (SAMETI) and MANAGE, Hyderabad in Jammu and Kashmir. Shri Zaffar attended the training with dedication and enthusiasm which helped him gain basic knowledge on beekeeping. Inspired by the potential of beekeeping and, knowledge and skill acquired, he decided to start his own beekeeping unit.

Socio-economic impact of program

The skill-based training program empowered Shri Zaffar Abbas Qureshi with the knowledge and skills required for practicing beekeeping and motivated him to take it up as a supplementary income generating activity. Together with his friend, Shri Zaffar purchased 20 bee colonies from the Department of Agriculture, Kupwara, at a rate of Rs. 1900/- per colony in March 2022. Currently, he has leased his bee colonies to a progressive farmer in Gujarat who pays him Rs. 2000/- per colony as rent for pollination in mustard crops. This income helps cover the cost of the colonies. Although, he started with 20 colonies but has plan to expand to 50 colonies by purchasing additional units during spring of 2023.

Contribution of the program

The skills acquired during the training program enabled Shri Zaffar to develop a comprehensive understanding of beekeeping, including basic requirements, overall management of bee colonies, production processes of various bee products and the role of honeybees in pollination management.

Influence on other Farmers

The passion and success of Shri Zaffar in beekeeping have inspired many other young boys from the locality, including his friends, to consider beekeeping as a viable entrepreneurial opportunity. He has become a role model for local youth, encouraging them to participate in training and skill development programs organized by various divisions of the University and Departments. His success has motivated various youth from his locality to participate various beekeeping training programs.

Training Coverage

The skill training program covered various topics related to beekeeping, including the fundamentals of beekeeping, bee rearing, familiarization with beekeeping equipment, bee biology, seasonal management of bees, artificial feeding, disease and pest management, queen rearing, division and multiplication of colonies, swarming, absconding, robbing, honey and hive product production, harvesting and processing, beekeeping economics, migration of bees, transferring bees to other hives, bee flora, and their role in pollination management. The participants were also exposed to marketing aspects and practical orientation was also provided on different aspects of beekeeping.



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(26) Rural youth tasted success through mushroom cultivation

Story of Shri Javeed Ahmed Wani from Budgam district of Jammu and Kashmir

Background

Shri Javeed Ahmed Wani, a farmer from Galwanpora village in Budgam district, has found success and profitability in mushroom cultivation. For the past two years, he has been focusing on mushroom farming alongside his vegetable crops like bhindi, tomato, and cole crops. He also has expertise in protected nursery raising.

Training & Motivation

Shri Javeed Ahmed Wani desired to experiment with an enterprise that had the potential for higher returns with minimal investment. In 2021, he approached KVK Budgam for scientific advice on commercial mushroom cultivation. He participated in a week long skill based training program conducted on 'Cultivation of Button Mushroom' during 30th January 2021 to 5th February 2021 by Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Budgam. The program was conducted under Skill Training of Rural Youth (STRY), a component being implemented under SMAE by the



Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare in association with the Directorate of Extension, SKUAST Kashmir (SAMETI) and MANAGE, Hyderabad in Jammu and Kashmir.

Socio-economic impact of program

- The skill-based training program provided Shri Javeed Ahmed with the technical knowledge and skills required for button mushroom production.
- The knowledge acquired during the program encouraged him to pursue mushroom farming as a supplementary income generating activity.
- Prior to the training, he was generating an annual income of not more than Rs. 1.80 lakhs. However, the income of Shri Javeed Ahmed increased substantially after implementing the skills and knowledge acquired during the training.
- He is now able to generate an annual income of over Rs. 3.60 lakhs utilizing the same resources.

Contribution of the program

- The skills learned during the training program enabled Shri Javeed Ahmed to utilize agricultural waste, particularly straw for profitable button mushroom production.
- He also gained knowledge about the environmental factors, such as humidity and temperature, and how to control them for successful and profitable mushroom cultivation.

Influence on other Farmers

The success mainly the income enhancement achieved by Shri Javeed Ahmed has inspired various other local rural youth and encouraged them to consider mushroom production as a viable option. As a successful mushroom grower, he contributes as a resource person in various programs conducted by KVK Budgam.

Training Coverage

The skill training program covered various topics related to mushroom production, including the economic importance of mushroom, edible and poisonous mushrooms, different mushrooms grown in the valley, national and international status of mushroom production, opportunities and constraints in the field, production technology of button mushrooms (outdoor/ indoor), composting methods for white button mushrooms, spawn production technology, quality attributes, storage and transport, management of white button mushrooms, infrastructure requirements, competitor moulds/ fungal and viral diseases, bacterial diseases and abiotic disorders of mushrooms, insect pests and nematodes of mushroom crops, their management and practical orientation through exposure visits.



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(27) Woman entrepreneur experienced grain to glory in millet processing

Story of Smt E Kavitha from Erode district of Tamil Nadu

Background

Smt E Kavitha, a woman farmer from Anuparpalayam village in Erode district, Tamil Nadu, has shown great resilience and determination in managing her farm after the sudden death of her husband. MBA background of Smt Kavitha helped her in bringing efficiency in her farming practices to make it more profitable. She cultivates sugarcane, coconut and banana using an integrated farming system on her three acre land. The approach allowed her to optimize land utilization and diversify her practices and outputs.



Training & Motivation

Despite the zeal and enthusiasm shown by Smt Kavitha to improve her farming, she faced several challenges in terms of lack of proper training and exposure to latest development in farming techniques. Her efforts were also curtailed by the limited knowledge on marketing of farm-based products. During, this time only she got the opportunity to attend a training program on 'Post-harvest technologies and value addition in Millets' conducted during 17 – 22 September 2018 by ICAR KVK, MYRADA in association with SAMETI, Kudimiyanmalai, Tamil Nadu.

Socio-economic impact of program

- The skill based training program encouraged her to start millet based enterprise as a supplementary income generating activity.
- The application of various skills in her millet-based enterprises and practicing farming with Integrated Farming System (IFS) approach, her annual income has increased significantly to more than Rs. 6.12 lakhs from a mere Rs 2.50 lakhs before the training program.

Contribution of the program

- The program exposed Smt Kavitha to the importance of eco-friendly management practices for controlling pests and diseases to produce quality millets for her processing unit.
- The training program has been instrumental in empowering Mrs. Kavitha with the necessary skills, knowledge, and resources to establish her own food processing unit and pursue a successful entrepreneurial venture in millet-based products.
- Skills learnt during the training program supported Smt Kavitha to start business by establishing Food processing Unit with brand name AARA (Value addition in coconut, millets, Turmeric powder, Masala powders and Nutrimix).

Awards & Recognition

- Smt Kavitha received TANSEED 4.0 Grant from the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu as a recognition of her contributions in Millet sector.
- Smt Kavitha has been invited as a resource person to share her knowledge and experiences in the field of integrated farming systems.
- Experiences were documented on Integrated Farming System and shared through Doordharshan, Podhigai TV, YouTube Krishi Jagran and Pasumai Vikadan.



Influence on other Farmers

The initiative of Smt Kavitha has become a valuable resource for farmers and entrepreneurs seeking practical knowledge on Integrated Farming Systems (IFS) and value addition. Over the past five years, she has received more than 1200 visitors to her farm, providing them with hands-on learning experiences and insights into her successful farming practices. Successful adoption of integrated approach by Smt Kavitha has motivated 55 farmers to adopt similar farm technology. Her achievements have also inspired and empowered 70 rural women entrepreneurs.

Training Coverage

During training program, various topics related to millets and value addition were covered like importance of millets, nutritive value of millets, post-harvest management practices of millets, primary and secondary processing of millets, bakery products, RTE products in millets as Millet Dosai Mix, Adai Mix, Mixture Making, packing technologies, branding and license obtaining procedures, machineries related to primary and secondary processing in millets, domestic and export opportunities for value added products and government subsidy and schemes. The training program encompassed both theoretical sessions and practical hands-on learning experiences.



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(28) Skill based training made milk based enterprise a success

Story of Smt G Mageswari from Kancheepuram district of Tamil Nadu

Background

Smt G Mageswari, a 32-year-old women farmer from Ozugarai village in Uthiramerur block, Kancheepuram district, is actively engaged in dairy farming to support her family of five. Her primary source of income comes from selling milk of cow within local community. Despite her enthusiasm and dedication, the income generated from selling milk of cow was not sufficient to meet need of her family. Recognizing the need to explore alternative means, she planned to enhance her knowledge and skills in milk processing. She reached out to TANUVAS Farmers Training Centre in Kancheepuram and came to know about skill based training program on entrepreneurship in milk based products.



Training & Motivation

Smt Mageswari decided to engage in value-added milk product as a supplementary income-generating activity which made her to participate in a skill-based training program titled 'Entrepreneurship on Milk Based Products' conducted during 26 – 31 December 2022 by TANUVAS Farmers Training Centre, Enathur, Kancheepuram in association with ATMA-SAMETI. During the training, she gained practical knowledge on preparation of various milk-based products, including paneer, sweet khoa, khoa, ghee, ice cream, gulfi, Gulab Jamun and others. These preparations were explained through method demonstrations. Additionally, she received a handbook and an e-book provided by the Joint Director of Agriculture, Kancheepuram as learning resource.

Socio-economic impact of program

- The Skill based training program motivated Smt Mageswari to start enterprise with focus on dairy made products as a supplementary income generating activity.
- Attracted by the economic benefits of milk value addition, she decided to convert milk into various value-added products such as paneer, ghee and curd. She sells these products to consumers, generating supplementary income. She realised that 100 litres of cow milk can be converted into 10 kg of milk khoa or 20 kg of chenna or 10 kg of cheese or 13 kg of milk powder or 50 litres of condensed milk or 130 litres of ice cream or 80 kg of Srikhand.
- Before training, she earned approximately Rs. 500 per day. However, after acquiring various skills during the training, she was able to increase her daily income to over Rs. 800 by selling milk products.

Contribution of the program

The skill based training program helped Smt Mageswari to acquire practical knowledge and skills required for preparation of paneer, sweet khoa, khoa, ghee, icecream, gulfi and Gulab Jamun. The program also exposed her to income generating potential of processing and value addition.

Influence on other Farmers

The income enhancement demonstrated by Smt Mageswari and her dedication has inspired many other rural farm women in the area to pursue dairy farming. She has emerged as a role model for local women in both milk-based product development and marketing. Her success story is often cited as an example for rural youths.

Training Coverage

The training program provided comprehensive coverage on various aspects related to milk and milk-based product development including introduction to milch breeds of cattle and buffaloes, composition and importance of milk, milking methods, clean milk production, preparation of khoa and sweet khoa, preparation of Gulab Jamun, adulterants in milk and its detection methods, preparation of butter, ghee, yogurt, rasagulla, pasunthi and gulfi, cream separation and uses of skim milk, preparation of chenna, ice cream, shrikhand, flavour milk and paneer and exposure visit for practical orientation. These concepts helped the participants in gaining complete knowledge and skills required in the field of dairy.



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(29) Rural youth realised success through country poultry rearing

Story of Shri R Jenson Roche from Kanniyakumari district of Tamil Nadu

Background

Shri R Jenson Roche, B. Com graduate from Ramanathichenputhur, Kanyakumari district, was associated with the rubber business. He realized the need for a career change due to the declining profitability in rubber. Consequently, he decided to venture into the domain of animal husbandry, with specifically focusing on country chicken rearing. Starting his new endeavour with 500 chicks, he embarked on his entrepreneurial journey with great enthusiasm and determination. He was faced with many challenges like high chick mortality rates and suboptimal growth rates due to lack of knowledge on brooding management practices, coupled with an imbalanced feed regime and insufficient vaccination protocols.



Training & Motivation

In order to equip himself with the necessary knowledge and skills, Shri Jenson participated in week long skill based training program on 'Country Chicken Rearing' conducted during 25.02.2019 to 02.03.2019 at the TANUVAS Farmers Training Centre, Parakkai, Rajakkamangalam in association with ATMA-SAMETI. The knowledge gained during the program motivated him to implement scientifically backed brooding management techniques which significantly contributed to a decrease in chick mortality rates, thus enhancing overall flock health and productivity.

Socio-economic impact of program

- The skill-based training program provided Shri Jenson with the necessary knowledge and expertise on country chicken production, inspiring him to pursue country chicken rearing as an additional source of income.
- Prior to the training, annual income of Shri Jenson was limited to only Rs. 3.5 lakhs. However, the implementation of the skills acquired during the training helped in increasing his income substantially. He is now able to generate annual income of Rs. 4.5 lakhs. This remarkable improvement in income was achieved by efficiently utilizing the same available resources to engage in a diverse range of activities.

Contribution of the program

- The skills acquired during the training program provided Shri Jenson with valuable insights into various aspects of country chicken production. Specifically, he gained knowledge and understanding regarding proper care of day-old chicks, emphasizing the significance of maintaining hygiene and cleanliness within the poultry house.

- Additionally, he recognized the critical role of vaccination in ensuring the health and well-being of the country chicken flock.
- These newfound skills enabled him to implement best practices and effectively address crucial aspects of successful country chicken production.

Influence on other Farmers

- Shri Jenson has had a profound influence on the farming community in his locality. Through his interactions and support, he inspired about 20 fellow farmers to establish their own country chicken farms.
- Sharing of knowledge, practical insights and continuous encouragement have played a pivotal role in motivating many fellow farmers to embrace country chicken rearing as a viable agricultural venture alternative. His positive influence has contributed to the growth and expansion of the country chicken farming sector in the community.

Training Coverage

The training program covered a range of topics related to poultry farming. These topics include introduction to scope and importance of poultry, back yard poultry, commercial poultry, dual purpose poultry breeds, description of different breeds, day



old chicks, broiler and layers, Japanese quail, ducks, turkey and desi birds. Different systems of poultry farming, layers for egg production (day old chicks and rearing from 20th week), broilers for table purpose, rearing types, infrastructure requirement and hatchery management, selection of eggs and hygiene in hatchery was also covered. Hatching procedure for Japanese quail, ducks, turkey and desi birds, procurement of chicks, transportation and chick care were also included in the program.

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(30) Success achieved in Integrated Farming System through skill development

Story of Smt Sarani from Ramanathapuram district of Tamil Nadu

Background

Smt Sarani hails from Peruvayal, Ramanathapuram district of Tamil Nadu. She has dedicated herself to farming in order to support her family of four. With over a decade of experience, she has diligently cultivated paddy crop on her 2.5 acre land. Adherence to traditional farming practices and the arid conditions of her region were limiting her ability to generate adequate income from paddy cultivation to maintain the family.



Training & Motivation

Although Smt Sarani had been cultivating paddy successfully, relying solely on mono-cultivation did not yield her a satisfactory income. This made her to participate in a week long skill based training program on 'Integrated farming system' conducted during 19 – 24 December 2022 by ATMA Ramanathapuram, Tamil Nadu in association with State Agriculture Management and Extension Training Institute (SAMETI), Kudumiyamalai, Tamil Nadu and National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE), Hyderabad.

Socio-economic impact of program

- The skill-based training program provided valuable knowledge and expertise to Smt Sarani, enabling her to embrace integrated farming system approach. This encouraged her to venture into diverse agricultural activities such as crop cultivation, poultry farming, goat rearing, fishery and dairy farming as supplementary income generating activities.
- Prior to receiving the training, the monthly income of Smt Sarani was limited to Rs. 3750. However, after implementing the skills acquired through the training, she was able to generate an income of Rs. 4500 per month by effectively utilizing the existing resources.

Contribution of the program

- The skills acquired through the training program enabled Smt Sarani to grasp the significance of several key practices, including the selection of certified High Yielding Variety (HYV) seeds, compost production, the utilization of bio-fertilizers, as well as poultry, goat and cow rearing within the Integrated Farming System (IFS) unit.
- By converting farm waste into compost and implementing micro-irrigation techniques to minimize water usage, she effectively reduced input costs while maximizing income following IFS approach.

Influence on other Farmers

- The success and passion of Smt Sarani for farming have inspired many other rural farm women in her locality to take up farming as a profession. She has become a role model for these women, showing them the possibilities and opportunities in the production and marketing of crops, cow milk, goat and chicken produced under IFS approach.
- Smt Sarani is actively contributing to the empowerment and skill development of other women in the community. She is sharing her knowledge and experiences with about 50 women farmers from her village.

Training Coverage

The training program was comprehensive in its coverage with focus on Integrated Farming System (IFS) approach. The program covered topics like soil fertility, crop productivity and animal productivity and needs of integrated approaches, suitability of IFS in different eco-systems and criteria for selection of its components, benefits and evaluation indices of such system, water recycling and sustainability and role of honey bee in IFS and resource recycling in IFS, fodder production technology in dry land farming, role of poultry farming in dry land IFS and role of goat farming in dry land IFS, role of mushroom cultivation and women empowerment through dry land IFS, role of value addition in IFS, role of sericulture in dry land IFS and their cultivation practices, role of goat/sheep farming in dryland IFS, role of fish farming in integrated farming. In order to provide practical insights, exposure visits to successful IFS farmers were also organized.



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(31) Youth achieved success through STRY training on Integrated Dairy Development

Story of Shri P Ragul from Dharmapuri district of Tamil Nadu

Background

Shri P Ragul is a young and enthusiastic farmer from Madhikonpalayam in Dharmapuri district of Tamil Nadu. He practices farming to support his family of four. He has explored various opportunities on his two acres of agricultural land to generate sufficient income. He cultivates crops such as paddy, sugarcane and groundnut. Additionally, he maintains a small dairy farm with five milch animals, which generates a good additional income for him. In order to further supplement his income, he also grows fruit crops like mangoes and coconut trees.



Training & Motivation

Shri P Ragul has been successful in cultivating crops, but he has always had a desire to explore animal husbandry sectors, particularly dairy farming, in order to achieve higher returns with limited investment. He has been seeking opportunities to experiment and venture into dairy farming as a mean to diversify his activities and expand his income base. He participated in a short duration skill based training program conducted under Skill Training for Rural Youth (STRY) on 'Integrated Dairy Development' conducted during 26 – 31 December 2022 by SAMETI, Kudumiyanmalai, Pudukottai in association with National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE), Hyderabad.

Socio-economic impact of program

The skill-based training program provided Shri P Ragul with the necessary knowledge and skills required for practicing integrated dairy development. The program motivated him to take up dairy farming as a supplementary income generating activity. Prior to the training, his annual income was limited to not more than Rs. 2.70 lakhs. However, with the diversification practiced after participating in the training program, his income has increased substantially to more than Rs. 3.90 lakhs per year.

Contribution of the program

- The training program equipped Shri P Ragul with valuable skills and knowledge related to breeding management and health care practices in dairy farming. By implementing these skills, he is able to enhance the overall health, productivity, and performance of his dairy unit.

- He also gained knowledge on different vaccinations required for dairy cattle, the recommended schedules for administering vaccines and the potential benefits of vaccination programs at farmer level.

Influence on other Farmers

- The success and dedication of Shri P Ragul in dairy farming have inspired other rural youth in the locality to pursue dairy farming. He has become a role model for local youth, particularly in the field of dairy farming.
- He is sharing his knowledge on regular basis with around 50 farmers in his village, contributing to their learning and growth. Additionally, Shri Ragul has participated in various activities organized by Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA) and Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK).

Training Coverage

The training aimed to equip participants with a comprehensive understanding of dairy farming and enhance their capabilities in managing a successful and profitable dairy business. Frontline demonstration were conducted in various fields like 'TANUVAS Grand Supplementation' in dairy animals, 'Flame Gun in Cattle Shed disinfection', 'TANUVAS Teat Protect' in dairy animals and 'TANUCHEK SCC Kit' in dairy animals.



Hands on training was also provided on operating milking machine and chaffing and feeding of fodder crops to dairy cattle. Group exercise was also carried out to establish farmer-to-farmer extension (F2FE) network.

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(32) Nurturing synergy – skill-based training ignites success in integrated farming system ventures

Story of Smt Radhika from Perambalur district of Tamil Nadu

Background

Smt Radhika comes from a small rural village. Her spouse is employed in a neighbouring town. They possess 5 acres of farmland where Smt Radhika and her mother-in-law cultivate maize during the Kharif season and cash crops during the Rabi season. Smt Radhika also maintains backyard poultry and goats for any unforeseen requirement. She maintains a diverse farming system that includes both crop cultivation and animal husbandry which allowed her to meet food and financial needs of the family.



Training & Motivation

In order to further diversify her farming activities and to enhance her livelihood through income generating activities she participated in a week long skill based training program on 'IFS' during 5 – 11 September 2022 by KVK, ATMA Perambalur, Tamil Nadu in association with State Agriculture Management and Extension Training Institute (SAMETI), Kudumiyamalai, Pudukottai of Tamil Nadu and MANAGE, Hyderabad. The program was conducted under STRY, a component implemented under SMAE by the MOA&FW.

Socio-economic impact of program

- Smt Radhika adopted a diverse approach by cultivating groundnut, bajra, flower crops, vegetables, and fodder crops in the same field, alongside animal components. This integrated approach not only fertilized the land but also maximized the yield. As a result, Radhika was able to reduce her reliance on expensive commercial fertilizers and animal feeds.
- Prior to the training, annual income of Smt Radhika from agriculture crops was limited to not more than Rs. 1.7 lakhs. However, after implementing the skills acquired during the training, she managed to increase her income to over Rs. 3.4 lakhs per year by effectively utilizing the existing resources.

Contribution of the program

The farm of Smt Radhika has become more productive, enabling her to cultivate a wide range of high-yielding crops and animal products that she can sell at premium prices. By implementing the IFS approach, she has also managed to reduce production costs, thereby increasing her overall profits. The combination of increased productivity, diverse offerings and cost reduction has significantly contributed to the success of Smt Radhika.

Influence on other Farmers

- Farm of Smt Radhika has become a shining example of sustainable agriculture within her community. Through her dedication and hard work, she has implemented various practices that promote environmental practices and community well-being.
- Innovative and sustainable farming methods adopted by Smt Radhika have not gone unnoticed. Many other farmers in the community witnessed the positive outcomes and benefits of her integrated farming system, which motivated them to adopt similar practices. Smt Radhika has become a respected figure among local farmers.
- The success story of Smt Radhika has inspired many aspiring farmers who are seeking more sustainable and profitable ways to practice farming. Her journey served as an inspiration and a testament to the power of innovative and environmentally friendly farming practices.



Training Coverage

The skill training programme provided a comprehensive coverage on various topics like introduction to IFS, IFS principles & practices, sustainable crop cultivation practices, farm visits, nutrition gardening, agroforestry, mushroom production, poultry production, waste recycling, precision farming, sustainable use of inorganic inputs, schemes supporting IFS by State & GOI, improved vegetable production technologies, profitable dairy farming, bio-gas production, Integrated Nutrient Management, drought mitigation in agriculture, pest management practices for sustainable farming, fish farming and Apiculture.

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(33) A journey of prosperity through post-harvest management and value addition in spices

Story of Shri D Vimalan from Theni district of Tamil Nadu

Background

Shri D Vimalan, a 39-year-old resident of Cumbam, Theni district from Tamil Nadu has demonstrated that what kind of impact value enhancement in spices can have on improving the socio-economic conditions of farmers. With assistance from extension functionaries of ATMA and the Spices Board, he is utilizing post-harvest technology, value addition and effective marketing strategies to enhance the economic prospects of key spices in Theni district. Through processing and value addition of locally available spice crops, Shri Vimalan is generating income to support his livelihood.



Training & Motivation

Spices Board and the District ATMA Office provided technological support through a skill based training program conducted on 'Post-Harvest Technology and Value Addition in Spices'. The program was conducted during 14 – 19 March 2022 by the Field Office, Spices Board, Ministry of Commerce and Industry Government of India, Bodinayakanur under STRY, a component implemented under SMAE by the MoA&FW, GOI.

Socio-economic impact of program

- The training program exposed Shri Vimalan to the essential knowledge and skills required on post-harvest technology and value addition for spices, inspiring him to explore spice value addition as an additional income generating activity.
- After completing the training program, the business volume for Shri Vimalan has done up, leading to a substantial increase in net revenue. Currently, the entrepreneur earns approximately 10 lakhs per year by processing and selling 2 tonnes of cardamom and other spices, compared to around 6 lakhs before undergoing the training.



Contribution of the program

Skills learnt during the training program helped him to comprehend the significance of value addition, nutritional value and the immune-boosting properties of spices. Shri Vimalan has now initiated the sale of value added spice products through an e-commerce platform named SAX Spices (www.saxspices.com).

Influence on other Farmers

Shri Vimalan has emerged as an influence in his locality. By showcasing his success, sharing knowledge and introducing innovative practices, he is motivating many young entrepreneurs to get involved in the high return skill oriented business at district level.

Training Coverage

During skill training program participants were exposed to various topics on spices, export potential and domestic demand for the spice, value added products, garam masala, spice masala-preparation and curry powder preparation. Spice-mix and spice paste preparation, spice garland making, FSSAI awareness and license and branding of spice value added products. Value addition in garlic, cardamom and black pepper, tamarind, curry leaf and red chillies, clove and nutmeg, micro-finance assistance, support from the government and institutions were also covered. Exposure visits were also organised to the Department of Post-Harvest Technology, HC & RI, TNAU, Periyakulam, EDII, Periyakulam Horti Incubation Forum, HC & RI, Periyakulam and Chocolate Manufacturing Unit, State Horticulture Farm, Periyakulam.



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(34) Skills for sweet success – skill based training transforms beekeeping into a lucrative venture

Story of Smt J Helan Abila Mary from Thoothukudi district of Tamil Nadu

Background

Smt J Helan Abila Mary is a farmer from Alwarthirunagari block in Thoothukudi district of Tamil Nadu. She is having 4.56 acres of agricultural land and is dedicated to farming to generate income sufficient enough to support her family. Knowledge of Smt Mary on agriculture led her to explore additional opportunities in agriculture and allied activities. She is maintaining her home and homestead garden in 1.56-acre, while the remaining land is utilized for cultivating paddy crop on one acre land and banana on the remaining land.



Training & Motivation

Smt Mary had continuous desire to experiment with other options having potential for yielding higher returns with limited investment. She was introduced to different aspects of beekeeping through a week long skill based training program conducted on 'Beekeeping' during 23-28 August 2021 by ATMA at ICAR - SCAD-KVK, Vagaikulam Thoothukudi district, Tamil Nadu in association with State Agriculture Management and Extension Training Institute (SAMETI), Kudumiyanmalai, Pudukottai, Tamil Nadu and MANAGE, Hyderabad.

Socio-economic impact of program

- The skill-based training program enabled Smt Mary to gain the necessary knowledge and skills in beekeeping resulting in increased productivity and income, and therefore, proved to be a viable solution for resource limited person.
- Implementing the skills acquired during the training, she managed to generate an annual income of over Rs. 3.00 lakhs by getting involved in various beekeeping activities.
- The beekeeping program not only contributed in augmenting production but also provided additional income through the sale of honey and its by-products.

Contribution of the program

The skills acquired during the training program helped Smt Mary to recognize the significance of integrating beekeeping with the existing cropping system. With the assistance of the Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), she acquired bee hives and got engaged in beekeeping along with her existing farming activities.

Influence on other Farmers

- Inspired by the income and success of Smt Mary, many other young farmers from nearby places expressed interest in pursuing beekeeping as a profession. She has become a role model for local farmers and a source of inspiration for rural youth.
- Smt Mary is generous in sharing her knowledge. She is encouraging roughly about 70 fellow farmers from her village and contributing in their growth and development. In addition, she actively participates in different farmer oriented activities of Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA) and Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) to contribute further to the farming community.



Training Coverage

Various aspects of beekeeping were covered during the training program including introduction to beekeeping and role played by beekeeping in agriculture, types of beekeeping, basic equipment needed, ideal time/ season for beekeeping, importance of beekeeping in pollination, economics of bee keeping and practical exposure.

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(35) From soil to plate – skill development catalyzes success in organic farming

Story of Smt C Jayalakshmi from Vellore district of Tamil Nadu

Background

Smt Jayalakshmi is from Koranthangal village, Vellore district, Tamil Nadu. She left government job to pursue her interest in agriculture. She practices integrated farming in her 10 acre farm. She cultivates crops such as paddy, groundnut, black gram, green gram, guava and roses. She also maintains a pond for Rohu fish, integrated with paddy cultivation. Additionally, she manages Gir, Sahiwal, Holstein Friesian cross, Jersey cross, and Murrah buffalo, yielding 100 litres of milk daily.



Training & Motivation

As a young woman farmer, Smt Jayalakshmi constantly strived to enhance her skills and improve knowledge which encouraged her to participate in a week long training program on 'Organic Farming' conducted during 28.02.2022 – 05.03.2022 by VIT School of Agricultural Innovations and Advanced Learning (VAIAL), Vellore in association with Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA), Vellore and State Agriculture Management and Extension Training Institute (SAMETI), Pudukkottai, Tamil Nadu. The program was conducted under STRY, a component implemented under SMAE by Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (GoI) in association with MANAGE, Hyderabad.

Socio-economic impact of program

- The skill based training program helped Smt Jayalakshmi gain knowledge on organic farming and motivated her to practice paddy cultivation using organic methods.
- Skills gained through training program helped her in preparing organic inputs such as panchagavya, jeevamirtham, coconut buttermilk solution, arappu buttermilk solution, fish amino acid, five leaf extract, azolla, and vermicompost. These inputs are regularly utilized in the cultivation of traditional paddy (Mappillai samba and Punkar). This approach significantly reduced the cost of cultivation while improving the quality with good market value.
- She is able to generate an income of Rs 1.32 Lakhs from paddy cultivation. She is also organically cultivating crops like groundnut, button and paneer roses, as well as Taiwan pink guava.

Contribution of the program

The skills acquired during the training program enabled her to grasp the significance and procedures involved in producing biopesticides, biofertilizers, organic manures,

vermicomposting and Azolla. She also gained knowledge on the application of organic manure in both agriculture and horticulture crops.

Influence on other Farmers

- Inspired by the success of Smt Jayalakshmi, women in the neighbourhood developed interest in organic production and integrated farming methods. She also took the initiative to produce traditional paddy seeds in her own field, which were then distributed to other farmers in the village for cultivation.
- She is regularly sharing knowledge on organic farming with other farmers in the village and actively participate in various farmer centric programs organized by ATMA, Vellore, and KVK, Virinjipuram.

Training Coverage

Training program covered various topics like preparation of bio-fertilizers and bio-pesticides, importance, use and application of Rhizobium, Phosphobacteria, Azospirillum, Trichoderma and Pseudomonas, mechanism of action of bio-agents and demonstration of bio-agents against the stem borer in banana, importance and nutritional qualities of vermicompost, application of vermicompost in the field and demonstration on preparation of vermicomposting, importance, uses and preparation of Azolla using different substrates, nutritive value and feeding levels in livestock and poultry and demonstration on preparation of Azolla. Use and preparation of different organic manure and demonstration on preparation of organic manure, steps and procedures for organic cultivation of field crops, methods of application of organic manure on paddy, pulses and fodder and strategies for integrated farming system in organic way were also covered.



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(36) Skill training made Integrated Farming System a success

Story of Shri Mugundhan G from Sivagangai district of Tamil Nadu

Background

Shri Mugundhan is a farmer from Kallal block in Sivagangai district. He owns two acres of irrigated land and a small dairy farm along with goats and desi birds. Agriculture is his main source of income. He mainly cultivates field crops such as paddy, groundnut, pulses and vegetables. He has always shown interest in adopting new farming technologies.



Training & Motivation

The orientation of Shri Mugundhan towards innovation and experimenting with new things encouraged him to enrol for a short duration skill based training program on 'Integrated Farming System' conducted during 20 – 25 September 2021 by ATMA, Sivagangai in association with SAMETI, Tamil Nadu and MANAGE, Hyderabad. The exposure to technical knowledge in agriculture facilitated change in his attitude and motivated him to view agriculture as an agri-business option.

Socio-economic impact of program

- The skill-based training program helped Shri Mugundhan gain the necessary knowledge and skills required for practicing integrated farming system (IFS) successfully and adopt it as a supplementary income generating activity. The cost of production significantly decreased due to reduced use of external inputs and he is also able to effectively recycle available resources as on-farm inputs. This approach not only reduced environmental, soil and water pollution but also effectively managed farm and other wastes.
- Prior to the STRY training, Shri Mugundhan struggled to generate an annual income of even Rs. 50,000. However, after implementing various technologies and applying the skills acquired during the training, he managed to increase his income to over Rs. 1.00 lakh per year. He achieved this success by efficiently utilizing the same available resources and engaging in various income generating activities like selling milk from a dairy unit, use of vermicompost and vermiwash in crop production.

Contribution of the program

The program made a significant contribution in transition of Shri Mugundhan from cultivating conventional crops with average yields to adopting the latest improved agricultural techniques. It provided him with the knowledge and resources necessary to implement these techniques, resulting in increased productivity and improved agricultural practices on his farm.

Awards & Recognition

The success of Shri Mugundhan as a farmer was recognized and honoured at the block level camp organized under the ATMA scheme. In addition, he received various awards from Department of Agriculture in the Kallal block of the Sivagangai district, acknowledging his achievement and contributions to the agricultural sector.

Influence on other Farmers

- Adoption of the integrated farming system (IFS) model by Shri Mugundhan inspired many others to take interest and implement it on their own farms. Due to his achievements, he is recognized as a 'Progressive Farm Master Trainer' and has become a source of motivation for farmers in the district.
- His farm has become a popular destination for farmers and youth who regularly visit to witness his success, and many of them choose to follow his farming practices.
- He emerged as a role model for establishing a successful Integrated Farming System based farm in Kallal block of Sivagangai district.

Training Coverage

The training program encompasses a comprehensive coverage of the different aspects covered under integrated farming system (IFS) approach like crop and animal productivity, soil fertility, suitability of IFS in different eco systems & criteria for selection of IFS components, benefits of IFS and its evaluation, fodder production technology in dry land farming, water recycling and sustainability and role of honey bee, poultry, goat farming, mushroom cultivation, value addition, sericulture, sheep farming and fish farming in integrated farming.



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(37) A women farmer scripts success story with organic farming

Story of Smt Nirmala Bada from Surguja district of Chhattisgarh

Background

Smt Nirmala Bada is a resident of Kariyasoor of Sitapur block in Surguja district, Chhattisgarh. She practice organic vegetable farming along with her husband. They have a total of 5 acres of land, out of which 1 acre is utilized for household and kitchen gardening, while the remaining 4 acres of land is used for field crops. They also have two cows for milk production. Earlier they used to cultivate crops like paddy, wheat, and linseed. Now, they have shifted to cultivation of vegetable crops such as brinjal, bhindi, tomato, cole crops and leafy vegetables, which has proven to be profitable. Smt Nirmala Bada has also ventured into production of vermicompost and bio-pesticides for her organic farm.

Training & Motivation

Realizing the harmful effects of chemical fertilizers and pesticides on human health and the environment, Smt Nirmala participated in a short duration skill based training program on 'organic farming'. The program was conducted during 16 – 21 November 2022 by Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Mainpat (IGKV, Raipur) in association with State Agriculture Management and Extension Training Institute (SAMETI), Raipur and National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE), Hyderabad.



Socio-economic impact of program

The training program had a significant socio-economic impact on Smt Nirmala Bada. Equipped with the knowledge and skills required for organic vegetable farming, she embraced organic cultivation as an income-generating activity. The shift has helped in income enhancement of Smt Nirmala. The income, as an impact of training program, increased to Rs 2.35 lakhs per annum from annual income of Rs 1.56 lakhs.

Contribution of the program

The skills acquired during the training program played a vital role in shaping understanding of Smt Nirmala Bada on organic farming. She learned about the preparation of vermicompost, organic pesticides and various organic farming practices. Moreover, she gained awareness on the harmful effects of conventional farming practices involving chemical fertilizers and pesticides.

Influence on other Farmers

Smt Nirmala Bada has become a role model for other farmers in her locality. Observing her success and passion for organic farming, other farmers have shown interest in adopting similar practices. She is considered an example and inspiration by other rural youth and farmwomen, motivating them to take up organic farming. She regularly shares her knowledge and expertise gained during the process by participating in various training and extension activities organized by Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) and other organisations.

Training Coverage

The training program covered a wide range of topics related to organic farming. Participants were introduced to the importance of organic farming, principles and practices of organic agriculture, and the effects of organic produce on soil, human health and the environment. They learned about nutrient sources in organic farming, crop rotation, crop residue management, green manuring, biofertilizers, vermicompost and various organic pesticides. The program also addressed challenges in organic farming, organic cultivation of specific crops like jeeraphool and vegetables, organic agriculture brands available in the market, certification of organic produce and included exposure visits for practical orientation.



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(38) Mushroom cultivation transformed into a source of additional income through skill development

Story of Shri Bhisham Kumar Nag from Narayanpur district of Chhattisgarh

Background

Shri Bhisham Kumar Nag is a young tribal farmer from Karlakha village in Narayanpur district, Chhattisgarh. After his matriculation he started supporting his father in agricultural activities spread on a total of 10 acres of land. Out of this, 1 acre is used for household and homestead gardening, 5 acres of land is utilized for field crops and the remaining 4 acres land accommodates three farm ponds used for fish-cum-duck culture. Additionally, he is engaged in mushroom cultivation and also keeps cows and poultry birds.



Training & Motivation

Shri Bhisham Kumar Nag has always been interested in maximizing harvest with minimum investment. He participated in skill-based training program on 'Mushroom Production Techniques' conducted during 13 – 18 December 2021. The training program was conducted by KVK, Narayanpur in collaboration with the State Agriculture Management and Extension Training Institute (SAMETI), Chhattisgarh and MANAGE, Hyderabad. During training program, Shri Bhisham received guidance on various aspects of mushroom production, including cultivation techniques, best practices and management strategies. The program aimed to equip participants with the necessary knowledge and skills for helping them practice mushroom cultivation successfully.

Socio-economic impact of program

The skill based training program played a crucial role in equipping Shri Bhisham Nag with required skills on oyster mushroom production and encouraged him to take it as a supplementary income generating activity. Prior to the training, his annual income was approximately Rs. 2.50 lakhs, which has now increased to more than Rs. 3.20 lakhs per annum.

Contribution of the program

The training program provided Shri Bhisham with valuable skills related to hygiene and cleanliness in mushroom cultivation. He learned about selecting appropriate paddy straw, cultivation rooms, materials and mushroom spawn. Additionally, he gained knowledge on the impact of environmental factors such as humidity and temperature on mushroom cultivation and ways to control the same.

Influence on other Farmers

The success of Shri Bhisham in mushroom production has influenced various other youth from village and encouraged them to take up similar farming practices as source of additional income. He has become a role model for local farmers, especially in the production and marketing of mushrooms. His achievements serve as an inspiration for rural youth.

Training Coverage

The training program covered various aspects of mushroom production, including the principles and practices of cultivation, type of mushrooms and their use and distinction between edible and poisonous varieties. Participants learned about mushroom cultivation as an income generating activity, the status of mushroom production at the national and international level and the available opportunities and constraints in the field. The training also focused on different types of mushrooms, such as paddy straw mushroom, oyster mushroom and milky mushrooms. Topics covered included cultivation procedures, compost production technology, spawn production, bed preparation, infrastructure, economics of mushroom production, disease management, pests and practical exposure visits.



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(39) Story of a youth from traditional farming to thriving poultry entrepreneur

Story of Smt Savitri from Balrampur district of Chhattisgarh

Background

Smt Savitri is from Jhalariya Village in Balrampur district, Chhattisgarh. She used to cultivate paddy during the Kharif season and potato and tomato in their backyard Badi during the Rabi season. In addition, she used to rear indigenous poultry birds which will encounter with challenges like high bird mortality due to a lack of knowledge in scientific rearing practices like brooding, vaccination and feeding management. Various challenges associated with crop production and bird rearing made it difficult for her to generate sufficient income to maintain her family.

Training & Motivation

Smt Savitri was looking for opportunities to enhance her knowledge to overcome the challenges faced by her in practicing farming. This led her to enrol for a short duration skill



based training program on 'Poultry Rearing and Management' conducted during 24 – 29 November 2022 by Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Balrampur. This training significantly enhanced technical skills and knowledge of Smt Savitri and empowered her to adopt poultry farming as a means of self-employment.

Socio-economic impact of program

- There was good demand for livestock products in the district. The skill based training program on poultry rearing and management provided farmers like Smt Savitri with a valuable opportunity to engage in scientific management of poultry birds.
- Equipped with the knowledge and skills acquired from the training, Smt Savitri ventured into backyard poultry farming and specifically focused on the production of Kadaknath birds as a supplementary income generating activity. Her training on scientific management of poultry birds including housing, feeding, breeding and health care helped in efficient management of poultry farm.

- Before training she was rearing indigenous poultry birds and was facing various problems like high mortality rate due to lack of knowledge on scientific rearing practices like brooding, vaccination and feeding management.

Contribution of the program

- The skills learned during the training program enabled Smt Savitri to understand the importance of poultry rearing and management, as well as the significance of scientific practices like brooding, vaccination and feed management.
- Smt Savitri ingeniously constructed a wooden frame with an electric bulb and a water bowl to create the required temperature and humidity for Kadaknath chicks. This innovative approach has contributed to her success and she now earns a handsome income through the sale of Kadaknath birds.

Influence on other Farmers

Smt Savitri has become a source of inspiration for fellow farmers who aspire to improve their socio-economic conditions through poultry farming. Her story demonstrates that with the right knowledge and skills, success is attainable. She shares her experience with other farmers, provide guidance on scientific rearing practices and disease management and overall poultry care. Her knowledge sharing has empowered others to adopt better practices and improve their own poultry farming endeavours.

Training Coverage

The program covered various aspects of poultry rearing and management like scope and importance of poultry, backyard poultry, commercial poultry, information on different breeds and management of day old chicks, broiler and layers. The program also covered different systems of poultry farming and maintenance of hygiene in hatchery and innovations and integration with market.

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(40) Skill training brought prosperity through dragon fruit cultivation

Story of Smt Lalita Devi from Kishanganj district of Bihar

Background

Smt Lalita Devi is from Kishanganj district of Bihar and have completed education up to high school level. She has transformed herself into a successful women agripreneur through hard work and creativity in farming. Initially she used to assist her husband, who worked as a daily wage worker in nearby farms, in cultivating maize and paddy on their 0.25 hectare land following traditional practices. She was able to earn only about Rs. 15,000 annually because of limited land and adoption of traditional practices. This compelled her to search for alternatives in agriculture with potential for generating higher income.



Training & Motivation

In 2018, Smt Lalita joined JEEVIKA, an organization dedicated to empower rural women, and her life took a transformative turn. This not only equipped her with knowledge but also encouraged her to adopt new ideas and technologies. Motivated by her newfound passion and need for more knowledge to come up with a sustainable venture in agriculture, she joined a skill based program on Organic Farming of Dragon Fruit conducted by KVK, Kishanganj in association with BAMETI, Patna, and the MANAGE, Hyderabad. Smt Lalita received intensive training from experts and acquired essential skills and knowledge required for practicing organic farming.

Socio-economic impact of program

- With the training and support received, Smt Lalita took bold steps towards transforming her farming practices. Instead of sticking to traditional crops, she decided to establish a dragon fruit orchard.
- She kick-started her venture using the 50 dragon fruit plants provided by KVK during training. Not stopping there, she also diversified her agricultural activities by cultivating various vegetables and following pineapple intercropping techniques in her field. Additionally, she started raising goats of regional breeds.
- The impact of the program on various initiatives taken by Smt Lalita was remarkable. Her annual income increased substantially from Rs. 15,000 to approximately Rs. 1.08 lakh per year. This increase not only brought financial stability to her family but also instilled self-confidence and earned her social recognition. Smt Lalita became a resource person for various programs

organised by KVK, ATMA and JEEVIKA and is motivating other women in agriculture.

Contribution of the program

Recognizing the potential of organic farming, Smt Lalita initiated a self-help group at the village level and encouraged women farmers to adopt new agricultural techniques. Her dedication and leadership qualities led to her nomination as a SAC Member of Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Kishanganj. She became a master trainer and group leader, inspiring and guiding other farmers in their journey towards success.

Influence on other Farmers

The influence of Smt Lalita extended beyond her immediate community. As a village resource person, she motivated other farmwomen with small land holdings to engage in vegetable production and goat rearing. Her efforts resulted in approximately 12 farmwomen from her village adopting vegetable production as a mean to increase their income.



Young people in rural areas looked up to Smt Lalita as a local role model for her expertise in growing and selling dragon fruit saplings, vegetables, fruits and other products. Her involvement with Krishi Vigyan Kendra allowed her to stay updated with the latest agricultural technologies, which she shared during exposure visits and farm visits arranged by different organizations.

Training Coverage

The training program covered various aspects of organic production of dragon fruit organic fertilizer, dragon fruit cultivation, infrastructure establishment, organic mulching, pest management, harvesting and value addition. The participants also received hands-on practical training and actively participated in discussions.

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(41) The honey trail – a path to success in beekeeping

Story of Shri Kuldeep from Chamba district of Himachal Pradesh

Background

Shri Kuldeep hails from the Picturesque village of Kalsuin in Chamba district, Himachal Pradesh. He is an aspiring farmer cultivating cereals on a small piece of land and collecting honey from wild honey bee colonies. However, his earnings were not sufficient to sustain his family of six which made him to explore other options.



Training & Motivation

Motivated to seek higher returns and improve income of his family, Shri Kuldeep decided to explore alternate avenues. He participated in a week long skill-based training program on ‘Scientific beekeeping under mini mission under revised National Beekeeping & Honey Mission (NBHM)’ conducted during 7 – 13 March 2022 under STRY by SAMETI, Mashobra in association with MANAGE, Hyderabad.

Socio-economic impact of program

- The skill-based training proved to be a game-changer for Shri Kuldeep. Equipped with the knowledge and skills acquired during the program, he decided to take up beekeeping as a profession.
- The application of technology and knowledge acquired during the training program helped Shri Kuldeep in enhancing his annual income to over Rs. 4.00 lakhs from Rs 1.00 lakhs.



Contribution of the program

- The training program played vital role in the success of Shri Kuldeep as a beekeeper.
- It provided him with a comprehensive understanding of different honey bee species, the significance of queen rearing, seasonal management of honey bees and the identification of important flora for bee colonies.
- The training also improved his proficiency in apiary handling and swarm management.

Influence on other Farmers

The success achieved by Shri Kuldeep in beekeeping has inspired four youth from his village to take up beekeeping as profession. They have joined him on trips to Rajasthan and Haryana to transport bee colonies, further expanding the reach of beekeeping in their community.

Training Coverage

- During the skill training program various aspects of beekeeping were covered like importance of honey bees, different honey bee species, bee structures, division of labour within a colony, bee product extraction, significance of important flora for bees, pesticide handling, honey bee diseases and identifying insects and bird enemies.
- Furthermore, the training emphasized on the role of specific crops such as vegetables and oilseeds in providing honey and nectar during winter or periods of scarcity.
- The training program also highlighted the importance of maintaining soil health for the production of favourable flora for honey bees, along with essential knowledge on medicinal, aromatic, and wild flora significant to honey bee foraging. The participants were also provided practical exposure during the program to make learning more comprehensive and complete.



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(42) Buzzing to financial independence – skill training for sustainable income in beekeeping

Story of Shri Govindrao G Nayak from Uttara Kannada district of Karnataka

Background

Shri Govindrao G Nayak, a Diploma Mechanical Engineer, made a life-changing decision to become a farmer and take care of his ancestral property and aging parents. Shri Govindrao residing in a small village nestled amidst the forested area of Ekkambi, Sirsi taluk, Uttara Kannada district, Karnataka; owns approximately four acres of land. He cultivates a variety of perennial crops, including arecanut, black pepper, cocoa, banana, coconut, sapota, cashew, mango, jackfruit, garcinia (Kokum), and mango steen. He diversified towards beekeeping for its business potential and ability to bring prosperity in his area.



Training & Motivation

Eager to expand his skills on beekeeping, Shri Govindrao participated in a skill based program on Beekeeping conducted during 13 – 18 December 2021 under STRY. This program was organized by the University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad; ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Uttara Kannada, Sirsi and the MANAGE, Hyderabad. During the training, Shri Govindrao attended motivational lectures by two successful young beekeepers, Shri Sandesh Bandekar and Shri Ganesh Naik from Ankola taluk. Their inspiring stories deepened his interest in the area of beekeeping.

Socio-economic impact of program

- The training program helped Shri Govindrao in increasing the number of Apis Cerana colonies from 10 to 25. This expansion provided him with a larger base for honey production and colony development. In 2021, Shri Govindrao was realising a yield of 5 kg of honey from 10 boxes. However, in 2022, his honey production registered an impressive growth to 55 kg from the same number of boxes, showcasing his enhanced skills and improved management practices.
- He has successfully developed 15 new colonies, with each at an average producing approximately 4 kg of honey. Collection of around 600 gms of wax, further diversifying his revenue streams.
- Capitalising on the quality of honey and other products, he is selling approximately 40 kg of honey at a price of about Rs. 600 per kg. Furthermore, he generated additional income by selling 15 colonies, complete with boxes, stands, and feeding cups, at Rs. 3000 per unit.

Contribution of the program

- Learning various aspects like dividing techniques, colony management and artificial feeding allowed Shri Govindrao to expand his bee colonies and increase honey production and realise better price for his produce.
- Communication with professional beekeepers became a valuable resource for Shri Govindrao, allowing him to exchange ideas, seek advice and find solutions to problems that may arise in beekeeping.

Influence on other Farmers

By sharing his experience and showcasing the possibilities of beekeeping, Shri Govindrao has become a source of inspiration and a catalyst for the growth of beekeeping activities among other farmers and rural youth in the region. Approximately 25 individuals from Bengaluru, Belgavi, and Uttara Kannada districts have been inspired by his achievements in



beekeeping. His Bee Farm has become a destination for many youth from Bengaluru in search of knowledge and procurement of apiculture-related products.

Training Coverage

The training program covered a wide range of topics, providing comprehensive and practical insights into various aspects of beekeeping, from bee biology to colony management, product diversification, and marketing.

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(43) Seeds of prosperity – enhancing farm income through skill development training on quality seed production

Story of Shri Manoj Halagannanavar from Haveri district of Karnataka

Background

In the agricultural heartland of Haveri district, Karnataka, a dynamic and aspiring farmer named Shri Manoj Halagannanavar sought ways to bolster his farm income. With a vision to enhance his financial prospects, Shri Manoj turned to KVK Haveri for invaluable advice. The team of scientists recognized the potential of district in horticulture crops and proposed seed production as a promising avenue for increased income. Encouraged by their insights, Shri Manoj embraced this opportunity and made a firm commitment to explore opportunities in seed production at his 1.2 ha of agricultural land.



Training & Motivation

Determined to avail the opportunities available in seed production in horticultural crops, Shri Manoj participated in a week-long skill-based training program on 'Quality Seed Production' conducted during 3 – 8 January 2022. Conducted by ICAR – Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Haveri in collaboration with State Agricultural Management and Extension Training Institute (SAMETI), Dharwad, Karnataka and MANAGE, Hyderabad. The training equipped Shri Manoj with comprehensive knowledge and practical insights into seed production.

Socio-economic impact of program

- The skill development training proved instrumental in transforming farm activities of Shri Manoj. Previously, his primary crops were tomatoes and soybeans, yielding an annual net income of Rs. 2.20 lakhs.
- The knowledge acquired during the training helped him expand the operations to include tomato seed production on one acre and soybean seed production on two acres. As a result, his annual net income increased to Rs. 3.55 lakhs, achieved through the sale of tomato seeds and soybean seeds (16 quintals).

Contribution of the program

- The skill training program helped Shri Manoj in acquiring the necessary knowledge, skills and attitudes required for successful seed production.
- The training created employment opportunities for skilled rural youth, who were required for various tasks in seed production like hand emasculating and pollination. This resulted in higher wages for the rural youth and a positive impact on the local economy.

Influence on other Farmers

- The story of Shri Manoj in taking up seed production successfully as an income enhancing activity has attracted the attention of neighbouring farmers.
- Intrigued by the promising results, more than 40 farmers from nearby villages have since embraced seed production in their own fields.
- The technology has spread organically through the adoption by these farmers, contributing to the overall advancement of the agricultural community.

Training Coverage

The training program covered various aspects of seed production, including site management, cultivation practices, crop selection, certification of basic seed source, field inspections, isolation distance maintenance, crop monitoring, harvesting,



processing, seed quality, seed certification, seed testing, packaging, marketing, and the role of public seed agencies and infrastructure. Practical classes and exposure visits were also conducted to reinforce learning and provide hands-on experience to the participants.

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(44) Hobby turned into successful enterprise – A case of beekeeping

Story of Shri Pradeep Manjunatha Naik from Uttara Kannada district of Karnataka

Background

Shri Pradeep Manjunatha Naik, a 23-year-old youth from the remote village of Kadalli in Siddapur Taluk, Uttara Kannada district, Karnataka, has achieved remarkable success as a beekeeper. His beekeeping journey began as a hobby at the age of 18 with 4 colonies of *Apis Cerana Indica*. He resides in the midst of a dense forest area in Siddapur taluk, which offers abundant bee flora, making it an ideal location for honeybees. His family also owns 1.5 acres of land used for cultivation of Arecanut and paddy. Despite lacking scientific knowledge and practical experience in colony dividing and management techniques, his fascination with bees and their remarkable role in agriculture propelled him to explore further. Recognizing the potential of apiculture, he decided to pursue beekeeping as a profession alongside his education, demonstrating his unwavering dedication to agriculture.



Training & Motivation

The eagerness of Shri Pradeep for knowledge encouraged him to enrol for a skill based training program on 'Beekeeping' conducted during 13 – 18 December, 2021 ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Uttara Kannada, Sirsi in association with the University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad. The training proved to be a turning point in the entrepreneurial journey of Shri Pradeep. During the program, he was inspired by the success stories of young professional beekeepers, Shri Sandesh Bandekar and Shri Ganesh Naik. Their valuable insights on various aspects of apiculture, including box preparation, queen rearing techniques, and value-added products, motivated Shri Pradeep to venture into beekeeping.



Socio-economic impact of program

The training program helped Shri Pradeep increase the number of *Apis cerana indica* colonies maintained by him from four to an impressive 100, alongside two colonies of stingless bees for further exploration. The production of honey also increased from 50 kg in 2021 (from 20 boxes) to an impressive 200 kg in 2022 (from 70 boxes). He also sold 50 colonies at Rs. 1,000 per colony, showcasing the demand for his

expertise. With honey prices ranging from Rs. 450-500 per kg, the annual income of Shri Pradeep from beekeeping in 2022 amounted to approximately Rs. 1.50 lakhs.

Contribution of the program

The training program proved instrumental in success of Shri Pradeep as a beekeeper. It enabled him to become master in key aspects of beekeeping, such as ISI model bee box preparation, queen rearing techniques, clean honey harvesting, and effective colony management. He developed strong communication channels with other professional beekeepers, facilitating knowledge sharing and problem-solving. His understanding of by-products, including wax, pollen, royal jelly and value-added products, further enhanced economic prospects.



Influence on other Farmers

Shri Pradeep has encouraged more than 50 rural youths from surrounding villages to embrace beekeeping as an additional source of income. With his guidance, youth from Bedkani, Hosalli, Bilagi, Hanekoppa, Gattikai and other villages embarked on their own beekeeping ventures. Through his dedicated efforts, he established a WhatsApp group called "Malenadu Jenu Krishikaru", where he regularly shares valuable beekeeping information, further empowering aspiring beekeepers.

Training Coverage

The training program was comprehensive in its coverage with information on all possible essential aspects of beekeeping, motivational talks and practical exposure. Topics such as bee biology, foraging, honey quality, by-product utilization, natural enemies of honeybees, yield enhancement and economics of beekeeping. Experience sharing and post-training activities enhanced understanding of participants on beekeeping. Field visits to beekeeper units provided practical insights into colony management, honey value addition, colony dividing techniques and various beekeeping practices.

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(45) Thriving entrepreneurial journey of rural youth in scientific nursery management

Story of Shri Harsha from Bengaluru Rural district of Karnataka

Background

Shri Harsha, a progressive farmer from Shanthinagar, Doddaballapur, in Bengaluru Rural district of Karnataka, experienced a remarkable journey of progress in agriculture. With a passion for farming and intent to support family, Shri Harsha sought to enhance his skills and explore new avenues for income generation in agriculture. In 2021, he participated in a vocational skill training program on scientific nursery management, conducted by ICAR KVK, Bengaluru Rural, under STRY initiative.



Training & Motivation

During the week-long skill-based training program, Shri Harsha explored into the intricacies of nursery management for vegetable crops. The program, titled 'Nursery Management,' conducted during 11 – 16 January 2021 by KVK, Bengaluru Rural district in collaboration with the National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE), Hyderabad. It was during this training that aspirations of Shri Harsha took root, propelling him to embrace new possibilities.

Socio-economic impact of program

Empowered by the knowledge and expertise gained from the program, Shri Harsha underwent a transformative journey that yielded numerous socio-economic benefits -

- Inspired by the guidance of KVK experts, Shri Harsha went for diversification of crops from traditional crops like ragi and explored the cultivation of vegetable crops to augment his income on his small landholding.
- Nursery production for income - Recognizing the potential demand for quality seedlings, Shri Harsha ventured into scientific nursery production of fruit crops and solanaceous vegetables leading to enhanced income and seedlings to fellow farmers.
- The training program helped Shri Harsha in increasing his income to Rs 2.50 lakhs from Rs 1.50 lakhs.

Contribution of the program

The impact of the program extended beyond individual success. Shri Harsha credits the technical support provided by the KVK experts for his ability to cultivate and raise nursery crops scientifically, leading to better returns. The adoption of scientific technologies and farming practices not only elevated his standard of living but also enabled him to generate income during the offseason.

Awards & Recognition

The achievements of Shri Harsha did not go unnoticed. The Department of Agriculture acknowledged his contribution and nominated him for various training programs related to nursery management. His expertise and success story motivated other struggling farmers to adopt proper nursery management practices, resulting in increased yield. Additionally, Shri Harsha actively participated in farmer-scientist interaction sessions, sharing his knowledge and experiences to enhance the understanding of fellow farmers.

Influence on other Farmers

The success story of Shri Harsha became an inspiration for numerous youth in his neighbouring villages. By adopting vegetable cultivation and nursery production as an enterprise, he motivated others to seek similar opportunities to enhance their income. Farmers visiting his farm were captivated by his achievements and inspired to follow his footsteps.



Vegetable farming model of Shri Harsha and well-maintained nursery unit not only provided employment to his entire family but also ensured food and nutritional security. Today, he is a respected entrepreneur and a role model for aspiring youth in his village and neighbouring communities.

Training Coverage

During the skill training program, participants gained valuable insights and hands-on experience in various aspects of nursery management. The topics covered included nursery infrastructure, good nursery management practices and propagation techniques such as cutting, budding, grafting, and air layering. Practical sessions on semi-hardwood cutting, T-budding, wedge grafting, and air layering were conducted, providing participants with practical orientation. Additionally, exposure visits were organized to further enrich their learning experience.

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(46) Ensuring future – rural youth tastes success in organic farming through skill development

Story of Shri Shashikumar from ChamaraJanagara district of Karnataka

Background

Shri Shashikumar, a dedicated farmer from ChamaraJanagara district in Karnataka, experienced transformation towards sustainable agriculture through organic farming. Initially, he used to practice conventional farming methods, relying heavily on agrochemicals for his crops such as tomato, brinjal, maize and turmeric. While the yields were satisfactory, the high production costs and excessive chemical usage concerned him. Additionally, poor management of animal waste and limited availability of organic sources hindered his progress.



Training & Motivation

Determined to cultivate healthy crops using organic methods, Shri Shashikumar participated in a week-long skill based training program on organic farming. The training program conducted during 29th October 2018 to 3rd November 2018 by the UAS, Bangalore under STRY Scheme of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (GoI) introduced Shri Shashikumar to various components of organic farming, igniting his passion for sustainable practices.

Socio-economic impact of program

Inspired by the training, Shri Shashikumar started cultivating fodder crops using improved seed materials obtained from Krishi Vigyan Kendra. This allowed him to meet a significant portion of his fodder requirement. He expanded his herd by adding two more desi cows, which increased the availability of animal waste for composting. Adopting scientific composting and vermicomposting methods, Shri Shashikumar successfully produced organic inputs on-site, fulfilling the farm requirements. He applied these inputs primarily to turmeric, tomato, brinjal, chickpea and fodder crops. Moreover, he implemented seed treatment with biofertilizers and bioagents, enhancing the health of his crops and reducing dependency on agrochemicals. The adoption of organic cultivation techniques significantly reduced production costs by 35-40 percent. This reduction, coupled with the production of healthy and pesticide-free crops, enabled him to establish his own marketing strategy. He sell his produce through an outlet named "Phalasiri Naturals" near highway, as well as "Namdu Market" in the district headquarters. Additionally, he ventured into selling organic produce, especially vegetables, in urban residential areas using a four-wheeler named "Natural Farmer." These initiatives resulted in additional net returns of ₹80,000 to ₹100,000 annum.

Contribution of the program

Shri Shashikumar acquired skills on maintaining soil health, application of bioagents, and effective pest and disease management without agrochemicals. These techniques empowered him to cultivate high-quality organic crops with long-term sustainability.

Awards and recognition

He was named Taluk Level Best Youth Farmer by GKV Bangalore, Vijaya Karnataka Superstar Farmer and Best Horticulture Farmer of the District by the University of Horticultural Sciences, Bagalkot.

Influence on other Farmers

Shri Shashikumar has emerged as inspiration for neighbouring farmers to adopt organic farming practices. Various farmers have started practicing organic farming in their



own fields, achieving good market prices. He shares his knowledge and experience through Rural Literacy Health Programs (RLHP) in Mysore, create awareness among fellow farmers on farm management practices and organic pest and disease management. He also serves as a resource person for training programs conducted at KVK.

Training Coverage

The training program focused on various topics related to organic farming like production of organic inputs such as vermicompost, liquid organic manures (jeevamrutha, beejamrutha, panchagavya, dashaparani, sour buttermilk neemasthra, biodigester slurry), mulching, intercropping, green manuring, and the application of oil cakes. Practical-oriented sessions introduced participants to biofertilizers (rhizobium, azotobacter, PSB, azolla) and bioagents (Trichoderma, Pseudomonas, Matarhizium). Program also covered aspects like marketing and certification of organic produce.

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(47) Skill training made organic farming a successful venture

Story of Shri Jagadish from Mysuru district of Karnataka

Background

Shri Jagadish is a resident of Krishnapura village in Gawdagere Hobli, Mysuru district. He was initially working for a private company. He was compelled to explore alternate option after shutting down of the factory he was working for. Determined to make most of the situation, Shri Jagadish decided to practice integrated farming system on his 7.33 acres of land. He diversified his crops, cultivating a wide range of agricultural crops such as paddy, millet, sesame, cowpea, black gram, and cereals like foxtail millet, korale, and chia. He also ventured into horticultural crops like tomato, papaya, banana, broccoli, pumpkin, cashew, watermelon, Mangalore cucumber, chilli, ginger and marigold, adopting advanced technologies to maximize their potential. Knowing the benefits of maintaining agroforestry ecosystem on his farm, he strategically planted trees like silver oak, teak, sandalwood, mahogany, red sandalwood and pongamia, which not only enhanced the aesthetic appeal of his land but also contributed to his overall yield and income.



Training & Motivation

With a thirst for knowledge and a drive to succeed, Shri Jagadish actively engaged in various agricultural and non-agricultural activities. However, it was the training program conducted under STRY that truly transformed his approach towards farming. He participated in a skill-based training program conducted on organic farming during 8 – 13 February 2021 organized by the Extension Education Unit in Naganahalli, Mysore District, in collaboration with the State Agriculture Management and Extension Training Institute (SAMETI), Bangalore and MANAGE, Hyderabad.



Socio-economic impact of program

Shri Jagadish gained valuable knowledge and techniques to implement sustainable practices on his farm. Over the past three years, he has successfully cultivated paddy, papaya, banana, and chakotha crops using organic methods, establishing a specialized market and earning a substantial income. By prioritizing soil fertility, Shri Jagadish employed scientific composting, liquid organic manures and bio-fertilizers to enhance microbial activity and improve soil health. He also implemented modern irrigation systems like drip and sprinkler irrigation to optimize water usage. He further diversified his income through integrated farming, including dairy farming, sheep and goat rearing, poultry and fish rearing, resulting in an annual net income ranging from Rs 2.50 to Rs 3.00 lakh.

Contribution of the program

Training program exposed Shri Jagadish to the numerous opportunities and support available through Agricultural Universities and the Department of Agriculture and Horticulture. He maintains regular contact with the Extension Education Unit and other relevant departments to obtain ongoing technical guidance and stay up to date with the latest advancements in agriculture.



Awards and Recognition

In 2018, he received the Taluk Level Best Farmer Award at the Krishi Mela held at the University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore. The following year, he was honoured with the Sadhaka Raitha Puraskar by Vijaya Karnataka newspaper. In 2019-2020, he received the district level Best Farmer Award under the ATMA Yojana from the Department of Agriculture. In 2020-21, Shri Jagadish was further recognized with the State Level Best Farmer Award, solidifying his position as an exemplary farmer.

Influence on other Farmers

The success of Shri Jagadish in adopting new agricultural technologies has made him role model for other farmers in his community. He actively teaches neighbouring farmers about organic farming and receives visits from departmental extension workers, farmers, school children and college students who seek information about integrated agriculture.

Training Coverage

The skill training program covered various topics related to organic farming like principles and practices, effects of organic produce on soil properties, human health, and the environment. The program also covered topics such as the sources of nutrients in organic farming, crop rotation, crop residue management, green manuring, biofertilizers, composting techniques, organic pesticides, disease and pest management in organic farming, cultivation of specific crops using organic methods, organic agriculture brands in the market, certification of organic produce and exposure visits for practical orientation.

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(48) Skill training made dairy farming a successful proposition

Story of Shri Mahesh from Mysuru district of Karnataka

Background

Shri Mahesh is a farmer from Karimuddanahalli village in Hunsuru taluk of district Mysuru. He has made significant progress in farming and is engaged mainly with cultivation of plantation crops such as banana, coconut, sugarcane and horticultural crops like ginger and turmeric. In order to stabilize his economic status, he adopted an integrated farming system that included dairy farming, poultry rearing and fish rearing. Additionally, he grew fodder crops such as Napier grass and fodder maize to combat the scarcity of green fodder during the off-season and reduce procurement costs.



Training & Motivation

In order to enhance his knowledge and skills in agriculture, Shri Mahesh participated in a week long skill-based training program entitled 'Animal Husbandry' conducted during 21 – 29 February 2022 by the Extension Education Unit in Naganahalli, Mysuru. The training provided Shri Mahesh with knowledge on preserving fodder during the off-season, improving milk yield and quality, and enhancing the fat percentage of milch animals through balanced feed management.

Socio-economic impact of program

- Prior to the training, annual income of Shri Mahesh was limited to Rs. 3.0 lakh per annum. However, after adopting the improved technologies and practices learned during the training program, his income increased to over Rs. 5.0 lakh per annum.
- The training program significantly transformed agricultural practices followed by Shri Mahesh and improved his economic status.

Contribution of the program

- The training program equipped Shri Mahesh with skills in various areas of farming. He learned about cultivating different varieties of green fodder in a small area, preserving and storing fodder, and minimizing procurement costs.
- He also gained knowledge on nutrition and disease management for cattle, sheep, goats, and poultry, as well as fish rearing. The program covered fodder preservation techniques such as dry fodder enrichment and silage preparation.
- Shri Mahesh also learned how to utilize animal waste as organic manure. Overall, these skills optimized his farming practices, reduced costs, and increased productivity and income.

Awards & Recognition

Shri Mahesh was recognised as the best farmer in the "Samagra Krishi" category at the Raitha Dasara event held in Mysuru for the year 2022-23.

Influence on other Farmers

The success story of Shri Mahesh has inspired and motivated various fellow farmers to adopt integrated farming practices similar to his own with focus on livestock. He has shared his experiences and knowledge with approximately 30-50 farmers, helping them understand the techniques of fodder preservation and reduce their investment costs. Shri Mahesh has become an example for rural youths, showcasing the potential and benefits of integrated farming.



Training Coverage

The training program covered various topics related to animal husbandry, including different breeds of cattle, selection of cattle for dairy farming, building and maintenance of cattle sheds, the role of fodder crops in dairying, cultivation aspects of fodder crops, maintenance and nutrient management of feeds in crossbred cattle, clean milk production, nutrition and disease management in various livestock species, integrated farming systems, fish rearing, and fodder preservation techniques such as dry fodder enrichment and silage preparation. The program also included practical sessions on the utilization of animal wastes as organic manure and the preparation of Jeevamutra and Panchagavya. Program also had exposure visit to Research Station, Naganahalli, Mysuru.

STRY Team

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(49) Mushroom cultivation emerging as profitable agri-enterprise

Story of Shri Darshan K S from Hassan district of Karnataka

Background

Shri Darshan K S, a 28-year-old farmer from Hassan city in Karnataka, embarked on a journey to establish his own agri-enterprise and improve his economic status. With a Master's Degree in Food Technology, he was dissatisfied with his job and sought to utilize the resources available in his district for mushroom cultivation.



Training & Motivation

In order to have better understanding on mushroom cultivation, Shri Darshan experimented with the help of information available online. Unsatisfied with the experiments, he attended a week long skill-based training program on mushroom production organized by KVK, Hassan under STRY. The program provided him with hands-on experience on various aspects of mushroom cultivation. He learned about paddy straw processing, bundle and spawn preparation, bed preparation, cropping and harvesting, packing, labeling, marketing and value addition. In order to further enhance his knowledge on mushroom production, he also participated in various other programs with focus on demonstrations, group discussions and visits organized by KVK (Krishi Vigyan Kendra), Hassan.

Socio-economic impact of program

- After acquiring the necessary knowledge and skills in mushroom cultivation, Shri Darshan started his own enterprise focusing on the production of Oyster mushrooms.
- He established a brand called Hasanamba Farm Fresh Pvt. Ltd., based in Hassan.
- The practical experience gained through the STRY program equipped him with the necessary skills to troubleshoot problems and achieve success in mushroom cultivation as an entrepreneur.
- He is able to generate monthly income of Rs. 9,000 to Rs. 10,000 by selling oyster mushrooms.

Contribution of the program

Shri Darshan learned about the importance of sanitation and cleanliness in selecting paddy straw, culture chamber, supplies and mushroom spawn. He also gained an understanding of the environmental factors affecting mushroom growth and how to manage them, such as humidity and temperature control.

Influence on other Farmers

Inspired by the success of Shri Darshan, many farmers are now interested in pursuing farming, particularly mushroom cultivation. He has become a role model for rural youth and actively shares his experiences with aspiring farmers in his community. He also participates in various programs organized by KVK, ATMA and other organisations, further contributing to agricultural community.

Training Coverage

The training program on mushroom production was comprehensive with focus on both theory and practical exposure. The program covered wide range of topics related to mushroom production like principles and practices of mushroom production, types of mushrooms, their food value, edible and poisonous varieties, mushroom cultivation as an agribusiness activity, opportunities and constraints, and introduction to edible, non-edible, medicinal, and poisonous mushrooms. The program also focused on specific cultivation procedures for paddy straw mushrooms (outdoor/ indoor),



preparation of mushroom culture, spawn production technology, bed preparation, storage and transport of spawn, cultivation procedures for oyster mushrooms and milky mushrooms, compost production technology for white button mushrooms, management of white button mushrooms, bag preparation for oyster and milky mushrooms, infrastructure and economics of oyster and milky mushrooms, common diseases and disorders of mushrooms, pests and insect management, and exposure visits for practical orientation.

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(50) Growing beyond the fields – a case of dairy delight

Story of Shri M Sureshkumar from Perambalur district of Tamil Nadu

Background

Shri M Sureshkumar, an ambitious farmer from Brammadesam village, Perambalur district, recognized the need for additional income to support his family. Despite his dedication to organic agriculture practices in cultivating paddy, maize, groundnut, and black gram, the profits were not sufficient. Motivated to explore new avenues, Shri Sureshkumar ventured into allied activities, specifically dairy farming and value addition, as a mean to enhance his income and secure a better future.



Training & Motivation

Seeking knowledge and skills in dairy farming and value addition, Shri Sureshkumar participated in a skill-based training program under STRY, titled "Clean Milk Production and Value Addition in Milk," organized during 13 – 20 September 2021 by ATMA Perambalur in association with SAMETI, Kudumiyamalai, and MANAGE, Hyderabad. Through this training, Shri Sureshkumar gained valuable insights into various aspects of milk production and value addition, including fodder cultivation, clean milk production techniques, udder and milker hygiene, disease management, and the preparation of value-added milk products.

Socio-economic impact of program

The skill-based training program proved instrumental in empowering Shri Sureshkumar with the knowledge and skills required for clean milk production and value addition. Inspired by the training, Shri Sureshkumar embarked on dairy farming and value addition as an additional income-generating activity. Prior to the training, his income was solely from agricultural activities. However, after acquiring the skills and knowledge in clean milk production and value addition, his annual income surpassed Rs. 3.0 lakhs.

Contribution of the program

The skills and knowledge acquired during the training program have greatly contributed to the success of Shri Sureshkumar in dairy farming and value addition. He gained a deep understanding of fodder cultivation, milking techniques, udder and milker hygiene, disease management, and clean milk production. Shri Sureshkumar also learned to prepare various value-added products from milk, including flavoured milk, curd, ghoa, paneer, and rasgulla. Armed with this knowledge, he successfully established his own shop to sell his high-quality products.

Influence on other Farmers

Success of Shri Sureshkumar had a significant impact on other farmers in his community. His journey from fields to farms, embracing dairy farming and value addition, has inspired his peers to consider diversification as a mean of income generation. Observing his achievements, fellow farmers have developed an increased interest in adopting similar practices. He actively shares his knowledge and experiences, providing guidance and motivation to others who aspire to achieve similar success. Overcoming initial marketing challenges, commitment of Shri Sureshkumar to quality has attracted consumers to his products, leading to the successful establishment of his own shop.

Training Coverage

The training program provided comprehensive coverage of topics essential to dairy farming and value addition.

Participants gained insights into milk production in India and Tamil Nadu, fodder cultivation, milking methods, udder and milker



hygiene, disease management, clean milk production, advanced milking techniques, feed management, milk processing and preservation, identification of adulterations, value-added product preparation, packaging and labeling, food certification, pesticide residue detection, processing machinery, dairy economics, successful farmer-entrepreneur experiences, and practical exposure visits.

STRY Team

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(51) Nurturing growth – A journey from nursing to successful dairy farm

Story of Smt S R Lavanya from Tiruchirappalli district of Tamil Nadu

Background

Smt S R Lavanya, from Ranganathapuram village, Tiruchirappalli district, Tamil Nadu, embarked on a transformative journey that led her from a nursing career to thrive in the world of dairy farming. Smt Lavanya and her husband cultivate a variety of crops such as paddy, sesame, maize, and onion, adjusting their cultivation based on the seasons. Recognizing the need for additional income during lean agricultural seasons, Smt Lavanya ventured into dairy farming by starting with four dairy animals. The steady income generated from dairy farming motivated her to further enhance her knowledge and skills in this field.



Training & Motivation

Driven by her passion for dairy farming, Smt Lavanya sought knowledge and skills to expand her expertise in this domain. She participated in week long skill-based training program on "Integrated Dairy Development" during 05.09.2022 to 10.09.2022 conducted at the Veterinary University Training and Research Centre in Tiruchirappalli under the STRY initiative. The training provided her with valuable skills in fodder cultivation, low-cost balanced feed preparation, and value addition in milk.

Socio-economic impact of program

The skill-based training program had a significant socio-economic impact on the life of Smt Lavanya. Equipped with new knowledge and skills in integrated dairy development, she expanded her dairy farming venture. From initially owning four cows, she now has 12 cows and calves on her farm. Her daily milk yield is more than 70 litres, generating a daily income of Rs. 2000. This additional income complements the earnings from agriculture, providing a more stable financial foundation for her family.

Contribution of the program

- The training program empowered Smt Lavanya with essential skills required for dairy farming. She learned about clean milk production, hygienic milking practices to prevent mastitis, and the preparation of dairy products like paneer, channa, and flavored milk.

- She also gained knowledge on improving dairy business income, disease prevention through good management practices, and measures to enhance fertility in cows. She embraced technologies like TANUVAS GRAND for better health maintenance of her dairy cows.

Influence on other Farmers

The success and dedication of Smt Lavanya has made her a role model for other women farmers in her community. Her achievements in dairy farming and marketing of milk and value-added products like paneer have inspired rural youth and motivated them to explore dairy business opportunities. She is sharing her knowledge with fellow farmers and participates in activities at the Veterinary University Training and Research Centre, Tiruchirappalli.



Training Coverage

The training program covered a wide range of topics, including the current scenario of dairy farming in India, scientific dairy farming techniques, fodder cultivation, preservation of fodder through hay and silage preparation, selection of dairy animals, dairy housing management, strategies to reduce infertility in dairy cattle, feeding management and alternate feeding strategies, low-cost feed preparation, value-added dairy product preparation, economics of value-added dairy products, and field visits to successful dairy farms.

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(52) An inspiring story of transforming agriculture through organic farming

Story of Shri Dattarya Veer from Osmanabad district of Maharashtra

Background

Shri Dattarya Veer, a farmer from Alni village in Osmanabad district, decided to switch to organic farming and started producing organic inputs and vermicompost on his 2-acre land. This shift allowed him to reduce costs on chemical fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides, and fungicides for his vegetable and production of other crop. He purchased two desi cows and began producing organic inputs like jeevamrut, beejamrut, ghanamrut, waste decomposer, and tambra tak, which he used on his own chili crops. Encouraged by the success of his organic farming methods, he decided to grow all kharif and rabi crops using organic inputs.



Training & Motivation

Shri Dattarya Veer had a strong desire to shift his farming practices towards organic farming. He was eager to receive training on organic farming methods and techniques. As a result, he attended a week long training program on Organic Farming conducted under the STRY component, implemented by the Ministry. The training took place from 23rd February 2023 to 1st March 2023 and was organized by Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Tuljapur, Maharashtra. It was conducted in collaboration with the VANAMATI, Nagpur and MANAGE, Hyderabad.

Socio-economic impact of program

- The training program on organic farming had a substantial socio-economic impact on Shri Dattarya Veer. Prior to attending the training, he heavily relied on chemical fertilizers, pesticides, and fungicides for his vegetable production. The use of chemical based external inputs required huge financial investment.
- After receiving training and adopting organic farming practices, Shri Dattarya Veer made a shift towards using organic inputs on his chili crop. By producing and utilizing organic inputs such as jeevamrut, beejamrut, ghanamrut, waste decomposer, and tambra tak, he significantly reduced his reliance on chemical pesticides and fungicides. This change resulted in a reduction in his expenditure on these chemical inputs.

Contribution of the program

The program has successfully influenced Shri Dattarya Veer to transit from conventional chemical-based farming to organic farming. This shift has not only reduced his dependence on costly chemical inputs but also improved the overall health and sustainability of his farming practices.

Awards & Recognition

Shri Dattarya Veer was awarded with the title of Organic Grower in his taluka. This recognition not only boosted his morale but also inspired other farmers to consider organic farming as a viable and rewarding option.

Influence on other Farmers

The successful of Shri Dattarya in cultivating organic chilies has inspired around 50 other farmers in the region to shift to organic farming. Through field visits and sharing his experiences, he has motivated his peers to explore organic farming methods and experience the benefits.

Training Coverage

The training program on organic farming covered a range of topics including the importance of organic farming, production of organic inputs like jeevamrut, green manuring for soil fertility, desi cows in organic farming, and neem-based pest control. It also emphasized on biological pest management, benefits of vermicompost and vermiwash, eco-friendly insecticides like Hnpv, disease control using Biomix, and different composting methods. Field visits to organic farms provided practical exposure and inspired farmers to implement organic techniques.



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(53) Green Gold: unleashing prosperity through organic input sales

Story of Shri Govind Prataprao Deshmukh from Washim district of Maharashtra

Background

Shri Govind Prataprao Deshmukh is a farmer from Washim district. Since 2015, he is actively involved with various activities of Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) to have profitable farming. However, his farming journey has been marked by numerous challenges, including low crop yields and poor level of income. In spite of these challenges, unwavering commitment of Shri Govind to farming helped him overcome these obstacles.



Training & Motivation

In a quest to overcome the challenges faced, Shri Deshmukh enrolled for a skill based training program on Organic Farming conducted during 5 – 11 January 2023 by KVK under the STRY. The program proved to be a game-changer for him as he was introduced to the concept of organic farming and various benefits offered by it. The realization that organic farming offered significantly lower production costs compared to conventional chemical farming, which he had been practicing earlier, convinced him to embrace this sustainable approach.

Socio-economic impact of program

- The implementation of the acquired skills helped Shri Deshmukh increase his annual income to over Rs. 3.0 lakhs from Rs 2.30 lakhs, utilizing the same existing resources more effectively.
- In collaboration with fellow farmers, Shri Deshmukh established the Nav Chaitannya Farmers Producer Company. Together, they make available products such as vermibed, vermiwash, vermiculture, and gokrupa culture for sale during various exhibitions organized by their FPO, thereby promoting organic farming practices.

Contribution of the program

- Shri Deshmukh embraced various techniques to enhance his organic farming practices, focusing on key areas such as vermicomposting, bulb treatment, pest management, and nutrient application.
- In order to ensure the sustainability of his farming endeavour, Shri Deshmukh implemented systematic recycling of crop residues and farm waste to maintain soil fertility. He also introduced desi cows and bullocks to his farm, utilizing their

contributions to composting and cow urine for organic farming. This helped reduce input costs and enhance soil nutrient content.

- In order to reduce reliance on external sources, Shri Deshmukh began producing his own organic inputs, including vermicompost, go kripa amrut, waste decomposer, and dashparni ark. This not only lowered expenses but also allowed him to control the quality of inputs used in his farming practices.

Awards & Recognition

Shri Deshmukh was honoured with the Innovative Farmer Award by KVK Washim on the occasion of the ICAR Foundation Day Program. Additionally, the ATMA Washim has also recognized his outstanding contributions to organic farming.



Influence on other Farmers

- By observing success of Shri Deshmukh in terms of growth in income through organic farming, many farmers have shown interest in following the same path.
- Success and dedication of Shri Deshmukh has positioned him as a trailblazer in the realm of organic farming, inspiring fellow farmers to explore environment friendly practices.



Training Coverage

The training program covered a wide range of topics related to organic farming, including the introduction and need for organic farming, its social and market aspects, the importance and preparation of organic fertilizers, microorganism management, soil composition and characteristics, integrated pest and disease management, treatment measures for seeds, seedlings, and soil, and the feasibility of relying solely on organic sources.

STRY Team

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(54) Fungi Fortunes – Unleashing success through skill training in mushroom cultivation

Story of Shri Vijay Balkrushna Wankhade from Amravati district of Maharashtra

Background

Shri Vijay Balkrushna Wankhade is a farmer from Nimbhora in Amravati district, Maharashtra. Initially relying on a small grocery shop, Shri Wankhade sought additional income-generating opportunities to support his family of four. Determined to explore alternative opportunities in agriculture, Shri Wankhade turned to his 12 acres of agricultural land for potential solutions. While 2 acres were dedicated to his house and homestead garden, the remaining land was utilized for cultivating crops different crops like wheat and soybean.



Training & Motivation

Shri Wankhade participated in a training program on Mushroom Production conducted during 21 – 27 February 2023 by Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Durgapur (Badnera), Amravati District. The program conducted in association with ATMA, Amravati; VANAMATI, Nagpur and MANAGE, Hyderabad under STRY, a component implemented by the Ministry helped him in getting exposed to various aspects of mushroom production.

Socio-economic impact of program

- Shri Vijay Balkrushna Wankhade, ventured into mushroom cultivation as a supplementary income-generating activity. He experienced a notable increase in his overall income. This shift not only empowered him economically but also highlighted the importance of skill development in unlocking the potential of alternative farming practices.
- Before undergoing the training, the annual income of Shri Wankhade was limited to Rs. 2.5 lakhs. Leveraging the skill acquired during the training program, his income increased to over Rs. 3.6 lakhs per year.

Contribution of the program

- The training program played a crucial role in enhancing understanding of Shri Wankhade on key aspects of mushroom production such as hygiene, cleanliness, and the importance of choosing appropriate materials, cultivation rooms, and mushroom spawn.
- He also gained insights on the environmental factors, such as humidity and temperature that significantly influence mushroom cultivation and learned how to control them effectively.

Influence on other Farmers

- Shri Wankhade has inspired many other youth through his achievements and encouraged them to consider venturing into mushroom production themselves.
- He has become a role model for these farmers, particularly the rural youth, who look up to him for guidance in the production and marketing of mushrooms.
- He has shared his knowledge and experiences with approximately 105 farmers from his village and actively participates in various activities organized by ATMA and KVK.



Training Coverage

The training program covered a wide range of topics, including the principles and practices of mushroom cultivation, different types of mushrooms, their food value, cultivation procedures for various mushroom varieties, compost production technology, disease and pest management, and practical orientation through exposure visits. The comprehensive training modules equipped the participants with the necessary skills and knowledge to establish a successful mushroom cultivation enterprise.

STRY Team

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(55) From farm to fork – skill training ignites success in processing of fruit & vegetable

Story of Smt Y Diana from Chandel district of Manipur

Background

Smt Y Diana is a hardworking farmwoman from Chandonpokpi village in Chandel district, Manipur. She is having a small plot of land available for farming. Her primary livelihood activities include loin loom weaving, paddy cultivation, firewood collection, kitchen gardening, and rearing animals like pigs and poultry. She possesses traditional knowledge of food processing and preservation methods passed down through generations. The traditional processing methods are facing various challenges in commercialization in this modern technological era.

Training & Motivation

Smt Diana has been utilizing traditional methods to produce value-added products from seasonal fruits and vegetables. However, her plan was to create demand oriented items such as candy, pickles, dry preserves, juice, and ready-to-serve (RTS) products using fruits and vegetables, with limited expenses. In order to enhance her skills, she participated in a week long skill based training program on "Post-harvest processing and packaging of fruits and vegetables" organized by Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Chandel during 16 – 21 March 21, 2019. The program was organised in collaboration with State Agriculture Management and Extension Training Institute (SAMETI), Manipur and MANAGE, Hyderabad. During the training, she learned various aspects of food processing, packaging, labelling, and branding. Training material was also provided for future reference.



Socio-economic impact of program

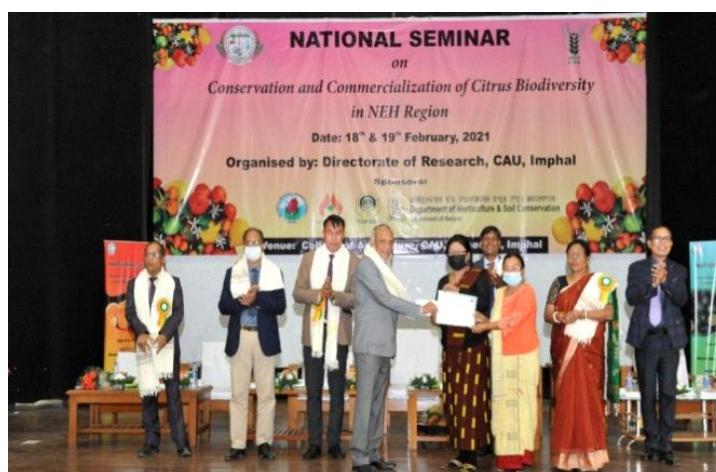
- After attending training, Smt Diana developed a variety of nutritious value-added products from locally available seasonal fruits, including squash, RTS, juice, chutney, nutri candy, dry preserves, pickle, and cheese, with the aim of reducing post-harvest losses. She preserved these products in bulk during peak seasons, allowing sales throughout the off-season.
- Smt Diana sold her unique products at various events and markets, including ICAR Kishan Mela, KVK Kishan Mela, SHG Mela, Saras Mela, Sangai festival, local festivals, local markets, Imphal markets, and other family marts available in the district. She even exported products to neighbouring states. Her products received high sensory scores for colour, appearance, taste, and overall acceptability, making them stand out in the market. With her value-added products, she consistently earns over Rs 1.50 lakh annually.

Contribution of the program

The training program equipped Smt Diana with various food processing techniques, packaging methods, and labelling practices, enabling her to enhance the quality of product. She realized the potential of transforming underutilized fruits and vegetables into value added products. Despite encountering challenges related to finances, machinery, technology backup, preservatives, packaging materials, and marketing, Smt Diana actively sought solutions by attending training programs and seeking support from KVK and ICAR Manipur Centre.

Award and Recognition

Smt Diana received the second prize for exhibition under "Citrus Fruit Biodiversity" at the National Seminar on Conservation and Commercialization of Citrus Biodiversity in NEH Region organized by the Directorate of Research, CAU, Imphal, Manipur during February 18-19, 2021.



Influence on other Farmers

Smt Diana, through her dedication and hard work in producing high quality value-added products from organic raw materials, which has helped her emerge as an ambassador and role model for promoting processing among women farmers.

Training Coverage

The training program covered basic knowledge of food processing and preservation, types of preservatives, dehydration methods, preparation of pickles, jams, squashes, RTS, and candies. Demonstrations were conducted for different fruits and vegetables, including concepts of packaging methods and materials. Additionally, the training included insights into maintaining hygiene, following FSSAI regulations, and sensory evaluation techniques.

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(56) Feathers of fortune - Empowering rural youth through scientific poultry farming

Story of Shri Konjengbam Herojit Singh from Bishnupur district of Manipur

Background

Shri Konjengbam Herojit Singh, from Kwasiphai village, Bishnupur block, Bishnupur district, is a dedicated and hardworking poultry farmer. He exemplifies the spirit of a true entrepreneur through his passion, dedication, relentless pursuit of knowledge, and innovative approach. From a young age, he nurtured the aspiration to become an entrepreneur after completing his studies. In order to support his family, he established poultry farm, starting with broiler and layer farming on a small scale during his adolescence. Additionally, he utilized a small water pond and the surrounding land to establish a muscovy duck unit.

Training & Motivation

Shri Herojit Singh, in his quest for acquiring knowledge in poultry farming, participated in a week long skill based training program conducted on Poultry Rearing during January 27, 2020, to February 02, 2020 by ATMA. The program was conducted under STRY Scheme of the Ministry in association with SAMETI, Manipur and MANAGE, Hyderabad. The participation in the training program proved to be a turning point in the entrepreneurial journey of Shri Herojit Singh. The support and encouragement received from ATMA motivated Shri Herojit Singh to pursue his entrepreneurial aspirations wholeheartedly. Witnessing the dedication and passion he exhibited during the training, the ATMA staff provided him with the necessary guidance and resources to flourish as a poultry farmer.

Socio-economic impact of program

- Shri Herojit Singh has experienced a significant boost in his annual income. His earnings now amount to approximately Rs. 8.60 lakhs per year.
- This substantial increase in income has played a crucial role in improving financial condition of his family.
- The success of his poultry farming venture has allowed Shri Herojit Singh to expand his business further. He has been able to establish two additional units, separate from his initial poultry and duck farming setups, dedicated to broiler farming and duck rearing.
- This expansion has provided him with the opportunity to accommodate a larger number of birds, resulting in increased monthly income and further growth potential for his enterprise.

Contribution of the program

The program has exposed Shri Herojit Singh to different aspects of poultry rearing including efficient management and expansion. The success achieved by him in poultry farming has elevated his social status within the community.

Influence on other Farmers

The achievements of Shri Herojit Singh as an entrepreneur have gained recognition and respect from his peers and neighbours. He serves as an inspiration and role model for others in the community who aspire to explore similar opportunities in poultry farming.



Through his success, he has become an inspiration for others, demonstrating the potential of agricultural entrepreneurship in driving socio-economic development.

Training Coverage

The training program was comprehensive in its coverage of different aspects of poultry farming and livestock management. Participants of the program were exposed to best practices, common diseases and their management, proper feed and supplements, farm sanitization techniques, and market linkages. The theatrical and practical exposure during the program was able to equip participants with the necessary knowledge and skills to excel in poultry farming and optimize their livestock management practices.

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(57) Buzzing success – Skill training unlocks the potential of beekeeping

Story of Shri Hilary Zohmangaiha from Aizawl district of Mizoram

Background

Shri Hilary Zohmangaiha, a young and educated farmer from Samtlang, Tlangnuam block, Aizawl district of Mizoram, started his journey to pursue his passion for beekeeping after serving as a teacher in a Church-run private school for many years. Recognizing the importance of honey bees in the ecosystem, he decided to become a self-employed successful farmer in this field. Motivated Shri Zohmangaiha reached out to ATMA after hearing about their support for farmers. With the assistance of ATMA officials, he formed the Farmers Interest Group – Samtlang Khuai Khawi Pawl under ATMA. This group consisted of like-minded farmers who shared similar interest in beekeeping. They received seed money from ATMA, which they utilized for constructing bee houses, benefiting all members of the group.

Training & Motivation

In order to enhance his skills and knowledge in beekeeping, Shri Hilary Zohmangaiha attended a comprehensive short duration skill based training program on beekeeping organized by ATMA in collaboration with SAMETI, Aizawl, and MANAGE, Hyderabad, during 19th to 23rd September 2022. The training equipped him with scientific knowledge and essential skills required for successful beekeeping. The knowledge acquired during the program further encouraged him to pursue beekeeping as a supplementary income-generating activity.

Socio-economic impact of program

- Starting with a single honey bee colony in one box, Shri Zohmangaiha gradually expanded his operations. He currently maintains seven honey bee boxes spread across five acres of land, with plans to increase the number of colonies in the near future.
- Within just three months, he sold locally harvested honey and generated an income of approximately Rs.10,000. In addition to beekeeping, he practices mixed farming of various fruits and vegetables, generating sufficient income to support his family.
- Given the rapid growth experienced, Shri Zohmangaiha demonstrates great potential as a successful honey bee farmer.

Contribution of the program

The training program played a pivotal role in success of Shri Zohmangaiha. It provided him with knowledge about the local species of honey bees and their economic significance in beekeeping. The practical skills acquired during the training helped him successfully collect wild honey bees for rearing in bee boxes.

Influence on other Farmers

- Shri Zohmangaiha played an active role in bringing around 15 farmers together to form the Farmers Interest Group, aiming to encourage and share their acquired knowledge in beekeeping. He has also assisted fellow farmers in collecting wild honey bees from the forest for rearing in bee boxes, further promoting beekeeping in the area.
- His journey from a teacher to a successful beekeeper showcases the transformative power of pursuing one's passion. His dedication, coupled with the support from ATMA and the training program, has not only improved his livelihood but also inspired others to venture into beekeeping, fostering economic growth in the community.

Training Coverage

The training program covered a wide range of topics, including an introduction to beekeeping, types of bees in Mizoram, the history of beekeeping in Mizoram, beekeeping equipment, bee box management, seasonal colony management, identification and control of threats to honey bees, bee disease management, honey production techniques, bee pasture preservation, honey processing and entrepreneurship opportunities in beekeeping. The participants were also provided with practical orientation through exposure visits to help them practice beekeeping successfully.



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(58) Sowing the seeds of swine success – sustainable income through pig rearing and management

Story of Shri Lalruatfela from Kolasib district of Mizoram

Background

Shri Lalruatfela is a 36-year-old unemployed youth from Bualpui, Kolasib district, Mizoram. He found inspiration in his parents' pig farm and was able to turn his passion for pig rearing into a successful business. Starting with just one sow, he took the initiative to establish his own pig farm and gradually expanded his breeding stock. It is commendable that Shri Lalruatfela drew inspiration from his parents' dedication to livestock farming and agriculture. This not only showcases the importance of family influence but also highlights the impact of witnessing the hard work and dedication firsthand. By leveraging his knowledge and experience in pig rearing, Shri Lalruatfela was able to overcome the initial hurdles and build his own livelihood. The support of his brother played a crucial role in managing the pig farm and achieving growth in the numbers.



Training & Motivation

In 2022, Shri Lalruatfela attended the skill training program organized by ATMA, Kolasib district, with focus specifically on "Piggery Rearing and Management" from 22nd to 26th August 2022. The training program highlighted areas of improvement for him, such as caring for sows during gestation and lactation, and managing new-born piglets. These skills were crucial in reducing piglet mortality rate, which had been a significant challenge on his farm due to poor handling and management practices.

Socio-economic impact of program

- The acquisition of skills and knowledge through the training program has had a significant socio-economic impact on Shri Lalruatfela.
- By implementing the techniques learned, he has been able to increase his earnings and improve the overall performance of his pig farm. With the acquired knowledge on caring for sows during gestation and lactation, as well as managing new-born piglets, he was able to reduce the piglet mortality rate to 1-2 percent.
- As a result of the improved practices, he was able to generate an income of Rs. 3.50 lakhs from selling 50 piglets at an average price of Rs. 7,000 per piglet during the period 2019-2022.
- Additionally, he earned Rs. 1.60 lakhs by selling 400 kgs of pork at Rs. 400 per kg in the local market.
- These earnings demonstrate the positive impact of the training program on his income and financial stability.

Contribution of the program

The knowledge gained from the training has enabled Shri Lalruatfela to implement more hygienic and efficient piggery management practices, particularly in response to challenges such as the outbreak of African swine fever. This has contributed to the overall sustainability and growth of his pig farm.

Influence on other Farmers

- Achievements of Shri Lalruatfela has motivated many youth in his village and neighbouring areas to pursue piggery farming.
- He actively shares his experiences and expertise in pig farming by delivering lectures and acting as a resource person for local youth and self-help groups (SHGs).



Training Coverage

The training program covered a wide range of topics, including the scope for piggery farming, care and management of sows, nutrition, feeding, housing, deworming schedules, farrowing care, piglet management, iron supplementation, piglet anaemia, boar management, artificial insemination, health and sanitation, biosecurity measures, record keeping, and farm visits.

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(59) Bean harvest – Skill training boosts household income through Zorin cultivation

Story of Smt Lalnunsangi from Mamit district of Mizoram

Background

Smt Lalnunsangi is a farmer from Luangpawl in Mamit district, Mizoram. She has a family of four and owns about 4 acres of arable land. Previously, she used to cultivate crops like maize, pumpkin, ginger, and brinjal during the kharif season. However, due to low production and insufficient income, they decided to discontinue crop cultivation in 2019. Her husband worked as a helper in building construction to support the family financially.



Training & Motivation

Smt Lalnunsangi underwent a skill training program organized by ATMA, where she received training on "IPM in French Bean & Seed Production Techniques of Zorin Bean." The training motivated her to explore new opportunities in agriculture. Subsequently, they cleared their neglected land and started cultivating Zorin bean, a pole type French bean, as a rabi crop. The training program provided Zorin bean seeds to the participants, including Smt Lalnunsangi.

Socio-economic impact of program

- The skill-based training program had a positive impact on Smt Lalnunsangi and her family. Prior to the training, their monthly income was around Rs. 8,000/- solely from her husband's earnings.
- However, three months after cultivating Zorin bean, Smt Lalnunsangi was able to generate around Rs. 25,000/- from selling green pods and expected to produce about 1 quintal of quality seeds for sale.
- Additionally, ATMA offered to buy back the seeds at Rs. 380/- per kg through the Seed Village Program. This supplementary income from Zorin bean cultivation significantly improved their household income within a short period.

Contribution of the program

The skills acquired during the training program enabled Mrs Lalnunsangi to understand the importance of seed treatment, adopt improved crop cultivation practices, enhance seed production and post-harvest management, and implement plant protection measures. She also learned the benefits of consulting agricultural experts from ATMA, KVK, and the Agriculture Department through phone calls, office visits, and agricultural literature.

Awards & Recognition

Mrs Lalnunsangi has been identified as a promising woman farmer by ATMA and is eligible to receive the district-level Best Farmer award/recognition when funds are available.

Influence on other Farmers

Success of Smt Lalnunsangi in Zorin bean cultivation and seed production has made her a role model for local women and farmers. She has inspired other farmers in her locality to take up Zorin bean cultivation and seed production, and many women have ordered Zorin bean seeds from her.

Training Coverage

The scope and significance of seed production were discussed, along with the layout of temporary and permanent seed production plots, nursery preparation techniques, and selection of planting materials. The training program covered various topics, including introduction to Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and its principles, cultural methods for managing pests in agriculture crops, identification of common pests and diseases, and techniques for their control and management. The participants were acquainted with different agro pesticides and learned about seed treatment techniques and their application. They were also taught how to prepare light traps, pheromone traps, and yellow sticky traps for pest monitoring. The participants were exposed to package of practices for Zorin bean cultivation, including tagging, trailing, and field inspection. Seed treatment techniques for French bean, both before sowing and for storage, were covered, as well as harvesting and post-harvest management practices such as sorting, grading, and packing. Common diseases and pests of French bean and their management tactics were explained. The training also included an assessment of the economics of seed production and field visits.



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(60) Tomato triumph – Unveiling the success story of protected cultivation

Story of Shri Lalbiakdika from Lawngtlai district of Mizoram

Background

Shri Lalbiakdika is a dedicated farmer from Chawntlangpui, Lawngtlai district, Mizoram. He cultivates local vegetables and fruit crops on his 2-hectare land, including bitter gourd, tomato, snake gourd, mango, banana, papaya, dragon fruit, and mandarin orange. He also operates a polyhouse where he grows vegetables like tomato and capsicum, earning good income during the off-season.



Training & Motivation

Shri Lalbiakdika is enthusiastic about exploring new technologies and conducting trials on new varieties in open and protected cultivation. He joined a skill-based training program on “Protected Cultivation of High-Value Vegetables” conducted by KVK Lawngtlai District, Mizoram in collaboration with SAMETI, Aizawl, and MANAGE, Hyderabad. The one-week training program took place from April 25th to April 30th, 2022. After acquiring knowledge from the training, he decided to focus on protected cultivation of indeterminate tomatoes and expanded his cultivation on a larger scale.

Socio-economic impact of program

By gaining skills in protected cultivation, specifically in tomato cultivation during the off-season, Shri Lalbiakdika added an additional income-generating activity to his farming. Previously, he struggled to earn even Rs. 1.50 lakhs annually. However, after implementing the skills learned from the training, his farm economics drastically improved, and he now generates over Rs. 3.0 lakhs per year from various activities utilizing the same resources.

Contribution of the program

The training program provided Shri Lalbiakdika with valuable knowledge and understanding of the significance of protected cultivation. As a result, he was able to implement improved practices in his farming, leading to a notable improvement in the quality and quantity of his produce. By applying the techniques learned during the training, Shri Lalbiakdika achieved better control over environmental conditions, pests, and diseases, which contributed to the overall enhancement of productivity. The

knowledge and skills gained during the training program played a crucial role in his success and economic growth as a farmer.

Influence on other Farmers

- The success of Shri Lalbiakdika in implementing protected cultivation methods has had a significant influence on other farmers in the district. His achievements and improved farm outcomes have served as an inspiration for his fellow farmers.
- As a result, more than 20 farmers have been motivated to adopt large-scale cultivation of high-value vegetables using protected cultivation techniques.
- His success has demonstrated the potential and benefits of protected cultivation, encouraging others to explore and implement similar practices in their own farming ventures.
- This ripple effect of inspiration and adoption has contributed to the growth of protected cultivation and high-value vegetable production in the district, benefiting the local farming community as a whole.



Training Coverage

The training program covered various topics, including different types of greenhouses, construction of a polyhouse, fertigation in polyhouses, pruning and training of vegetables in polyhouses, irrigation systems in polyhouses, protected cultivation of capsicum, protected cultivation of exotic vegetables, protected cultivation of tomatoes, protected cultivation of potatoes, and protected cultivation of lettuce and field visits.

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(61) Sweet success – beekeeping flourishes under STRY skill training program

Story of Shri Hramlianchunga from Lawngtlai district of Mizoram

Background

Shri Hramlianchunga, a humble farmer from Lawngtlai district, Mizoram, faced challenges in supporting his family of seven with his small landholding and limited income of his wife from government job. To augment his earnings, he practiced traditional beekeeping methods and earned around Rs 1.0 lakh annually from honey harvesting. However, he aspired to improve his skills and learn modern beekeeping methods. In addition to beekeeping, Shri Hramlianchunga also earns income from his small orchard, where he cultivates various fruits. Being a farmer in the modern world is not easy, especially with the responsibility of feeding five children. The family has always faced financial struggles and he has to work tirelessly to meet their needs.

Training & Motivation

Motivated by his desire to enhance his beekeeping abilities, Shri Hramlianchunga enthusiastically participated in a seven day training program on "Beekeeping" organized by KVK Lawngtlai under STRY, a component implemented under SMAE by the Ministry. This training, conducted from 13.12.2021 to 19.12.2021, in collaboration with State Agriculture Management and Extension Training Institute (SAMETI), Aizawl, Mizoram, and the National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE), Hyderabad, introduced him to various aspects of modern beekeeping, including the use of modern bee boxes.

Socio-economic impact of program

- The acquisition of new knowledge and skills through the program enabled him to transition from traditional beekeeping to modern beekeeping techniques, resulting in a significant boost to his income.
- Equipped with new knowledge and skills, he embraced modern beekeeping techniques as a supplementary income-generating activity. Prior to the training, his annual income was not even Rs. 1.0 lakh. However, after implementing the skills acquired during the program, he experienced a substantial increase in his income, earning over Rs. 2.60 lakhs per year.

Contribution of the program

- The training program helped Shri Hramlianchunga to understand the significance of modern beekeeping in enhancing honey productivity.
- He learned to use modern bee boxes, which allowed him to harvest honey multiple times in a year without harming the bee larvae.

- By adopting learned methods, he avoided mass killing of honey bee larvae during honey harvests

Influence on other Farmers

Success of Shri Hramlianchunga and his passion for beekeeping have inspired other farmers in the locality to take up beekeeping as well. Considered a role model for honey production and supplementary income generation, he has become an example within the region. He has shared his knowledge with around 50 farmers in his village and actively participates in KVK training programs within Lawngtlai district, contributing to the growth of beekeeping in the area.

Training Coverage

The training program covered a comprehensive range of topics, including the introduction, behaviour, and importance of honeybees, site selection for apiaries, pollination and bee flora, hive products and their uses, tools and equipment required for beekeeping, different types of bee boxes and their management, management of bee colonies, swarming and absconding, apiary management, disease and pest management, honey harvest, scientific honey extraction, post-harvest management, and practical demonstrations of modern bee boxes and their uses.



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(62) Skill based training on mushroom cultivation transforming lives of rural youth

Story of Smt T C Duatsangi from Khawzawl district of Mizoram

Background

Smt T C Duatsangi, residing in Kawnzar village of Khawzawl district, comes from a family with a long history of farming. Despite being deeply rooted in agriculture, she noticed that the income generated from traditional farming practices was insufficient to support her entire family. Growing up in a farming community, she has always had a strong affinity for agriculture and rural activities. With education up to high school level and possessing two acres of land available for farming, she was determined to find innovative and sustainable ways to improve the livelihood under the constraints of rainfed conditions. Seeking ways to augment their earnings, Smt Duatsangi explored income enhancing opportunities by diversifying her farming activities.

Training & Motivation

Seeking new opportunities, Smt Duatsangi attended a vocational training course on mushroom cultivation in 2019, organised by KVK Champhai in collaboration with State Agriculture Management and Extension Training Institute (SAMETI), Aizawl, Mizoram, and National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE), Hyderabad. This training proved to be a turning point in her farming journey. Inspired and motivated by the knowledge and techniques learned during the training, she decided to venture into mushroom cultivation as a new and profitable avenue for income generation.

Socio-economic impact of program

Embracing mushroom cultivation as a supplementary income-generating activity, Smt Duatsangi invested Rs. 12,500 to set up a mushroom unit comprising 50 mushroom beds. As a result of her hard work and dedication, her mushroom production has significantly increased over time. With the successful cultivation of mushrooms, she is able to now earn an annual income of Rs. 1.2 lakh from the sale of fresh mushrooms. This considerable boost in income has not only enhanced the standard of living of family but also encouraged her to explore further expansion of mushroom cultivation, opening new avenues for additional income.

Contribution of the program

The training program has significantly contributed to success of Smt Duatsangi as a mushroom grower. With her strong work ethic and ability to quickly grasp new technologies, she effectively implemented the knowledge and skills acquired from the training. Her interest in learning new techniques from KVK further fuelled her growth as a farmer. Her adoption of innovative techniques and her status as a successful mushroom grower in Khawzawl district demonstrate the effectiveness of vocational programs in empowering farmers and promoting sustainable agricultural practices.

Influence on other Farmers

- The success of Smt Duatsangi in mushroom cultivation has not only benefited her family but has also had a positive impact on the community. Her achievements and entrepreneurship have served as an inspiration to other farmers and rural youth in the region. She has become a role model, motivating others to adopt innovative and modern farming practices.
- Through her efforts, she has encouraged and guided rural youth in her village and neighbouring areas to take up mushroom farming. She collaborates with KVK scientists and experts to provide training and support to many unemployed rural youth and farmers interested in mushroom cultivation.
- Additionally, her success has led to the formation of self-help groups like Tlaizawngpar, Zotuithiang, Hawilo, Rose, Khawpuitar, etc., where members engage in mushroom cultivation for both personal consumption and marketing, contributing to their income generation.



Training Coverage

During the skill training, Smt Duatsangi gained valuable insights into the principles and practices of mushroom production, including the use of drip irrigation and polyhouse techniques. Integrated pest management received special emphasis, enabling farmers to use insecticides and pesticides optimally, thus ensuring sustainable and eco-friendly farming practices.

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(63) Mushroom mastery – skill training unleashes success in mushroom cultivation

Story of Shri Meyieto Sakhrie from Chumoukedima district of Nagaland

Background

Shri Meyieto Sakhrie is an ambitious 26-year-old Naga youth from Tenyiphe-1 village, Chumoukedima block. Coming with agricultural background, he embraced farming on his family 1.5 acres of land, cultivating lowland rice and seasonal vegetables. However, his passion for learning and exploring new opportunities led him to delve into mushroom production. His journey towards success in agriculture began based on his dedication and the training received under STRY.

Training & Motivation

Motivation of Shri Meyieto to embark on commercial oyster mushroom cultivation stemmed from the knowledge he gained during the skill based program conducted under STRY Component implemented by the Ministry. Organized by ATMA Dimapur during 19 – 24 April, 2021, the program enlightened him on the high success rate of mushroom cultivation, its year-round feasibility, cost-effectiveness, low labour requirement and marketability. Moreover, he discovered that mushrooms are rich in nutrients while being low in fat and sugar. Encouraged by this newly acquired knowledge, Shri Meyieto initiated his mushroom cultivation venture with the spawn he received from ATMA Dimapur.

Socio-economic impact of program

Starting with a small unit of 10 oyster mushroom cylinders, Shri Meyieto tasted success, inspiring him to scale up his operations. Procuring top-quality spawns from Konger Agritech, a spawn-producing laboratory owned by a young Naga scientist, he expanded his cultivation efforts. Across three seasons, he managed to cultivate 240 bags of mushrooms, resulting in a total harvest of 358 kilograms. Selling the mushrooms at an average price of Rs 180/- per kilogram, he generated a gross income of Rs. 64,440/-. The success made Shri Meyieto realise the potential of mushroom production in enhancing income.

Contribution of the program

- The STRY training program equipped Shri Meyieto with vital skills and knowledge crucial for successful mushroom cultivation.
- He learned the importance of hygiene and cleanliness in selecting paddy straw, cultivating rooms, materials, and mushroom spawns.
- Additionally, he grasped the impact of environmental factors such as humidity and temperature on mushroom growth and how to control them effectively.

Influence on other Farmers

The accomplishments of Shri Meyieto in mushroom cultivation have not gone unnoticed by his fellow villagers. Inspired by his success, many village youth have taken a keen interest in this enterprise. He has become a mentor, conducting training sessions for rural youth and self-help groups on mushroom cultivation. This has resulted in the emergence of several small-scale mushroom producers within the community. Furthermore, he has ventured into vermicomposting by utilizing spent mushroom substrate in HDPE vermi-beds, producing compost that serves as nutrient-rich manure for vegetable fields

Training Coverage

During skill training, various topics on mushroom cultivation related to production, principles and practices in mushroom cultivation, different types of mushrooms and their uses, food value, what are edible and poisonous mushrooms and how to differentiate them, how mushroom cultivation can be undertaken as an agribusiness activity, what is the status of mushroom production at national level, opportunities and constraints in mushroom cultivation, acquaintance with edible, non-edible, medicinal and poisonous mushrooms, importance of mushroom cultivation, cultivation procedure of milky mushroom (in door), mushroom culture preparation, room sterilization, selection of site, raw material procurement, preservation techniques and demonstration were conducted on raising of beds, bag preparation of oyster and milky mushroom, cultivation procedure of oyster and milky mushrooms were covered. Training sessions were also given on spawn production technology covering quality attributes, storage and transport infrastructure. The different fungal and viral diseases, bacterial diseases and abiotic disorder of mushrooms, insect, pest and nematodes of mushroom crop and their management and control practices. For practical orientation, exposure visits were also scheduled.



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(64) Worm whisperer – skill training empowers the vermicompost woman farmer

Story of Smt Kiyeli Yeptho from Dimapur district of Nagaland

Background

Smt Kiyeli Yeptho is a determined 33-year-old farmer from Kuhoxu village in Dimapur district, Nagaland. Coming from a family which is deeply rooted in agriculture, Smt Kiyeli and her husband have been cultivating maize, high-yielding variety (HYV) paddy, and toria on their 2-hectare farmland. In addition to these primary crops, they have also engaged in subsidiary activities such as fishery, vermicomposting, and a backyard vegetable garden. Her aspiration to practice organic farming and generate additional income led her on a path of empowerment and transformation.

Training & Motivation

Inspired by neighbouring women farmers who practiced vermicomposting and cultivated backyard vegetables for both personal consumption and sale, Smt Kiyeli became determined to adopt organic farming. She discovered the opportunity to gain knowledge and practical skills through ATMA (Agricultural Technology Management Agency). With her motivation and self-confidence, she approached ATMA, urging them to provide her with the necessary training and inputs for vermicomposting. She got enrolled a skill based program conducted by ATMA Dimapur under STRY in collaboration with SAMETI Nagaland and MANAGE, Hyderabad during 26th April - 1st May 2021. This training served as a platform for her to advance her organic farming endeavours.



Socio-economic impact of program

- Prior to the training, Smt Kiyeli harvested approximately 70-80 kilograms of manure from her small vermicompost unit annually. However, following the knowledge gained during STRY program, she started harvesting around 600 kilograms of vermicompost per year from the vermin bed provided by ATMA Dimapur. Selling the vermicompost at Rs. 30 per kilogram, she is now generating an annual income of approximately Rs. 18,000 from a single vermi bed unit.
- Beyond the financial gains from the vermicompost unit, she utilizes the organic manure in her backyard vegetable garden, resulting in improved crop growth, health, and harvest.

- The surplus vegetables from her garden are sold to her fellow villagers, providing her with an additional income of approximately Rs. 5,000 during the Kharif and Rabi seasons.

Contribution of the program

The knowledge acquired during the STRY training has empowered women farmers like Smt Kiyeli to adopt vermicomposting, elevating their livelihoods while improving soil health and preserving beneficial soil microorganisms. Smt Kiyeli actively encourages interested farmers to introduce vermicomposting on their farms, enabling them to enjoy its benefits. This trend has sparked a movement towards producing organic manure for domestic use, reducing dependence on external sources.

Influence on other Farmers

The success of Smt Kiyeli and her rapid progress in vermicomposting have inspired other women farmers and youth in her village. They seek her advice, as vermicomposting requires minimal investment and manual labour while providing substantial returns. Moreover, her accomplishments in backyard vegetable cultivation have motivated other women farmers to procure vermicompost from her and use it in their own fields to enhance yields. As a result, more youth and Self-Help Groups (SHGs) have approached ATMA Dimapur for vermicomposting training and setting up their own vermicompost units.

Training Coverage

The STRY training program provided comprehensive knowledge on the role of earthworms in vermicomposting, various vermicomposting methods, handling and harvesting techniques, construction of low-cost vermished roofs, protection against pests and diseases, predator avoidance strategies, vermicompost application for different crops, soil health improvement, field visits to successful vermicompost farmers, and interactions with women farmers. Additionally, the training covered topics such as vermiwash and its benefits, vermicompost as an additional income source, and potential funding sources for vermicompost adoption at farmers fields.

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(65) Enhanced knowledge and skills boosting success in mushroom cultivation

Story of Merangkok SHG from Mokokchung district of Nagaland

Background

Merangkok Self-Help Group (SHG) was established in Mangkolemba town by a dedicated group of 13 women with the shared goal of improving their standard of living. Formed in 2018, the SHG aimed to save a portion of their earnings and contribute to a common fund for emergency needs. Initially, they generated funds of Rs. 20,000/- through various farming activities such as cultivating leafy vegetables, potatoes, mushrooms, vermicomposting, and value addition products like pickles and ginger candy. However, they lacked the technical knowledge and skills required for optimal productivity. To address this, ATMA Mokokchung provided them with training on oyster mushroom production techniques under STRY to help them enhance their income.

Training & Motivation

The SHG members participated in a week long training program under STRY on “Oyster Mushroom Production Techniques” during 14 – 19 February 2022 organised by ATMA Mokokchung in association with State Agricultural Management and Extension Training Institute (SAMETI), Nagaland and National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE), Hyderabad. Through this program, the group members were introduced to the technical aspects of mushroom production, igniting their motivation to engage in commercial oyster mushroom farming.

Socio-economic impact of program

The STRY program had a significant socio-economic impact on the Merangkok SHG members. With an average yield of 1.5 kg per bed and a selling price of Rs. 180 per kg for paddy straw oyster mushrooms, the group now generates a net income of approximately Rs. 18,000-20,000 per month.

Contribution of the program

The STRY program equipped the group with valuable knowledge and skills in mushroom production. The skill training program helped the members in understanding the importance of maintaining hygiene while using paddy straw and in the breeding room, precautions to be taken while sourcing and selecting quality spawn and implementing effective disease management strategies.

Influence on other Farmers

- Merangkok SHG provide training on mushroom cultivation to unemployed youth and interested farmers, serving as a source of motivation and inspiration. Through their farmer-to-farmer extension services, rural youth and women farmers have embraced mushroom farming as an entrepreneurial opportunity.

- The group actively participates in farmer-centric programs such as trainings and demonstrations organized by ATMA in the Mangkolemba block under the Mokokchung district.

Training Coverage

The STRY program covered a wide range of topics related to mushroom cultivation, including introduction to mushroom world, scope and importance of mushroom techniques, identifying various types of mushrooms, types of edible mushroom, production of oyster mushroom using crop residues as substrate, economic importance of mushroom production in small scale, medicinal and nutritional benefits of mushroom, market analysis and strategy, climatic requirement for cultivation of oyster mushroom, varieties and cropping unit, cultivation technology of paddy straw and saw dust oyster mushroom, cost of cultivation of paddy straw and saw dust oyster mushroom, spawn inoculation techniques, crop management, incubation period, fruiting period, harvesting period, plant protection measures and control strategies, value addition of oyster



mushroom as food security, post-harvest management and market intelligence at present context, farm design for mushroom cultivation and entrepreneurship development through mushroom production. For practical sessions, hands-on practical of paddy straw oyster mushroom and step by step procedure like sterilization of paddy straw, preparation of substrate making, inoculation of spawn and maintenance of cropping room, preparation of saw dust oyster mushroom including substrate making, packing, steam sterilization and spawning were covered.

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(66) Collective efforts empowers women farmers in fish processing

Story of Phon Ronkha SHG from Wokha district of Nagaland

Background

Phon Ronkha Self-Help Group (SHG) is an informal group consisting of 10 women farmers, established in 2016. The group was formed with the objective of improving their financial status and standard of living. They initiated the group fund by collecting Rs 300 from each member, which was then invested in their first venture of pickle making. Although the profit margin was modest, it served as a catalyst for expanding their enterprise into other sectors.

Training & Motivation

ATMA Wokha, in collaboration with SAMETI Mediphema; MANAGE Hyderabad, and NSRLM, organized a STRY training program on post-harvest activities of fish handling and processing. The training took place from 7-12 February 2022. During this program, the Phon Ronkha SHG members received comprehensive training on various aspects of fish processing, including the preparation of fish cutlets, fish soup, fish balls, fish fingers, and fish pickles. They were also trained on packaging and labelling techniques.



Socio-economic impact of program

Following the training program on post-harvest activities of fish handling and fish processing conducted by ATMA Wokha, the Phon Ronkha SHG members expanded their activities to include fish processing, particularly in the production of fish pickles and other fish products. Through these endeavours, they were able to generate an income of Rs. 50,000, significantly enhancing the economic status of the SHG members.

Contribution of the program

The training program provided the Phon Ronkha SHG with valuable skills and knowledge in fish processing. Skills such as fish filleting, steps of fish processing, preparation of fish side dishes, packaging, labelling, use of weighing machines and

marketing were taught during the training program which has helped the SHG to be better equipped with technical knowledge to run their enterprise smoothly.

Influence on other Farmers

- The success of SHG members highlights the collective strength of women as a group. The Phon Ronkha SHG members, who were previously daily farmers striving to sustain themselves, have undergone a transformation into successful entrepreneurs.
- This not only brought about a positive change in their economic and social status but also served as a motivation for other women farmers to pursue similar income-generating activities.

Training Coverage

The training program covered various topics related to fish processing, like value addition in fish products, fish preservation, types of value added fish products, preparation of fish pickles, fish cookies, fish soup, fish cutlet, fish balls and fish fingers. The program also covered aspects related to marketing of value added fish products, fish and sea food processing, trends in fish processing technology and fish processing industry.



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(67) STRY intervention transforms vermicomposting into a remarkable success story

Story of Smt A Yekali Shohe from Zunheboto district of Nagaland

Background

Smt Shohe, a dynamic and well-educated farmer from Asukhomi village, Zunheboto block, Zunheboto district, has a keen interest in learning new agricultural techniques. Initially, she started farming on a small scale, focusing on vegetable and fruit cultivation. The importance and demand for organic manure in the market prompted her to take up vermicomposting as an income generating activity. She had been practicing vermicomposting at home, but she wanted to gain knowledge about the technical aspects of vermicomposting.

Training & Motivation

The increasing demand for organic manure in the market motivated Smt Shohe to pursue vermicomposting as an income-generating activity. She came across a short duration STRY training program organized by ATMA Zunheboto, in 2021 on vermicomposting. This training program inspired her to adopt vermicomposting on a commercial level to generate income.



Socio-economic impact of program

With her increased understanding of the technical aspects of vermicomposting, Smt Shohe is now in a better position to expand her farming activities and pursue vermicomposting on a commercial level which enabled her to generate an annual income of ₹50,000 with minimal inputs depending mainly on skills acquired during the program.

Contribution of the program

- The training program provided Smt Shohe with important skills and knowledge. She gained valuable knowledge about the right techniques for successful vermicomposting.

- This included selecting suitable sites, choosing the right earthworm species, understanding the raw materials required, maintaining proper moisture levels, learning harvesting and packaging methods, and ensuring overall better yield and quality of vermicomposting

Influence on other Farmers

- Success of Smt Shohe has had a positive influence on many other farmers in her and neighbouring villages, inspiring them to take up vermicomposting as an income-generating activity.
- Her story has also raised awareness about the importance of organic manure like vermicompost in improving the health of the ecosystem.

Training Coverage

The training program covered various aspects of vermicomposting like introduction to vermicomposting, importance of vermicompost, revenue generation, selection of materials for vermicomposting, collection of raw materials for vermicomposting, preparation of raw materials to be used in making vermicompost, different types of worms used in vermicomposting, effects of vermicompost materials in agriculture and different types of vermicomposting techniques. Hands on demonstration on vermicomposting using vermicomposting beds were also undertaken.



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(68) Skill development fuels blossoming success in beekeeping

Story of Shri Arababu Nimala from Rayagada district of Odisha

Background

Shri Arababu Nimala is a determined rural youth residing in Kukuruguda village of Rayagada district in Odisha. His total income, coming from cultivation of cashew on his one acre of agricultural land and salary of his wife who is working as a contractual staff at the Panchayat office, was not sufficient to meet the needs of his family. Faced with this challenging situation, Shri Arababu sought additional income-generating opportunities within the field of agriculture. In order to diversify his income stream, Shri Arababu decided to rear backyard poultry and a small number of goats. These activities helped in improving his financial condition, though he was still looking for some additional source of income to provide income on regular basis. Recognizing the potential of proximity of his village to a dense forest rich in food sources such as nectar and pollen, Shri Arababu recently ventured into scientific beekeeping.



Training & Motivation

Shri Arababu showed keen interest in honey bee rearing and took the opportunity to participate in a seven-day long skill training program in scientific beekeeping organized by Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Rayagada. The skill training program in scientific beekeeping took place from November 18, 2022, to November 24, 2022, at the KVK Rayagada campus. As part of the Technical Support Project (TSP) program, KVK Rayagada provided two honey bee boxes to Shri Arababu for demonstration purposes. These boxes served as practical learning tools, allowing him to observe and practice beekeeping techniques in a hands-on manner.

Socio-economic impact of program

- Scientific beekeeping has emerged as a promising income-generating activity for Shri Arababu due to the abundant availability of natural resources for honey bees in the nearby forest throughout the year. By strategically placing his beehives in the vicinity of this resource-rich environment, Shri Arababu aims to capitalize on the natural abundance of nectar and pollen, ensuring a steady honey production.
- Prior to the training, Shri Arababu had an annual income of about Rs. 1.0 lakh. However, after acquiring the skills and knowledge through the training, he is now poised to establish himself as a commercial honey beekeeper in his locality. This transition to commercial beekeeping opens up new income-generating opportunities for him. With the establishment of an apiary unit and the expansion of his beekeeping activities, his annual income is expected to increase to around Rs. 150,000. This will allow him to better meet the needs of his family.

Contribution of the program

- By participating in this skill training program, Shri Arababu had the opportunity to enhance his understanding of scientific beekeeping and learn best practices for honey bee management.
- This knowledge helped him integrate honey bee rearing into his existing agricultural activities, contributing to additional income generation and promoting sustainable rural livelihoods.

Influence on other Farmers

- The success of Shri Arababu showcases the determination and adaptability of rural youth in exploring and capitalizing on income-generating opportunities within the agriculture sector.
- Proactive approach of Shri Arababu serves as an inspiration to others in his community, highlighting the potential for economic growth and livelihood improvement through innovative agricultural practices.

Training Coverage

The comprehensive training program covered a wide range of topics related to beekeeping. The program aimed to equip participants with the necessary knowledge and skills to engage in successful beekeeping practices. Here are some of the key areas covered during the training, introduction to beekeeping, types of bees, the history of beekeeping, beekeeping equipment, bee box management, seasonal colony management, identification and control of threats to honey bees, bee disease management, honey production techniques, bee pasture preservation, honey processing, entrepreneurship opportunities in beekeeping, and practical orientation through exposure visits.



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(69) Journey of Smt Phurpa Lhamu in vermicomposting from soil to success

Story of Smt Phurpa Lhamu from Tawang District of Arunachal Pradesh

Background

Smt Phurpa Lhamu, a determined and hardworking farmer from a rural village in Arunachal Pradesh, has become a beacon of success in the agricultural sector. Despite facing numerous challenges such as limited resources, poor soil fertility, unpredictable weather conditions, and a lack of knowledge in modern farming techniques, her unwavering passion for farming has driven her to seek opportunities for growth and improvement in agriculture.

Training & Motivation

Recognizing the harmful effects of chemical fertilizers on the soil and environment, Smt Phurpa Lhamu took the initiative to embrace vermicomposting as a sustainable alternative. She participated in a week long training program on vermicomposting sponsored by the State Agricultural Management & Extension Training Institute (SAMETI) and National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE), Hyderabad under the guidance of Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Tawang. This training not only equipped her with the necessary knowledge but also instilled in her a sense of confidence, determination, and a vision for the future.

Socio-economic impact of program

- Armed with the knowledge gained from the training program, Smt Lhamu established a well-developed vermicompost unit spanning an area of 336 sq. feet, consisting of seven beds sized 12x4x1 feet, sheltered by a tree shed. With 3 kg of earthworms provided by KVK Tawang, her initial experiment proved highly successful.
- Today, Smt Phurpa Lhamu is a proud producer of approximately 1400 kg of vermicompost annually from her seven beds. She sells around 700 kg in the Tawang market at a rate of Rs 30/kg, generating an income of Rs 21,000. Additionally, she sells 7 kg of worms at Rs 300/kg, earning Rs 2,100. The remaining 700 kg of vermicompost is utilized on her own vegetable crops, including Cabbage, Cauliflower, Beans, and Carrot, resulting in an equivalent income of Rs 8,000. As a result, her total income from vermicomposting reaches an impressive Rs 31,000 per month.



Contribution of the program

The training program was instrumental in success of Smt Phurpa Lhamu in practicing sustainable agriculture. It provided her with enhanced knowledge and skills in vermicomposting, access to vital resources, expert guidance and mentorship, networking opportunities, and inspiration to pursue her farming goals. These contributions enabled her to overcome challenges, adopt modern techniques, and made a positive socio-economic impact in her community

Influence on other Farmers

The inspiring journey of Smt Phurpa Lhamu has made her a role model for countless farmers in her community. She actively engages with fellow farmers, generously sharing her knowledge and encouraging them to adopt modern techniques. Her success has also inspired eight trainees from her village to establish their own vermicompost units, further spreading the benefits of sustainable agriculture in the community. Her story serves as a testament to the transformative power of determination, education, and innovation in rural communities, showcasing the potential for sustainable and prosperous agricultural practices in even the most challenging environments.

Training Coverage

The training program covered various topics related to vermicomposting which included organic manures, impact of vermicompost on soil health, raw material selection, earthworm species, decomposition process, vermicompost bed preparation methods (heap, pit, poly-vermi),



vermiwash, application of vermicompost and vermiwash in crops, field visits to vermicompost units, preparation of liquid organic manures (e.g., Panchagavya), botanical pesticides (neem, karanj), enriching vermicompost, and entrepreneurship aspects of vermicompost production.

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(70) Skill-based training program sparks success in mushroom cultivation

Story of Shri Narayan Gavel from Raigarh district of Chhattisgarh

Background

Shri Narayan Gavel is a young tribal farmer from the Katod village in the Kharsiya block of Raigarh district, Chhattisgarh. With a strong passion for agriculture, Shri Narayan joined his father in farming after completing his higher secondary education. He possesses a total landholding of 10 acres which is being used for cultivation of field crops like paddy. Shri Narayan cultivates local rice varieties such as MTU1010 and Safri. Furthermore, he has made remarkable progress in diversifying his income through fish cum duck culture on his three farm ponds, as well as profitable mushroom cultivation.



Training & Motivation

Motivated by his desire to maximize harvests with minimal investment, Shri Narayan sought opportunities for skill development. He participated in a week-long skill-based training program conducted by the KVK Raigarh, under STRY. The training program, titled "Mushroom Production Techniques," took place from 15th to 20th March 2021, in collaboration with the State Agriculture Management and Extension Training Institute (SAMETI), Chhattisgarh, and the National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE), Hyderabad.

Socio-economic impact of program

The skill-based training program had a significant socio-economic impact on the life of Shri Narayan. It equipped him with the knowledge and skills required for paddy straw and oyster mushroom production, inspiring him to take up mushroom cultivation as a supplementary income-generating activity. Prior to the training, Narayan's annual income was approximately Rs. 4.5 lakhs. However, by implementing the skills acquired during the program, he successfully increased his annual income to more than Rs. 6.5 lakhs by efficiently utilizing the available resources.

Contribution of the program

The training program covered various aspects that proved instrumental in success of Shri Narayan. He learned the importance of hygiene and cleanliness in selecting paddy straw, cultivation rooms, materials, and mushroom spawn. Program also helped him in gaining insights into the impact of environmental factors on mushroom production, such as humidity and temperature, on mushroom cultivation and acquired techniques to control these variables.

Influence on other Farmers

The achievements and dedication shown by Shri Narayan have not gone unnoticed. His success has influenced other farmers in his village to take up farming as a viable livelihood option. He has become a role model, particularly in the production and marketing of mushrooms, and is seen as an example by rural youth.

Training Coverage

The training program provided comprehensive coverage of mushroom production, including principles and practices of cultivation, types of mushrooms, their food value, edible and poisonous varieties, and the significance of mushroom cultivation as an agribusiness activity. Shri Narayan also gained insights into national and international mushroom production, identifying opportunities and constraints in the industry. The program covered various mushroom types, including paddy straw, oyster, and milky mushrooms, and emphasized the cultivation procedures for each. Furthermore, he received training on compost production technology for white button mushrooms, management techniques, disease and pest management, and practical exposure through field visits.



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(71) From corporate to cultivator – the organic farming revolution in Una district

Story of Shri Anil Rana & Shri Akhil Rana from Una district of Himachal Pradesh

Background

Shri Anil Rana, a postgraduate in business management (MBA) with UGC-NET, and Shri Akhil Rana, a graduate, both had extensive corporate experience before they decided to venture into farming in 2012. With 25 acres of land, they initially faced challenges in avoiding the use of inorganic fertilizers and pesticides. However, after discovering the benefits of "Waste Decomposer" from the National Centre of Organic Farming (NCOF), they witnessed a significant increase in wheat yield, from 10 quintals per acre to 25 quintals per acre. Despite a decrease in yield the following year due to low organic carbon content, their interest in organic farming persisted. They were later approached by ATMA Una to attend a two-day session on Subhash Palekar Natural Farming (SPNF) at Nauni Horticulture University, presided over by Hon'ble Governor of Himachal Pradesh Shri Acharya Devvrat. This introduction to natural farming proved to be the solution to their yield issues. The skill development on preparation of various inputs helped them incorporate local herbs as pest/insect repellents and utilized desi cow urine and dung as sources of organic carbon and fertilizer. Additionally, they implemented moringa leaf extract to provide micro-nutrients to their crops.

Training & Motivation

Although the Rana brothers were initially interested in organic farming, the three-year leaching period, reduced yield, and high cost of organic fertilizers posed challenges. They started with the waste decomposer before transitioning to natural farming after a couple of years. They underwent training on organic farming at ATMA Block Haroli which helped them in preparation of various inputs for practicing natural farming.

Socio-economic impact of program

The adoption of natural framing had several positive socio-economic impacts –

- Zero input cost - by eliminating the need for external inputs like fertilizers and pesticides, the Rana brothers have significantly reduced their input costs, leading to increased profitability.
- Increased yield and revenue - with the implementation of natural farming techniques, their yield has doubled, resulting in higher revenue.
- Chemical-free and healthy food - consumers benefit from the availability of chemical-free and healthy produce. They were also able to avail different benefits available under various schemes and programs of the government including subsidies for cow shed cemented floor preparation, buying Desi cows, and purchasing plastic tanks, among others.

- Attractive prices for produce - the Rana brothers receive attractive prices for their organic products, such as black wheat daliya, organic garlic, organic basmati rice, bansi desi wheat, and organic mustard oil.

Contribution of the program

The training helped them to cut input costs to half while doubling their yield, making agriculture a viable and profitable venture. Presently the Rana brothers are selling various organic products such as black wheat daliya, organic garlic, organic basmati rice, and organic mustard oil. They also utilize the by-products for fish farming, including using wheat, maize, and rice husk for making floating fish feed.

Awards & Recognition

The success of Rana brothers and their contribution to organic and natural farming has been recognized through various awards and honours:

- All India Best Fish Farmer Inland Fisheries by the National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) in 2019.
- Progressive Farmer cum Inspirational Source Honour Award by CSK Agriculture University, Palampur, and KVK Una in 2021.



Influence on other Farmers

The success of Rana brothers has motivated and influenced other farmers to adopt sustainable farming practices. They have actively encouraged other farmers to undergo training and have organized two camps at the village level on natural farming, attended by over 50 small and marginal farmers. They also motivated farmers to participate in the training programmes organised by KVK and ATMA.

Training Coverage

The skill training program on organic and natural farming covered various topics, including its various technique and benefits, practical training on making different types of natural fertilizers and pest repellents, field visits to natural farming farms, and lectures on government schemes promoting organic and natural farming.

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(72) Nurturing success – the inspiring journey of a young nursery entrepreneur

Story of Shri Ashik Deth from Kollam district of Kerala

Background

Shri Ashik Deth C S, a 21-year-old graduate from Chavarcod village in Kollam district, has emerged as a successful nursery entrepreneur, driven by his passion for farming. Since his childhood, Shri Ashik has displayed keen interest in agricultural activities, including vegetable cultivation, poultry rearing, and goat farming. Recognizing his dedication, Shri Dhanya Krishnan, the agricultural officer of



Kalluvathukkal panchayat, selected his farm for Jaivagriham program in 2020-21. This initiative provided him with various resources such as a nutri garden, azolla farming equipment, and a family drip irrigation kit. The commitment of Shri Ashik for scientific farming practices led him to attend regular training programs conducted by the agriculture department and Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Kollam. In recognition of his efforts, he was awarded the Best Student Farmer of the region in 2021 for his exceptional cultivation of Yard long beans, as demonstrated in the frontline demonstration by Krishi Vigyan Kendra.

Training & Motivation

Driven by his desire to learn and expand his agricultural endeavours, Shri Ashik recently participated in the Skill Training of Rural Youth programme conducted at Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Kollam with focus on nursery management from 14-19 November, 2022. This training program focused on propagation methods in horticultural crops and provided him with the knowledge and skills to establish a nursery. Equipped with a rain shelter spanning 40 m², he successfully initiated a plant propagation unit.

Socio-economic impact of program

- The socio-economic impact of the initiative of nursery has been substantial on the life of Shri Ashik. He sells high-quality vegetable seedlings developed by prestigious institutions like Kerala Agricultural University and the Indian Institute of Horticultural Research, Bangalore.
- Through collaborations with the agriculture department and Karmasena in the district, he supplies these seedlings to local farmers. Additionally, he specializes in producing and selling grafted vegetable seedlings, particularly tomato on solanum torvum.
- The success of his nursery has not only brought him satisfaction but also generated a steady income from this new enterprise.

Contribution of the program

The training program have made a significant contribution to the journey of Shri Ashik as a young nursery entrepreneur. The programs provided him with valuable knowledge and skills in scientific farming practices, propagation methods in horticultural crops, and other relevant agricultural techniques. These skills equipped him to establish and operate his own nursery successfully.

Influence on other Farmers

Shri Ashik has become a source of inspiration for young individuals and self-help groups in the farming community. He has conducted numerous motivational and technical sessions on propagation techniques and value addition of horticultural crops. His expertise and experiences have been shared with various agricultural offices and Karmasena groups across different parts of the Kollam district, empowering and encouraging others to pursue similar paths in agriculture.

Training Coverage

The training program covered a wide range of theoretical and practical sessions related to vegetative propagation and nursery management. The program covered introduction to vegetative propagation, types of vegetative propagation in horticultural crops, nursery as an enterprise, hands on training on vegetative propagation like cutting, layering grafting and budding techniques in horticultural crops.



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(73) Teacher to entrepreneur – a remarkable journey of rural youth facilitated by skill development

Story of Shri Sujesh from Palakkad district of Kerala

Background

Shri Sujesh, was a dedicated teacher who spent 13 years in teaching in a school in Sree Ganganagar, Rajasthan. He also worked for some time in Maldives. He was compelled to shuttle between Rajasthan and Kerala to take care of his mother after sudden demise of his father in 2000. In 2017, he made the decision to settle in his native place of Cheruplaserry in the Palakkad district of Kerala. Shri Sujesh owns a 13.5 cents land where he started cultivating various crops such as vegetables, coconut, and bananas. However, the income generated from these crops was not sufficient to meet financial needs of his family. With limited land area, he began exploring options for intensive cultivation. This led him to utilize a 77 square feet room available on his terrace to cultivate mushrooms.

Training & Motivation

In order to equip himself with the necessary knowledge and skills, Shri Sujesh enrolled in a three-day training program on mushroom cultivation at Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Palakkad, in December 2021. This initial training provided him with exposure to the field. Subsequently, he participated in a week long skill based training on Mushroom Production Techniques Training under the STRY at the Nodal Training Institute, Regional Agricultural Research Station in Pattambi during 21 – 26 February 2022. During the training, Shri Sujesh gained hands-on experience and was inspired by the success stories shared by fellow farmers. Field visits as part of the training further motivated him to pursue commercial mushroom cultivation. In March 2022, he embarked on his commercial mushroom cultivation venture. In his quest for continuous improvement, Shri Sujesh acquired one-day training on spawn production from Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Thrissur, in October 2022. Additionally, he regularly visits successful mushroom cultivators in neighbouring districts to learn from their experiences and enhance his own performance.

Socio-economic impact of program

- Starting with a modest 10 beds, Shri Sujesh gradually expanded his mushroom cultivation to 152 beds, focusing on oyster mushrooms initially. Despite facing challenges during the rainy season, he experimented with milky mushrooms, which offered advantages such as longer shelf life and minimal pest and disease incidence. As his knowledge on the subject improved, he achieved successful harvests, with 110 beds yielding 42.5 kg of mushrooms. Previously struggling to make ends meet, Shri Sujesh now earns an average monthly income of Rs 8,000-9,000. This financial stability has significantly improved his livelihood.

- Shri Sujesh adopted innovative marketing strategies, utilizing WhatsApp groups and participating in weekly village markets facilitated by the State Department of Agriculture. By branding his mushrooms as "P K Mushroom" and packaging them in 250 gm packets, he attracted customers who appreciated the freshness and chemical-free nature of his produce

Contribution of the program

The training program played a crucial role in Shri Sujesh's success and made a substantial contribution to his journey as a mushroom entrepreneur. The program equipped him with the necessary knowledge and skills, fostered collaboration and knowledge sharing through WhatsApp groups, and provided insights into the market potential of mushrooms.

Influence on other Farmers

The leadership role played by Shri Sujesh in the WhatsApp group for mushroom cultivation has inspired other farmers to seek guidance from him. Together with a fellow trainee, he designed a cost-effective mushroom cultivation structure called Bio net, which has garnered attention for its affordability and effectiveness. Shri Sujesh has also trained three farmers from a nearby village who are now preparing to start their own mushroom cultivation ventures.

Training Coverage

The comprehensive training program covered the importance and scope of mushroom cultivation, various mushroom types, and cultivation techniques for paddy straw mushrooms, bed preparation, spawn selection, post-harvesting care, marketing strategies, health benefits of mushrooms, and the economic aspects of mushroom cultivation. Field visits to mushroom farms and spawn units provided practical exposure, while problem-solving sessions helped address challenges faced in cultivation.



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(74) Empowering livelihood through organic vegetable seedling production

Story of Shri Visakh Vijayan from Idukki district of Kerala

Background

Shri Visakh Vijayan is youth from Parackal, Idukki with aim to revolutionize organic vegetable production and make it more affordable and accessible for farmers in the region. He identified a major hurdle in the form of high farming costs caused by the need to source planting material from distant locations. Motivated by his vision, Shri Visakh devoted himself to finding a solution. He conducted extensive research and attended relevant training programs to acquire the necessary skills and knowledge in organic farming techniques and seedling production. With his knowledge and expertise, he aimed to establish a sustainable nursery that would provide quality planting material at an affordable price.

Training & Motivation

Shri Visakh attended a skill-based training program organized by ICAR-KVK, Idukki, under the STRY, where he gained knowledge and hands-on experience in organic farming and nursery production. Motivated by the training, Shri Visakh submitted an application to start his own vegetable seedling nursery on a 5-cent area, with technical guidance from ICAR-KVK. With the timely intervention and support provided by the program, he successfully established a well-equipped nursery. The program offered hands-on training on Nursery Production and Management, ensuring that he is having all the skills required to grow and nurture high-quality vegetable seedlings.

Socio-economic impact of program

- Through the training program, Shri Visakh learned about best practices in seedling production and management. Implementing these techniques improved the overall productivity of his nursery.
- He was able to produce a higher quantity of healthy and quality seedlings, which translated into increased sales and revenue. The success of his nursery not only contributed to his own economic gain, averaging around Rs. 3.50 lakhs per annum, but also helped him emerge a local role model for various other rural youth.

Contribution of the program

The training program equipped Shri Visakh with essential knowledge and skills related to organic farming techniques, seedling production and nursery management. He gained a deep understanding of best practices, innovative methods, and efficient resource utilization in organic vegetable and seed production.

Influence on other Farmers

- Inspired by the success of Shri Visakh, more rural youth started showing interest in pursuing organic vegetable and seed production, leading to a positive influence on the farming community overall.
- The success of Shri Visakh served as an inspiration for other rural youth in the area. Witnessing his achievements, they were motivated to explore organic vegetable production as a viable and sustainable livelihood option. His nursery became a beacon of hope and a role model for aspiring entrepreneurs in the agricultural sector.

Training Coverage

The training program equipped the participants with theoretical knowledge and practical skills necessary for vegetative propagation and nursery management. This comprehensive training played a crucial role in preparing participants in managing organic vegetable seedling nursery successfully. The topics covered are introduction to vegetative propagation, types of vegetative propagation in horticultural crops, nursery as an enterprise and hands-on training on vegetative propagation.



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(75) Empowering rural youth through skill development in mushroom cultivation

Story of Smt Rukiya from Trissur district of Kerala

Background

Smt Rukiya is a skilled tailor with a diploma in tailoring from Malappuram, Kerala. She runs a tailoring unit in two nearby villages, Chungath and Pattikkad, along with her husband. They also own a textile and fancy items shop. Her husband had been working in the Gulf countries, but due to the pandemic, he has returned to Kerala. Smt Rukiya frequently visits Saudi Arabia, where her husband has a villa, and during her visits, she engages in various agricultural activities on the premises. Smt Rukiya owns half an acre of land where she engages in diverse agricultural activities. She cultivates various crops such as bananas, coconuts, sapota, and medicinal plants on her land. She also maintains a small nursery for orchids and flower crops. She is also involved in animal husbandry activities, including poultry with 100 birds, 10 ducks, and 3 goats. She has also set up apiary units (bee boxes) for beekeeping. In order to ensure efficient irrigation, she has implemented modern irrigation methods such as drip and sprinkler systems on her land, with financial assistance from the State Department of Agriculture. Recognising the immense potential of agriculture and allied sectors, she was looking for more opportunities like mushroom production.

Training & Motivation

Smt Rukiya, residing in an area where many residents have family members in Gulf countries, recognized the potential of mushroom cultivation in her community. With a preference for fresh and chemical-free mushrooms among both vegetarians and non-vegetarians, she saw an opportunity to meet the demand for this versatile food item. In 2010, she underwent a 3-day mushroom training program at the Regional Agricultural Technology Training Centre in Malampuzha which she felt may not be sufficient. This encouraged her to participate in a STRY program on mushroom cultivation conducted during 2019 by NTI RARS, Pattambi, further enhancing her skills and expertise in mushroom cultivation.

Socio-economic impact of program

- Mushroom cultivation venture of Smt Rukiya has proven to be financially rewarding. By consistently preparing four beds from two packets at frequent intervals, she ensures a steady harvest.
- Selling one kilogram of mushrooms at Rs. 400, she achieves a significant profit of Rs. 350 per bed (excluding labour costs). With 120 beds in one month, she earns a profit of Rs. 32,000 per year and Rs. 64,000 in two years. This success has improved her financial standing and independence.

Contribution of the program

The training has motivated Smt Rukiya to enhance the quantity of mushroom production. With the knowledge and skills gained, she aspires to establish a spawn production unit in the near future. This expansion in production capacity will further contribute to her economic growth and meet the growing demand for mushrooms. The program has empowered Smt Rukiya with the knowledge, motivation, and resources needed to expand her mushroom cultivation enterprise.

Influence on other Farmers

Smt Rukiya has empowered women by enabling them to contribute economically to their households and increased their standing within their families by taking up enterprises like mushroom cultivation. Her expertise in mushroom cultivation extends beyond her local community. During her frequent visits to Gulf countries, she shares her knowledge with people there, potentially creating income opportunities for them and promoting sustainable farming practices internationally.



Training Coverage

The training program covered various aspects of mushroom cultivation, including introduction to mushroom cultivation, types of mushrooms and substrate preparation, practical substrate preparation, mushroom bed preparation, mother spawn culture preparation, commercial spawn preparation, cultivation of oyster mushroom and Milky mushroom, practical familiarization with edible and non-edible mushroom species, practical preparation and processing of mushrooms and value-added products, pest and disease management in mushroom cultivation, mushroom as an entrepreneurship opportunity and funding agencies, and preparation of a bankable project report on mushroom cultivation.

STRY Team

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(76) Skill training propels beekeeping into a successful venture

Story of Shri S K Habib from Malda district of West Bengal

Background

Shri Habib is a farmer in Rukundipur village, Ratua-I block, Malda district, West Bengal. He relies solely on farming for income to support his family of four. Shri Habib cultivates crops on his one-acre land and an additional 2 bigha leased land. His annual income amounts to approximately two lakhs, which is not sufficient to meet the family needs. Shri Habib follows a diverse pattern of crop cultivation throughout the year, growing rice, jute, maize, black gram, aman rice, tomatoes, wheat, mustard, lentils, bhindi (okra), and brinjal (eggplant). This crop rotation strategy ensures a continuous agricultural output and a variety of crops to meet market demands and therefore consistent income. Driven by the desire to find an additional source of income, Shri Habib explored various options. The idea of beekeeping captured his attention, as it presented a profitable opportunity even during the rainy season. In this flood-prone area, when the village and cultivated lands were submerged, honeybees could be reared, providing a mean to generate income throughout the year.

Training & Motivation

Fortune smiled upon Shri Habib when he had the chance to participate in a week long skill-based training program on beekeeping. The program was organized under STRY component implemented by the Ministry, in collaboration with the Malda Krishi Vigyan Kendra and State Agriculture Management and Extension Training Institute (SAMETI) in Narendrapur, West Bengal. The training, conducted from December 27, 2022, to January 2, 2023, introduced him to the multifaceted aspects of beekeeping.

Socio-economic impact of program

The impact of the skill-based training program on the life of Shri Habib was significant. It equipped him with the knowledge and skills required for beekeeping, inspiring him to venture into honey and other bee product production as a supplementary income generating activity. Prior to the training, his annual income hovered around Rs 2.0 lakhs. However, the implementation of the skills he acquired during the beekeeping training program boosted his income to approximately Rs 3.0 lakhs. He achieved this by leveraging his cultivation resources and selling honey and other bee products in the local market.

Contribution of the program

Skills learnt during the training program helped him to understand the importance of honey bee, honey and hygiene and cleanliness of apiary box and acquire knowledge about maintenance of apiary box and honey bees during dearth period, extraction of honey and other bee-products, preparation of wax sheet and processing and branding of their produce.

The program played a crucial role in success of Shri Habib. He learned about the importance of honeybees, production of honey, and significance of maintaining hygiene and cleanliness in apiary boxes. He gained knowledge on managing apiary boxes and honeybees during dearth periods, extracting honey and other bee products, preparing wax sheets, and processing and branding of various honey based product.

Influence on other Farmers

The journey of Shri Habib did not end with personal success. His accomplishments sparked interest among other rural youth and farmers in the area. Observing his increased income and the potential of beekeeping, they too became eager to get engaged in this lucrative venture alongside their regular livelihood



activities. Shri Habib, seizing the opportunity, collaborated with an experienced beekeeper to engage in beekeeping on a shared basis. He also encouraged various other rural youth to get involved and achieve the scale, envisioning a future where his business could expand and thrive through branding and increased production.

Training Coverage

During the skill training, participants were exposed to various aspects of beekeeping in agriculture. He learned about the beekeeping scenario, the scope of beekeeping, and the marketing landscape of apiculture. Topics such as the life cycle of honey bees, honeycomb formation, colony life and behaviour, the influence of the environment, bee pasturage, and its relation to agriculture were covered. Participants gained practical skills in handling apiary boxes and honeybees, as well as the extraction of honey and other bee products using specialized equipment. The training also provided insights into different field and horticultural crops suitable for honey production. In addition, participants learned about the enemies of honeybees and their management, the effects of pesticide poisoning, and even had the opportunity to embark on exposure visits for practical orientation.

STRY Team

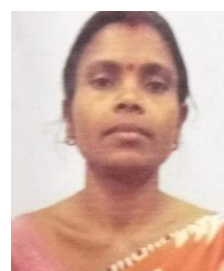
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(77) Inspiring journey of a successful women entrepreneur from West Bengal

Story of Smt Arpita Betal from South 24 Parganas district of West Bengal

Background

Smt Arpita Betal from South 24 Parganas embraced goat rearing and agricultural practices as a mean to uplift social and economic condition of her family. In spite of challenging circumstances, Smt Arpita managed to complete her higher secondary education from the local school in Budge Budge. With only limited agricultural land to practice farming, she diversified towards animal husbandry and started her journey with just two goats and two cows, striving to create a better life for her family.



Training & Motivation

Driven by ambition and a strong desire to establish herself as an financially independent women, Smt Arpita participated in a skill based short duration training program on goat rearing conducted under STRY by State Agricultural Management and Extension Training Institute (SAMETI), West Bengal during 16 – 22 March 2021. The program conducted in association with MANAGE, Hyderabad helped her gain extensive knowledge on various aspects of goat rearing.

Socio-economic impact of program

The program has a significant socio-economic impact on Smt Arpita. She not only was able to understand the complexities of goat rearing but also became more confident in tackling various challenges that came her way. With an initial investment of Rs. 40,000 and the knowledge acquired during the training, she began her venture with 11 goats. Within a year, she expanded her business and now rears over 35 goats, along with 2 cows. Her annual income reflects her dedication and hard work. She is currently earning an annual income of about Rs.1,10,000 from goat rearing and other agricultural activities.

Contribution of the program

The skills acquired during the training program played a crucial role in enhancing understanding of Smt Arpita on various vital aspects of goat rearing. One significant area where she gained valuable insights was the importance of vaccination and deworming. Through the training, she learned about the significance of implementing proper vaccination schedules to protect the health and well-being of her goats. She also became knowledgeable about the importance of deworming to prevent parasitic infestations and maintain the overall health of the animals.

Influence on other Farmers

- The success of Smt Arpita not only enriched her own life but also positively impacted the lives of others in her community. She shares her knowledge and skills in goat rearing with rural youth and empower them.
- Her achievements have rippled through neighbouring villages, making her a role model for other women and breaking societal stereotypes about their capabilities.
- The SHG which she is a member of, aims at improving financial stability, increase savings, and enhance family status of members of the group, enabling them to provide better education for their children.



Training Coverage

During the skill training program, participants gained proficiency in various areas, including the identification of goat breeds, goat breeding management, goat management, feed and feeding practices, common and infectious diseases of goats, green fodder cultivation, government schemes, marketing strategies, and the economics of goat farming. Esteemed resource persons provided comprehensive theoretical knowledge, while practical demonstrations covered essential aspects such as vaccination, deworming, determination of body weight, determination of age by dentition, and temperature recording.

STRY Team

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(78) Building a profitable nursery – a tale of success and growth

Story of Shri Masud Ali Sarkar from Dakshin Dinajpur district of West Bengal

Background

Shri Masud Ali Sarkar, previously working as a contractual private car driver, experienced the challenges associated with an uncertain income due to a payment system following "no work, no pay" basis. As a driver, he faced the constant uncertainty of not knowing whether he would have work or receive payment on a regular basis. This unstable payment structure made it difficult for him to plan and support his family financially. It was his determination and aspiration for a more stable and fulfilling livelihood that led him to seek alternative opportunities for economic growth and security.



Training & Motivation

Search of Shri Sarkar for a more stable and fulfilling occupation, encouraged him to enrol for a short duration skill based training program conducted under STRY on planting materials production of different horticultural crops. The program was organised at DDKVK during 24 – 30 November 2021 in association with SAMETI, West Bengal. After the training program, he was motivated to establish a nursery with the continuous technical support provided by DDKVK.

Socio-economic impact of program

- The skill-based training program proved transformative for Shri Sarkar. The program equipped him with the necessary knowledge and skills for producing planting materials of various horticultural crops.
- The training not only encouraged him to pursue planting material production as a supplementary income-generating profession but also exposed him to the opportunities available in agriculture.
- The income of Shri Sarkar has increased to more than Rs 95,000 which earlier was only Rs 65,000. This increase is achieved from production and marketing of various planting materials in local and distant markets.

Contribution of the program

- The contribution of skill based program in success of Shri Sarkar lies in the skills acquired by him.

- He developed a thorough understanding of the importance of high-quality planting materials for different fruits, flowers, and vegetable crops.

Influence on other Farmers

- The achievements of Shri Sarkar have not only transformed his life but has been a source of motivation for other farmers in the locality.
- His success has helped him to emerge as a role model for local farmers, motivating them to explore farming as a viable profession.
- His success in production and marketing of planting materials serves as an example for rural youth.
- He shares his knowledge with about 25 farmers in his village. He also participates in various activities organized by KVK, demonstrating his commitment to the development of the agricultural community.

Training Coverage

The training program was comprehensive in its coverage with focus on both theory and practical knowledge. Various topic on nursery management were covered during skill based training program like nursery infrastructure, good nursery management practices and propagation techniques such as cutting, budding, grafting, and air layering. Practical sessions on semi-hardwood cutting, T-budding, wedge grafting, and air layering, providing participants with practical orientation. Additionally, exposure visits were organized to further enrich their learning experience.



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(79) Success achieved through preservation of fruits and vegetables

Story of Smt Bulu Chowdhury from Malda district of West Bengal

Background

Smt Bulu Chowdhury resides in the village of Rukundipur in the Ratua-I block of Malda district, West Bengal. Coming from a farming family of four members, she realized the need for additional income to sustain her family. She realised an opportunity in the preservation of fruits and vegetables and decided to undergo training in jam, jelly, and pickle preparation. Motivated by the potential returns and the ability to meet her family daily needs, she began preparing jam, jelly, and pickle using fruits such as mango, guava, lemon, and apple.

Training & Motivation

Smt Bulu Chowdhury recognized the potential for growth in processing and sought to further develop her skills. She participated in a week long skill-based training program on "Preservation of Fruits and Vegetables" conducted under the STRY component implemented by SAMETI, Ministry of Agriculture. The training was conducted during 6-12



September 2022 by Malda Krishi Vigyan Kendra in association with State Agriculture Management and Extension Training Institute (SAMETI), Narendrapur, West Bengal, and MANAGE, Hyderabad.

Socio-economic impact of program

The skill-based training program enabled Smt Bulu Chowdhury to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary for entrepreneurship development. This encouraged her to expand her jam, jelly, and pickle production as a supplementary income-generating activity. Through the implementation of these newly acquired skills, her family annual income increased to around Rs 3.00 lakhs. Additionally, she ventured into selling honey and other bee products in the local market, further contributing to their income.

Contribution of the program

- The training program played a vital role in her success by providing with a comprehensive understanding of jam, jelly, and pickle preparation, including maintaining hygiene and cleanliness during the process.

- She also gained insights into marketing strategies, branding, and understanding market. These skills empowered her to enhance the quality and marketability of her produce.

Influence on other Farmers

- The success of Smt Bulu Chowdhury had a significant influence on other farmers in her community.
- By observing her increased income and entrepreneurial spirit, rural youth and farmers in the area have expressed interest in engaging in jam, jelly, and pickle preparation as an additional source of income.
- She has motivated about 25-30 women farmers from her village to engage in jam, jelly, and pickle preparation. This additional income source contributes to their livelihood promotion and economic well-being

Training Coverage

The training program covered various aspects of jam, jelly, and pickle preparation, including marketing of processed products. Practical classes on preservation of fruits and vegetables, entrepreneurship development, and the preparation of jams, jellies, and pickles from mango, guava, apple, and other fruits were also conducted.



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(80) A rags to riches success story in vermicomposting

Story of Shri Arijit Sen from Kolkata district of West Bengal

Background

Shri Arijit Sen, a farmer who has transformed his agricultural practices and achieved remarkable success by venturing into vermicomposting. At the age of 36, Shri Arijit Sen, who owns 2.5 acres of land, sought to explore sustainable farming practices and organic agriculture to generate additional income. With a deep interest in vermicomposting, he started a journey that would not only change his life but also inspire others in his community.

Training & Motivation

Realizing the potential benefits of vermicomposting, he started looking for opportunities to enhance his knowledge and skills in this field. He participated in a comprehensive short duration skill based training program organized by SAMETI-West Bengal and Ramakrishna Mission Ashrama during 9 – 15 February 2020. The program provided him with in-depth knowledge and practical skills, covering various aspects such as composting techniques, earthworm management, and the application of vermicompost in crop production. Furthermore, the training program shed light on the economic aspects of vermicompost production, including input costs, market demand, and profitability.

Socio-economic impact of program

- Adoption of best practices, such as predator control and enriching the vermicompost with ingredients like trichoderma and neem, ensured the production of high-quality vermicompost.
- Through his dedication and hard work, he has been able to generate a net income of Rs. 15,000/- per month. This has proved to be a consistent source of income for him.

Contribution of the program

- Equipped with the knowledge and skills acquired from the training program, he implemented vermicomposting on his farm.
- The knowledge acquired during the program facilitated Shri Arijit Sen to establish a vermicomposting unit on his farm. He efficiently allocated a portion of his land for vermicompost beds and acquired earthworms for the composting process, leveraging his existing agricultural infrastructure to minimize additional investment costs.

Influence on other Farmers

- There has been a notable increase in interest among farmers to visit farm of Shri Sen and learn about vermicomposting. In response to this demand, he has conducted training programs to share his knowledge and promote vermicomposting. Additionally, he has carried out several field trials to observe the positive effects of vermicompost on different crops.
- He has become a catalyst for change in the agricultural landscape. His success not only benefits him personally but also contributes to the overall well-being of the community by promoting organic farming practices and fostering a greater sense of environmental responsibility.

Training Coverage

The training program attended covered a wide range of topics to ensure a comprehensive understanding of vermicomposting. From introductory sessions on organic manures and vermicomposting to the importance of vermicompost on soil health, the training program left no stone unturned. The participants gained insights into the selection and collection of raw materials, different species of earthworms used in vermicomposting, and the decomposition process of raw materials on the bed. Practical aspects, such as the preparation of vermicompost beds using heap, pit, and poly-vermi methods, were also covered. Furthermore, participants learned about vermiwash, the application of vermicompost and vermiwash in different crops, and were exposed to vermicompost units through field visits. The program also emphasized the preparation of different types of liquid organic manures, such as Panchagavya, and botanical pesticides using neem and karanj. Participants also gained insights into enriching vermicompost with various ingredients and learned about the entrepreneurship aspects of vermicompost production, including the economics of its production and the preparation of a bankable project.



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(81) Rising high on wings enabled by successful poultry farming

Story of Shri Ashok Kumar Ray from Kolkata district of West Bengal

Background

Shri Ashok Kumar Ray, a farmer with 122 decimal of land, recognized the potential of poultry farming as a transformative venture. Determined to make a mark in the agricultural industry, Shri Ashok moved on a journey that would reshape his farming practices and lead to remarkable success. His story is a testament to the power of vision, dedication, and the pursuit of knowledge.

Training & Motivation

Shri Ashok participated in a skill based training program on 'Poultry Rearing' conducted under STRY by SAMETI-West Bengal and Ramakrishna Mission Ashrama during 25th November to 1st December 2018. The training program facilitated him acquire the knowledge and skills required for practicing successful poultry rearing. This training equipped him with expertise in selecting proper poultry breeds, efficient management techniques, low-cost feeding practices, disease prevention, and overall poultry health management.

Socio-economic impact of program

- Shri Ashok Kumar Ray implemented the knowledge gained from the training program which had a significant socio-economic impact. By applying best practices in poultry disease control, Ashok has been able to generate a net income of Rs. 45,000/- per month.
- Through cost minimization measures such as optimizing feed usage, vaccination strategies, and improving the Feed Conversion Ratio, Shri Ashok has not only increased his profitability but also ensured sustainable and efficient farming practices.
- Moreover, Ashok has extended his services to local farmers, providing valuable guidance and support to help them improve their poultry farming practices.

Contribution of the program

The training program has played a pivotal role in success of Shri Ashok. It equipped him with the necessary knowledge and skills to thrive in poultry farming. He has become a catalyst for change in the local community. The increased number of low-cost poultry sheds in the area is a direct result of his influence and motivation. Furthermore, he has actively shared his expertise through extension services, helping fellow farmers enhance their poultry farming operations.

In addition, he has ventured into the production of bio-fertilizers, utilizing poultry droppings as a valuable resource. This innovative approach not only benefits his own farm but also contributes to sustainable agricultural practices and environmental preservation.

Influence on other Farmers

- Shri Ashok Kumar Ray through his success has influenced many other farmers in the region. His journey has inspired many to explore and embrace poultry farming as a viable and lucrative agricultural option. He provides extension services, share his experiences, knowledge, and best practices with fellow farmers.
- His entrepreneurial spirit and innovative approach, such as the production of bio-fertilizers from poultry droppings, have sparked interest and encouraged others to adopt sustainable farming techniques.

Training Coverage

The training program on poultry rearing provided participants with a comprehensive understanding of the subject. It included an introductory session on poultry farming, covering different poultry breeds and backyard poultry farming. The program delved into important aspects such as poultry housing, feed and feeding practices, litter management, brooding management, various poultry diseases, and vaccination techniques. Through this extensive training coverage, participants gained the knowledge and skills necessary to excel in poultry farming.



STRY Team

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(82) Innovative rural youth achieved success through poultry hatching

Story of Shri Biswajit Debnath from Khowai district of Tripura

Background

Shri Biswajit Debnath, a rural youth in his early 30s, faced financial challenges while trying to sustain his family of six with their small landholding of 0.32 hectares. In search of an alternative source of income with low investment, he learned to prepare an Egg Hatching Incubator in 2019 through YouTube videos. He became the first person in the Khowai district to develop a handmade incubator. Recognizing the potential of this, Shri Debnath approached the local Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) for assistance in improving the success rates of his hatchery. The experts from KVK-Khowai validated and calibrated the technology, by establishing the parameters required for optimum hatching.



Training & Motivation

Shri Debnath participated in a skill based training program conducted under STRY with the support of Ministry in association with MANAGE. The training program on "Poultry Rearing and Management" was conducted during 10 – 16 February, 2020 at KVK-Khowai. The training program not only exposed him to various aspects of poultry rearing but also provided the opportunity for his handmade poultry cage to be tested at KVK which received positive feedback from both experts and fellow trainees. With the guidance of the KVK, he also learned to select good quality hatching eggs, and he gradually started rearing desi hens and ducks for egg laying. This enabled him to obtain high-quality hatching eggs from his own farm and sell the excess fertile eggs at higher prices than table eggs.

Socio-economic impact of program

- The program had a significant impact on financial well-being of Shri Debnath. Through the testing, validation, and calibration of his incubator by the KVK experts, the hatching success rate reached a maximum of 82%. Impressed by the results, the incubator technology was promoted and distributed across the district, with Shri Debnath being responsible for preparing all the incubators.
- A total of 55 incubators were distributed under various projects, including IWMP/PMKSY, TAR under TSAMETI, IFS under ICAR-VPKAS, SCSP, and NICRA. Additionally, individual farmers and rural youth purchased numerous incubators directly from him.

- As a result of his expertise, he has become a consultant and resource person for incubator preparation. He was invited to share his knowledge and experience in several training programs at the KVK, focusing on poultry-related topics.
- For each batch of 100 hatching eggs, the total investment required was a maximum of Rs. 1,500, while the sale of 80 day-old chicks at Rs. 60 per chick yielded a revenue of Rs. 4,800 resulting in a net profit of Rs. 3,300 per batch.

Contribution of the program

Shri Debnath learned scientific rearing methods for poultry birds with minimal investment. The training covered feed formulation using locally available ingredients and the selection of suitable bird varieties based on land availability and financial constraints. Practical training on hygiene, vaccination, and medication enhanced the ability of Shri Debnath to implement proper health practices. These skills improved the productivity of his farm and increased his confidence as a poultry farmer.

Influence on other Farmers

The achievements and success of incubator developed by Shri Debnath inspired other farmers and rural youth in the district. Over 200 youth have started practicing poultry rearing using the incubator. The day-old chicks of local ducks and chickens are now readily available. Many rural youth have even innovated machines with larger capacities of 500 to 1,000 eggs, incorporating automatic egg rotation facilities. This entrepreneurial activity has provided them with a regular income, and during the COVID-19 lockdown period, it thrived with support from the KVK-Khowai. Some individuals have also successfully hatched turkey, quail, and pigeon eggs.



Training Coverage

The training coverage was comprehensive. It included discussions and illustrations of various topics related to different breeds, varieties, and strains of poultry. Housing requirements for different bird varieties, feeding requirements for optimal production, breeding, egg hatching, maintenance of parent stock, slaughterhouse business, and the utilization of offal and poultry litter were all covered in the training programs.

STRY Team

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(83) Skill training – the key to flourishing success in flower cultivation

Story of Shri Ratan Rudra Paul from Khowai district of Tripura

Background

Shri Ratan Rudra Paul is a progressive farmer from Teliamura sub-division in the Khowai district of Tripura. For nearly ten years, he has been engaged in farming to support his family. He initially began his farming career as a regular vegetable grower but subsequently expanding his agricultural activities ventured into floriculture. In addition to cultivating crops such as cabbage, cauliflower, tomatoes, and beans, Shri Paul also cultivates a variety of flowers including gerbera, marigold, rose, and tuberose. Through his efforts in flower cultivation, he has been able to generate substantial profits. This diversification has allowed him to explore new avenues for income generation and has contributed to the sustainability of his family livelihood.



Training & Motivation

Seeking higher returns with moderate investment, made him to participate in a skill-based training program titled "High Value Floriculture" which was conducted under STRY during 12 -18 September 2022. It was organized by ATMA Agartala, Tripura, in association with the State Agriculture Management and Extension Training Institute (SAMETI), Tripura and the National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE), Hyderabad.

Socio-economic impact of program

- The program equipped Shri Ratan Rudra Paul with the necessary knowledge and skills for flower cultivation, motivating him to pursue it as a supplementary income-generating activity. The training had a significant impact on income status.
- Prior to the training, he earned an annual income of not more than Rs. 1.00 lakh. However, by implementing the skills acquired during the program, he managed to increase his income to over Rs. 1.80 lakhs per year.

Contribution of the program

The skills acquired during the training program helped him understand various aspects of flower cultivation, including field preparation, seed sowing, plant maintenance, and protection.

Influence on other Farmers

- The achievement and success of Shri Paul has been a source of inspiration for many other youth and farmers from the locality having interest in taking up farming as a mean of livelihood.
- His success has helped him to emerge as a role model for many youth and farmers from Khowai District in flower production and marketing and he is now considered a rural youth icon.
- He shares his knowledge with other farmers from his and nearby villages, contributing to their development. He also participates in various activities organized by ATMA and KVK. Due to his expertise, he is invited as a trainer or speaker in various training programs and workshops arranged by the Department of Agriculture.



Training Coverage

The training program covered various topics related to floriculture, including the fundamentals of floriculture, nursery and seed production, cultivation practices for planting materials, identification of important commercial varieties of flowering crops, and preparation of the ground and beds for specific flower crops. The program also covered the techniques of protected cultivation for flowers.

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(84) Skill training made vermicompost production a success

Story of Shri Upendra Nath from North Tripura district of Tripura

Background

Shri Upendra Nath, a farmer from Bargul village in the North Tripura district of Tripura, relies mainly on farming as his source of livelihood. He owns a total of 5 kani (0.8 hectares) of land, which includes 2.5 kani (0.4 hectares) for paddy fields, 2 kani (0.32 hectares) for a homestead garden, and 0.5 kani (0.08 hectares) for a fishery pond. His primary focus is on cultivating paddy varieties such as Ranjit and Swarna. However, due to water scarcity, he faces challenges in growing vegetable crops during the rabi season. In spite of these challenges, he manages to grow a few vegetables like ridge gourd and brinjal for his family's consumption.

Training & Motivation

Shri Upendra Nath successfully participated in a skill-based short duration training program on Organic Farming (Vermicomposting) conducted under Skill Training of Rural Youth (STRY) component during 9 – 14 March 2023. The program was organised by KVK North Tripura in collaboration with T-SAMETI, Lembucherra, Agartala, and MANAGE, Hyderabad. The program exposed Shri Upendra to valuable knowledge and skills in organic farming techniques, specifically vermicomposting.

Socio-economic impact of program

The training program equipped Shri Upendra with the knowledge and skills required for vermicompost production. Inspired by the training, he initiated small-scale vermicompost production unit using a vermibed.



Contribution of the program

- The skills acquired during the training helped Shri Upendra understand the significance of organic inputs in agriculture and the environmental impact of chemical fertilizers.

Influence on other Farmers

- The success of Shri Upendra has been inspirational for many other farmers from his and nearby villages mainly with focus on vermicompost production
- He has encouraged and inspired at least five youth from his village by sharing his experience to available benefits of vermicompost and adopt sustainable agriculture practices.

Training Coverage

The training program covered various topics such as the negative effects of chemical fertilizers, the use of organic manures, vermicomposting techniques, the application of vermicompost in field and vegetable crops, and practical demonstrations through field visits and vermicompost unit visits.



STRY Team

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(85) Sprouting success – from contractual employment to establishing a thriving mushroom farm

Story of Shri Chandra Shekhar Singha from Khowai district of Tripura

Background

Shri Chandra Shekhar Singha, a contractual employee in the Education Department, faced financial challenges in supporting his family in Jambura village, Khowai district of Tripura. Recognizing the need for additional income, he saw an opportunity in mushroom cultivation. With determination and a quest for knowledge, Shri Singha embarked on a journey that would not only transform his own life but also inspire his community.

Training & Motivation

Understanding the importance of proper training, Shri Singha enrolled in a seven day skill based training program on Mushroom Production organized by the Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) and sponsored by T-SAMETI Lembucherra, Agartala under STRY. This program aimed to provide rural youth with low-cost mushroom production techniques for income generation. Through the training program, Shri Singha gained valuable insights into mushroom cultivation, including spawn production, substrate preparation, and cultivation techniques. The KVK provided him with practical demonstrations, hands-on training, and necessary resources to kickstart his mushroom production unit.



Socio-economic impact of program

- Equipped with the knowledge acquired from the training program, Shri Singha established his own small-scale mushroom production unit in Jambura village.
- Utilizing his available resources, including his land and initial investment, he created a suitable infrastructure for mushroom cultivation.
- The income generated from his mushroom production unit significantly improved his financial situation, allowing him to provide better support for his family.

- Over four years, his mushroom production increased substantially, reaching over 700 kg in 2022, with profits nearing Rs. 1.0 lakh per year. His mushroom venture has brought stability and a brighter future for his family.

Contribution of the program

Through diligence and dedication, Shri Singha managed his mushroom production unit with care, adhering to the recommended practices for spawn production, substrate preparation, and environmental conditions. His efforts paid off as his mushroom production unit flourished, and he consistently harvested high-quality mushrooms. The local market embraced his fresh produce, contributing to his growing success.

Influence on other Farmers

- The success has become a source of inspiration for others in his community. Witnessing the positive impact of mushroom cultivation on his life, fellow villagers have become interested in pursuing similar ventures.
- He generously shares his knowledge and experiences, motivating and guiding others to establish their own mushroom production units.
- Through his success and willingness to support others, he has become a catalyst for economic empowerment within his community.

Training Coverage

The training program was comprehensive in its coverage with focus both on theoretical and practical aspects. The program covered wide range of topics, including mushroom cultivation principles and practices, various mushroom varieties and their nutritional value, cultivation procedures and exposure visits. The training modules equipped participants with the necessary skills and knowledge to establish a successful mushroom cultivation enterprise.



STRY Team

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(86) Story of Maa Sarada Fruits & Vegetable Processing Unit from harvest to prosperity

Story of SHG from Khowai District of Tripura

Background

The Maa Sarada Fruits and Vegetable Processing Unit is a Self-Help Group (SHG) established in 2020. The group operates in West Ghilatali (Daochera), Kalyanpur Block, Khowai district, Tripura. Smt Rita Debnath serves as the group leader. The SHG specializes in preparing value-added products such as pickles, jams, jellies, squashes, and chips from locally available seasonal fruits and vegetables.

Training & Motivation

The Maa Sarada SHG members were motivated to establish a small-scale food processing unit to utilize the abundant seasonal fruits and vegetables in their region. In order to acquire the necessary skills and knowledge, the SHG members participated in a short duration skill based training program organized by the Krishi Vigyan Kendra from 24 – 30 September 2020. The training program was conducted in association with T-SAMETI



Lembucherra, Agartala. The SHG members learned about processing, preservation, and preparation of value-added products such as pickles, jams, jellies, squashes, and chips. The KVK also provided necessary resources, including packaging materials, chemicals, and a solar drier, to support the establishment of the small-scale food processing unit.

Socio-economic impact of program

By equipping SHG members with the necessary skills and resources, the STRY program and the KVK have paved the way for establishing successful small-scale food processing enterprise. The training program not only provided the group members with valuable skills and income opportunities but also contributed to better post-harvest management, women empowerment, and the establishment of a supportive entrepreneurial ecosystem within the community.

Contribution of the program

- The training program organized by the KVK played a vital role in the success of the Maa Sarada SHG. The program provided the SHG members with the necessary knowledge and skills required in food processing.

- Practical demonstrations, hands-on training, and exposure visits to existing food processing units were conducted to enhance their understanding and motivation. The KVK extended support by providing required resources, guidance, and technical assistance to the SHG, ensuring their smooth transition into establishing and operating the small-scale food processing unit.

Influence on other Farmers

The success of Maa Sarada Fruits & Vegetable Processing Unit has been a source of inspiration for other farmers and entrepreneurs in the community. Witnessing the accomplishments of the SHG, other community members became motivated to explore food processing as a viable income-generating activity. The SHG members actively shared their experiences, knowledge, and best practices, inspiring and guiding others to establish their own food processing units. The positive impact of the success of the group led to a greater adoption of food processing initiatives, creating a supportive network of entrepreneurs in the community.

Training Coverage

The short duration skill based training program organized by the KVK covered various aspects of seasonal and indigenous fruit and vegetable processing, preservation, and value addition. The training sessions offered during the program included



theoretical as well as practical demonstrations, and exposure visits. A total of 22 women SHG members from Ghilatala and West Ghilatali Gram Panchayat participated in the program. The training equipped them with the necessary skills, techniques, and knowledge required to establish and operate a small-scale food processing unit.

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(87) Shivansh compost conquerors – skill training yields successful results

Story of Shri Ugen Tshering Lepcha from North Sikkim district of Sikkim

Background

Shri Ugen Tshering Lepcha, a marginal farmer from upper Hee-Gyathang in Passingdang block of North Sikkim, started farming as his main source of income. He aimed to adopt new farming techniques that would require less input cost, provide higher yields, and generate better returns. He cultivated hybrid cole crops, rice beans, and hybrid maize on his one-hectare land and also managed a commercial fruit sapling nursery. He was looking for some techniques to have the requirements of inputs fulfilled internally for having reduced cost of production and sustained agriculture.

Training & Motivation

In order to achieve better yields and returns with minimum expenditure, Shri Ugen participated in a week-long training program on Shivansh Compost Production conducted under the Skill Training for Rural Youth (STRY) initiative of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (GoI). The training was conducted during 21 – 26 March 2022 by ATMA/Block-Passingdang in association with SAMETI Gangtok and MANAGE Hyderabad.

Socio-economic impact of program

The skill-based training program on the fastest decomposing manure, called Shivansh Compost, had a positive impact on the individual and the rural community. The training helped Shri Ugen in acquiring knowledge about this specific composting method, which decomposes within eighteen days. As a result, he was able to meet the manure requirements for his crops, addressing the previous insufficiency and leading to higher productivity and better yields.

Contribution of the program

- The skill-based training program provided him with a deep understanding of the method involved in producing Shivansh Compost. By acquiring this skill, he gained valuable knowledge about the specific techniques and processes necessary for creating this compost.
- The training helped him recognize the significance of utilizing locally available resources in the composting process. Understanding the importance of materials such as dry matter, green grass, fresh cow-dung, and other resources commonly found in the local environment can greatly enhance the effectiveness and sustainability of compost production.

- By utilizing the locally available resources effectively, he was able to maximize the efficiency of his composting efforts and potentially reduce costs associated with procuring external inputs.

Influence on other Farmers

- The progressive results in farming and the higher income generation of Shri Ugen have sparked the interest of other fellow farmers in learning more about Shivansh Compost. The positive outcomes and increased income from implementing this composting method have likely served as an inspiration for other farmers who are now eager to adopt similar practices.
- The progress achieved by Shri Ugen in Shivansh Compost help him emerge as a role model for others looking for such revisions in the crop production techniques. His willingness to share his knowledge and skills with other farmers is truly commendable. By actively engaging in knowledge-sharing and exchange, he played a vital role in disseminating information about the benefits and techniques of Shivansh Compost to his fellow farmers.



Training Coverage

The training covered wide range of aspects related to Shivansh compost like production method involved in compost production, including the use of locally available resources such as dried leaves, green matter, and fresh cow dung (at a ratio of 9:6:3), sprinkling water and turning over the compost to ensure proper mixing and decomposition, turning over the compost on specific days from preparation until so that it is ready by the eighteenth day and learning to weave a bamboo mat basket to contain the compost and covering it with an opaque plastic sheet.

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(88) An inspiring journey of a young farmer to village icon status in mushroom production

Story of Shri Pancha Raj Subba from Soreng district of Sikkim

Background

Shri Pancha Raj Subba is from village of Tharpu in Soreng district. He graduated in Mass Journalism and Mass Communication but was not able to get employment of his choice and satisfaction. In order to support his family and provide for their daily livelihood needs, he turned to traditional farming on his own land. He cultivated local rice varieties like attay, kalo nunia, and high-yielding varieties such as Abhisek during the kharif season. In the rabi season, he grew vegetables like potatoes, tomatoes, and cole crops. Despite his farming background, proceeds from the sale of agricultural products in the local market was not sufficient in meeting their daily livelihood needs.

Training & Motivation

Initially, ideas and techniques of Shri Subba were not aligned with the advancements in technology in agriculture. He was informed by field functionaries about the Skill Training for Rural Youth (STRY) program, which was to be conducted in his village for a week by ATMA Soreng block in collaboration with SAMETI Gangtok and MANAGE Hyderabad. He enrolled for the program which made him learn about a profitable method of growing oyster mushrooms in a small area using proper technology. This quick and lucrative method caught his attention, and he realized the potential for earning money in a short duration through mushroom cultivation.

Socio-economic impact of program

- Shri Subba has witnessed a significant improvement in his monthly income after adopting mushroom cultivation. By cultivating oyster mushrooms in 21 cylinders, he can earn around ₹14,000-16,000 per month by selling them at ₹200 per kg in the local market.
- The success and profitability of mushroom cultivation have inspired him to consider mushroom as a potential business venture. With the knowledge and skills acquired during the training program, he can explore expanding his mushroom cultivation operation and potentially generate even higher income in the future.

Contribution of the program

The practical knowledge and skills acquired through the training program enabled him to effectively manage various aspects of mushroom cultivation, including environmental control, ventilation, moisture regulation, and contamination management. This knowledge is crucial for maintaining the quality and productivity of the mushroom crop, ultimately contributing to his success.

Influence on other Farmers

- The success and progress of Shri Subba in oyster mushroom cultivation has served as an inspiration for many rural youth and farmers in the village.
- His ability to share his knowledge and experiences, coupled with the tangible results achieved by him, have created an amplifying impact on others from the village.
- Other farmers, especially the youth, are motivated to explore oyster mushroom cultivation as a viable and profitable agricultural activity. The exchange of knowledge and enthusiasm contributes to the overall growth and development of the farming community in the village.

Training Coverage

The training program covered various aspects of mushroom cultivation, including mushroom identification, introduction to mushroom production, types of mushrooms, their nutritional value, the importance of mushrooms in daily diets, management and care of mushroom houses, disease and pest management in oyster mushrooms, homemade garlic solutions for quick management, substrate preparation, mushroom bed preparation, cultivation methods, harvesting techniques, and identification of contaminated bags.



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(89) Digging into success – skill training on vermicompost and farm yard manure transformed lives

Story of Shri Jeewan Sharma from Gyalshing district of Sikkim

Background

Shri Jeewan Kumar Sharma, a dynamic 35-year-old farmer from Bermiok, Gyalshing district, has transformed his livelihood through his dedication to agriculture. With one hectare of land at his disposal, he initially cultivated cereals and horticultural crops while also raising livestock. However, his journey took a remarkable turn when he connected with the Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA) in his block and participated in a skill based program conducted under STRY Component of the Ministry at Hee-Martam Block.

Training & Motivation

Driven by a desire to enhance his farming practices, Shri Jeewan attended a skill-based STRY program organized by ATMA Gyalshing District, in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare and SAMETI, Sikkim. The week long training during 28th November to 3rd December 2022, focused on vermicompost and farmyard manure preparation. Through this transformative experience, Shri Jeewan gained invaluable knowledge and learnt the skills required to produce high-quality vermicompost, farmyard manure, and on-farm bio-fertilizers like Jeevamrut and Panchagavya.

Socio-economic impact of program

Equipped with the knowledge on vermicompost, Shri Jeewan established a small-scale business venture. He is now involved with selling of vermicompost products in the local market, including the bustling haat. The training not only expanded his product line but also improved his packaging methods, allowing him to tap into larger markets and offer home delivery services. As a result, his income improved from a modest Rs 50,000 to an impressive Rs 2.25 rupees, empowering him to provide a better future to his family.



Contribution of the program

- The STRY training program proved instrumental in success of Shri Jeewan. It enlightened him about the vital role of biomass and cow dung in preparing nutrient-rich manure. The program introduced him to effective vermicompost bed and shed construction techniques.

- The program also emphasized on the importance of earthworms in the decomposition process. Additionally, by adopting different packaging quantities, he was able to attract a broader customer base, enabling him to generate higher revenue.

Shri Jeewan Kumar received a well-deserved recognition during the World Soil Day at Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Gyalshing, where the Agriculture Department of the Government of Sikkim honored him for his exemplary work.

- The remarkable success of Shri Jeewan inspired many fellow farmers in the community to follow suit. Witnessing his passion and income growth, they came together to form a Farmer Producer Organization (FPO), with Shri Jeewan elected as its President. Under his guidance, around 30 households began producing low-cost vermicompost and farmyard manure, with the unwavering support and handhold demonstrations from ATMA.
- The knowledge-sharing spirit of Shri Jeewan has further impacted over 100 farmers in the block. Through his participation in various activities organized by ATMA, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, and the Agriculture Department, he continues to disseminate his expertise and play an active role in advancing agricultural practices within the community.

The STRY program encompassed a wide range of topics that empowered participants on different aspects of vermicompost production. They were introduced to the concept of livestock-based integrated farming systems, gained insights into low-cost

vermicompost production and the production of on-farm bio inputs. The training also covered the importance of organic farming in mitigating climate change, encouraged rural youth to explore entrepreneurship development, and provided guidance on processing, packaging, and marketing high-quality compost.

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(90) Flying high – the impact of skill training on the success of poultry farming

Story of Shri Gulson Gurung from Gyalshing district of Sikkim

Background

Shri Gulson Gurung, a dynamic and forward-thinking farmer residing in Arithang Chongrang. Previously, he practiced crop cultivation in leased areas, facing numerous marketing challenges and earning limited income from locally grown fresh vegetables. In addition, his small-scale poultry farming venture was plagued with management issues. However, his story took a turn for the better when he participated in the STRY training program organized by ATMA.

Training & Motivation

Driven by the desire to enhance his farming practices, Shri Gulson actively participated in a skill based training program conducted under STRY focused on “Poultry Farming and Livestock Management” conducted by ATMA during 2022. During this program, he gained valuable insights into the scientific management of poultry farming and learned about market linkages. An interactive session with a veterinary officer proved particularly beneficial, equipping him with knowledge about common diseases, early detection methods, disinfection techniques, remedies, and effective management practices.

Socio-economic impact of program

The training program played a pivotal role in transforming Shri Gulson's skills and awareness. Prior to the training, he lacked a scientific approach to poultry farming, hindering his productivity and profitability. However, armed with the knowledge gained from the program, he embraced the latest technologies and management practices. As a result, he witnessed a significant increase in his production through proper management practices. Moreover, the program helped him establish crucial market linkages, expanding his reach and improving his overall economic prospects.

Contribution of the program

- The knowledge and skills acquired by Shri Gulson during the training program streamlined his farming operations.
- By adopting simplified and scientifically-backed methods, he experienced improved efficiency and productivity in his poultry farming enterprise.
- The emphasis on proper management practices and market linkages enabled him to unlock his potential and optimize his operations, ultimately leading to increased production and profitability.

Influence on other Farmers

- Inspired by remarkable journey of Shri Gulson on livelihood transformation and increased income, motivated fellow farmers in the community to get interested in small-scale poultry farms.
- Recognizing the value of collaboration, many rural youth interested in poultry collaborated with Shri Gulson. This collaborative approach not only improved their market access but also fostered a sense of community and mutual support among the farmers.

Training Coverage

The week long skill based training program comprehensively covered all aspects of poultry farming and livestock management. Participants learned about best practices, common diseases and their management, proper feed and supplements, farm sanitization techniques, and market linkages. By addressing these key areas, the program equipped participants with the necessary knowledge and skills to excel in poultry farming and optimize their livestock management practices.



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(91) Pond to prosperity – tale of a progressive fish farmers' success

Story of Shri Pradeep Limboo from Namchi district of Sikkim

Background

Shri Pradeep Limboo is a young farmers from Rabitar in Namchi district, Sikkim. Since 2014, he has been practicing fish farming, specifically focusing on Grass carp and Common carp, as a means to support his family. Recognizing his interest, ATMA and the Directorate of Fisheries, Namchi District, introduced him to scientific techniques for fish farming through a farm school, where he also served as a teacher. This made him understand the potential of fisheries however, still he was looking for more knowledge and skills on production and marketing of fishes to realise better income.

Training & Motivation

Driven by his passion for fish farming, Shri Pradeep Limboo participated in a skill-based training program titled "Fish farming and management" organized under STRY, a component implemented by the Ministry under the SMAE initiative. The program was conducted by ATMA Sumbuk block in association with SAMETI and MANAGE during 23 – 28 November 2022. During this program, Shri Pradeep received comprehensive training on various aspects of fish farming and management.

Socio-economic impact of program

- The skill-based training program proved to be a game-changer for Shri Pradeep Limboo. Through the program, he gained extensive knowledge in key areas such as pond construction and management, stocking, feeding, breeding, and disease management for both Grass carp and Common carp. Additionally, he and other farmers learned about Ornamental Fisheries and innovative techniques like integrated fish farming with poultry and aquaponics.
- Prior to the implementation of the farm school and technology interventions, Shri Pradeep Limboo generated an annual income of Rs 1.2 lakhs. However, with the introduction of the technology through the farm school and the knowledge acquired from the STRY program, his income increased to over Rs 2.5 lakhs per year.



- This remarkable increase was a result of optimizing the utilization of available resources and implementing the scientific techniques Shri Pradeep learnt during the program. Furthermore, the program's focus on fish management led to healthier fish stocks with reduced mortality rates, ultimately enhancing his overall fish production.

Contribution of the program

The skill-based training program enabled Shri Pradeep Limboo to gain valuable insights into various aspects of scientific fish farming. From pond construction and management to stocking, feeding, breeding, and disease management for Grass carp and Common carp, he acquired essential knowledge that revolutionized his farming practices. Armed with these new ideas and techniques, he was able to streamline his operations, improve efficiency, and achieve greater success in his fish farming enterprise.

Influence on other Farmers

The remarkable journey of Shri Pradeep in fish farming had a profound impact on other farmers in the region. As a respected farm school teacher, his achievements and the technology interventions implemented by the Directorate of Fisheries and ATMA served as an inspiration for more than 20 aspiring fish farmers. Motivated by his story, these farmers took the leap and started their own fish farming ventures. Leadership role played by Shri Pradeep worked as a catalyst for many other farmers and empowered them to explore and embrace the opportunities offered by fish farming.

Training Coverage

The training program covered various aspects of fish farming, including pond construction and management, stocking, feeding, breeding, and disease management for Grass carp and Common carp. The participants were also provided training on Ornamental Fisheries and innovative techniques like integrated fish farming with poultry and aquaponics. Participants were also introduced to ethno-veterinary practices (EVP) aimed at reducing the use of synthetic drugs/medicines. The training also introduced the participants to various schemes offered by line departments, including Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, Fisheries, and KVK.

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(92) Skill training transformed a rural youth into a successful dairy farmer

Story of Shri Gurpreet Singh from Moga district of Punjab

Background

Shri Gurpreet Singh, a farmer from Gill village in Moga district, Punjab planned to explore opportunities in agriculture to support his family. After realizing that the income from his job in a private company was not sufficient to take care of his family, he turned his attention to his 2-acre land and two cows for potential agricultural ventures. However, due to a lack of sufficient knowledge on farming, he struggled to generate profits from selling milk.

Training & Motivation

Motivated to improve his situation, Shri Gurpreet Singh participated in a week long skill based training program on “Clean Milk Production and Commercial Dairy Farming” conducted under STRY. The program, conducted by Punjab Agriculture Management and Extension Training Institute (PAMETI) in association with MANAGE, Hyderabad, introduced him to high-yield breeds and equipped him with the latest knowledge and skills required for successful dairy farming.

Socio-economic impact of program

- Through the acquisition of skills on milk production, Shri Gurpreet Singh was able to improve his dairy farming practices, increase his milk production and quality, and explore value-added opportunities in milk product manufacturing. The comprehensive training program empowered him to optimize his resources and capitalize on the potential of dairy farming as a sustainable and profitable enterprise.
- Prior to the training, the annual income of Shri Gurpreet from dairy farming was not more than Rs. 3.0 lakhs. However, after implementing the skills acquired during the training, he was able to increase his annual income to more than Rs. 4.0 lakhs.
- This substantial increase in income of Shri Gurpreet was achieved by utilizing the same existing resources more efficiently which was possible by implementing improved techniques and practices learned by him during the skill based training program.

Contribution of the program

- The training program had a multifaceted impact on the success of Shri Gurpreet in clean milk production.

- He gained an understanding of the importance of hygiene and cleanliness in dairy farming and role played by high yield breeds, which enabled him to select high-yield breeds and improve the quality of his milk production.
- Additionally, he learned about feed management and controlling diseases such as mastitis in animals, ensuring their well-being and optimizing milk production.

Influence on other Farmers

- The success of Shri Gurpreet has inspired various other farmers from nearby placed looking for alternative source of income.
- He has become a role model, particularly for rural youth, who view him as an example of excellence in milk production and marketing.
- Shri Gurpreet Singh also shares his knowledge and experiences with approximately 30 farmers interested in milk production from his village. The contribution of Shri Singh through dissemination of knowledge and best practices had helped in overall improvement of the agricultural community.

Training Coverage

The training program covered various topics relevant to dairy farming, including animal selection, hoof management, reproductive organs in animals, green fodder selection for year-round availability, soil and seed selection, the importance of minerals in diet of animals, milk quality and properties, practical



Indicative Picture

exercises on determining milk fat and SNF (Solid-Not-Fat) content, milk marketing strategies, the benefits of milk vending machines, milk adulteration detection techniques, the potential for income generation through milk product manufacturing, and the importance of proper utensil selection and milk handling practices.

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(93) The journey of entrepreneurial success of Shri Sharanjeet Singh from small trader to fish processing pioneer

Story of Shri Sharanjeet Singh from Tarn Taran district of Punjab

Background

Shri Sharanjeet Singh, from Village Harike, was previously involved in various small trading ventures. He realised the potential of fish processing and planned to expand his trading ventures involving fish processing for better income realisation and accordingly, sought training to gain insights into its different aspects.

Training & Motivation

The agribusiness journey of Shri Sharanjeet took a noticeable turn when he decided to attend a fish processing training program conducted by PAMETI in collaboration with College of Fisheries, GADVASU Ludhiana. The training, which took place during 10-15 October 2022, focused on post-harvest activities on fish handling and processing of fish which introduced participants to various machinery and techniques used in fish processing and value addition. After receiving training on fish processing from PAMETI, he was motivated to start his own fish and shrimp processing business.



Socio-economic impact of program

- The skill-based training program had a significant socio-economic impact mainly on livelihood and entrepreneurial journey of Shri Sharanjeet. The program equipped him with the necessary knowledge and skills for fish and shrimp processing, which motivated him to invest in a venture with focus on producing fish pickles and shrimp pickles.
- He leveraged his entrepreneurial skills and established NSK Trading Company using his own savings. By directly purchasing fresh produce from farmers, he eliminated the middleman cost, thereby increasing his profit margins.
- The direct sourcing approach not only benefited him financially but also supported local farmers by providing them with a direct market for their produce.

Contribution of the program

The training program significantly contributed to the understanding of Shri Sharanjeet on importance of safe produce, high-quality products, maintaining consumer confidence, and scope for expanding market opportunities.

Influence on other Farmers

- The success of Shri Sharanjeet in fish and shrimp processing have had a significant influence on other farmers. His income and achievements have served as inspiration for fellow farmers, motivating them to explore various products like fish fingers and ready-to-eat items.
- Moreover, Shri Sharanjeet shares his knowledge and experience with other farmers from his and nearby village. He has become a valuable resource and mentor, helping others understand the intricacies of fish processing and value addition. By sharing his expertise, he is contributing to the growth and development of his community.

Training Coverage

The program focused on different methods of fish processing, such as filleting and steak making, to improve the shelf life of the produce. Preservation techniques were also taught to the participants to ensure the quality and freshness of the processed fish. Participants learned about packaging methods that help in maintaining the product quality during transportation and storage. Quality control in production and marketing of value-added fish products was also emphasized during the training. Participants were trained to maintain high standards in their processing methods to ensure customer satisfaction. This focus on quality helped improve the profitability of the farmers by creating a reputation for their products. Another important aspect covered in the training program was the preparation of project proposals for funding from government agencies. Participants were guided on how to develop a comprehensive business plan and submit it to financing agencies to seek financial support for their ventures. This aspect of the training empowered farmers to access the necessary resources to start or expand their fish processing businesses. The economics related to value addition in fish processing was also discussed during the training. Participants learned how to calculate the returns from their ventures and assess the profitability of their operations. This understanding of the economic aspects of value addition enabled farmers to make informed decisions and optimize their profits.

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(94) Skill training made integrated farming system a success

Story of Shri Abboju Narendra Chari from Warangal district of Telangana

Background

Shri Abboju Narendra Chari, a farmer from Perikavedu in Warangal district of Telangana, has a remarkable success story in integrated farming systems (IFS) and agriculture allied sectors. Initially engaged in broiler poultry on his 2-acre land, he was encouraged by the Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) to explore agriculture and other farming methods to increase his income using the latest technologies, including IFS. With the support of KVK scientists and his family members, Shri Abboju Narendra Chari successfully established an ideal model of integrated farming, incorporating activities such as dairy farming, backyard poultry, aquaculture, silage production, and agriculture.

Training & Motivation

In order to enhance his knowledge and skills, Shri Abboju Narendra Chari participated in a week long skill-based training program on integrated farming with focus on fish rearing conducted during 10 – 18 November 2021 by KVK, Mamnoor. The program was conducted in collaboration with State Agriculture Management and Extension Training Institute (SAMETI), Telangana and National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE), Hyderabad. The program exposed him to the various aspects of integrated farming systems, emphasizing the commercial potential of aquaculture and the growing demand for backyard poultry farming.

Socio-economic impact of program

- With the knowledge gained from the training, Shri Narendra ventured into fish rearing by stocking 1200 fish fingerlings in a 0.5-acre fish pond and 10,000 fish fry seed in another 0.5-acre pond. He adopted effective practices such as pond fertilization, application of jaggery as a probiotic, bag feeding, and the use of agri-lime to maintain water and soil pH. These measures resulted in accelerated fish growth, minimal disease incidence, and the production of high-quality fish.
- The practising scientific fish rearing improved his integrated farming system module including dairy, poultry, fish farming, silage production, and fodder cultivation.
- The improved integrated farm with a total investment of Rs. 3.4 lakhs yielded a gross income of Rs. 17.0 lakhs with net profit of Rs 13.6 lakhs.

Contribution of the program

- The success of Shri Narendra is evident not only in his fish farming endeavours but also in the integrated farming systems model developed by him.

- By diversifying income sources of Shri Narendra, including dairy farming, poultry farming, silage production, and fodder cultivation led to significant profits which showcases his financial success with the IFS model.

Influence on other Farmers

The success, attitude to share knowledge, and financial results have inspired many small and marginal farmers to adopt IFS on their own farms. As a role model, he has become a source of inspiration for local farmers, demonstrating the potential for higher income and improved livelihoods through integrated farming systems. He actively participates in KVK activities, sharing his experiences with other farmers and contributing to the development of the farming community. His success serves as a beacon of hope and motivation for those seeking to enhance their income and livelihoods through sustainable farming practices.

Training Coverage

The training program provided comprehensive coverage of various aspects of fisheries and aquaculture like introduction to fisheries and scope, principles of aquaculture, potential fish species in Telangana and different types of culture systems, advance trends in aquaculture, site selection for aquaculture, fish seed selection, fish stocking, water quality management, feed management, disease management, marketing and integrated farming systems. Exposure visits were also organised for practical orientation.



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(95) From branches to profit – skill training propels orchard management to new heights

Story of Shri Peddabavi Shekhar from Wanaparthy district of Telangana

Background

Shri Peddabavi Shekhar is a young farmer from Thirumalaipalle village in Wanaparthy district, Telangana. He is passionate about farming. Initially, he cultivated paddy and rainfed cereals, millets, and pulses on his 4-acre land. However, the income generated from agriculture alone was not sufficient to meet his family needs. Which motivated him to explore alternative opportunities in horticulture. In order to practice horticulture profitably, he sought additional training and guidance.

Training & Motivation

In order to achieve higher returns, Shri Shekhar participated in a week long skill-based training program conducted under Skill Training of Rural Youth (STRY) component which is being implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare under SMAE. The program with focus on orchard management and maintenance was conducted by KVK (ICAR-YFA) in Madanapuram, Wanaparthy District, in collaboration with State Agriculture Management and Extension Training Institute (SAMETI), Telangana and National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE), Hyderabad.

Socio-economic impact of program

- The skill-based training program had a significant impact on Sri Peddabavi Shekhar, enabling him to adopt Ultra High Density Planting (UHDP) for mango crop production.
- Previously earning around Rs. 1.5 lakhs annually, the implementation of UHDP and other acquired skills resulted in an increase in income to over Rs. 3.6 lakhs per year.
- This innovative approach allowed for higher plant density, earlier fruit-bearing, and improved productivity compared to traditional methods, leading to a significant improvement in his income.

Contribution of the program

- The knowledge gained through the program enabled Shri Peddabavi Shekhar to cultivate mangoes successfully and maximize his yields.
- The adoption of UHDP techniques not only reduced the gestation period for returns but also increased the potential for early income and mango export.

Awards & Recognition

Shri Peddabavi Shekhar received the "KVK Best Farmer Award" in recognition of his outstanding contributions to agriculture and allied sciences on occasion of Kisan Diwas held at Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Madanapuram. He has also had the opportunity to share his experiences with honourable ministers and officials at Telangana Second Sub-Committee Meeting on Agriculture held at 5th May, 2022 at Shri Konda Laxman Telangana State Horticulture University, Mulugu influencing and inspiring other farmers in the region.

Influence on other Farmers

The success and accomplishments of Shri Shekhar in mango crop management have made him a role model for local farmers and rural youth in the community. He actively shares his knowledge with fellow farmers and contributes in various activities organized by KVK.

Training Coverage

The training program covered a wide range of topics, including site selection for establishing new orchards, lay out and marking for planting, canopy management, propagation techniques, production technology for various fruits, pest and disease management, and post-harvest handling and marketing. The program included practical sessions to provide participants with hands-on experience and practical orientation.



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(96) Harvesting prosperity – skill training fuels the growth with organic farming

Story of Shri Aravind Jadav from Sangareddy district of Telangana

Background

Shri Aravind Jadav is a young and enthusiastic farmer from Raipally thanda village in the Sangareddy district of Telangana. After completing his graduation, he decided to practice farming for livelihood. With 3 acres of agricultural land, he cultivates a variety of crops such as sugarcane, red gram, soybean, ginger, tomato, brinjal, onion, and potato. In order to improve the economics of production and fetch higher price, he ventured into organic farming for vegetable cultivation, which proved to be profitable. Additionally, he grew pulse crops like black gram and green gram.

Training & Motivation

Although Shri Aravind Jadav was successful in cultivating these crops, he wanted to explore opportunities that had the potential for higher returns. In order to expand his knowledge and skills, he participated in a skill-based training program on "Organic Farming" conducted during 22.11.2021 – 28.11.2021 by ATMA, Sangareddy, Telangana, in collaboration with State Agriculture Management and Extension Training Institute (SAMETI), Telangana and National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE), Hyderabad.

Socio-economic impact of program

The skill based training program equipped Shri Aravind Jadav with the necessary knowledge and skills required for practicing organic farming. Prior to the training, his annual income was not more than Rs. 2.5 lakhs. However, after implementing the skills acquired during the training, his income increased to over Rs. 5.0 lakhs per year from various agricultural activities, utilizing the same resources.

Contribution of the program

The program contributed significantly to success of Shri Aravind Jadav. He learned about seed selection, summer ploughing, seed treatment, soil fertility maintenance, organic manure preparation and usage, organic pest and disease management, and the timing of agricultural operations. This knowledge enabled him to make informed decisions and optimize his farming practices.

Influence on other Farmers

- The accomplishment of Shri Jadav in organic farming have influenced many other farmers in his locality. They have become interested in adopting similar practices and have started looking up to him as a role model in the production and marketing of organic products. He has become an example for rural youth who aspire to succeed in farming.

- He shared his knowledge with around 100 farmers from his village and contributed in various activities and programs organized by ATMA and KVK. This ensures that the benefits of his training and expertise reach a wider audience.

Training Coverage

The training program covered a wide range of topics related to organic farming, including crop rotation, the use of green manures and legumes, mulching, recycling and composting of crop wastes and animal manures, appropriate soil cultivation techniques, natural pesticides, genetic diversity, promoting beneficial predators, cultivation planning, choosing resistant crops, good cultivation practices, animal husbandry, and water resource management. The participants were also provided practical exposure to help them have a better understanding on preparing various organic inputs.



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(97) From green to gold – skill training transforms value addition in green leaves into a flourishing venture

Story of Shri Kannuri Sadanandam from Karimnagar district of Telangana

Background

Shri Kannuri Sadanandam, a tenant farmer, leased one acre of land and began cultivating Moringa plants in 2019. Alongside Moringa, he also cultivated mint, curry leaf, coriander, and various vegetables for regular sales and income. However, he faced challenges in getting fair prices for his daily sales, resulting in lower income and wastage of green leaves. In order to address this issue, he decided to explore value addition and stored product preparation with his harvests.

Training & Motivation

In 2020, Shri Sadanandam participated in a skill-based training program conducted by the KVK under STRY initiative in collaboration with State Agricultural Management & Extension Training Institute (SAMETI), Telangana, and National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE), Hyderabad. The training focused on value addition to green leaves and vegetables using a solar dryer. Following the training, Shri Sadanandam received continuous support from the KVK in establishing his enterprise.

Socio-economic impact of program

The skill training program played a significant role in equipping Shri Sadanandam with the necessary knowledge and skills required for the production of green leafy powders. This motivated him to venture into the green leafy powder production as a



supplementary income-generating activity. By producing powders from Moringa and mint leaves, such as Moringa leaf powder, Moringa leaf masala powder, Moringa leaf chutney, Drumstick pickles, Mint leaf powder, Mint leaf masala powder, and Mint leaf

chutney, Shri Sadanandam was able to earn an additional income of approximately Rs. 85,000 to Rs. 90,000 per year along with his regular income from vegetable sales.

Contribution of the program

The skills acquired during the training program enabled Shri Sadanandam to understand the importance of safety and hygiene and cleanliness in selecting quality green leaves, vegetables, preparation rooms, materials, and packaging. This knowledge ensured that the produced powders met the required standards and maintained the quality.

Influence on other Farmers

Through his success and passion for green leafy powder production, Shri Sadanandam has become a role model for other farmers in the local community, especially unemployed youth. His achievements in the production and marketing of powders made from green leaves have inspired others to take up similar ventures. He shares his knowledge with approximately 80 farmers and women farmers from nearby villages and contributes as a resource person in the activities of ATMA and KVK.



Training Coverage

The training program covered various aspects, including the nutritional importance of vegetables and green leaves, solar dryers, practical sessions on drying different vegetables and green leaves using a solar dryer, packing of dried products, the significance of labelling, and exposure visits to supermarkets to observe available dried products. By providing comprehensive training and exposure to different aspects of value addition and stored product preparation, the program empowered the participants of the program to practice value addition in leaves and realise enhanced income.

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(98) From waste to wealth – skill training ignites success in vermicompost production

Story of Shri B Komal Reddy from Warangal district of Telangana

Background

Shri B Komal Reddy, an active farmer from Singaram village in Inavole mandal, Warangal district, owns 8 acres of land where he cultivates maize, paddy, and chili. He also maintains two dairy cattle and two cows for livestock purposes. Over the years, Shri Komal Reddy noticed a decline in the yields of paddy, maize, and chili due to continuous cultivation and nutrient depletion, especially in chili. Additionally, he faced a significant problem with wilt disease in his chili crops. In order to address these issues, KVK Mamnour suggested him to take up vermicompost production as it offers a potential solution. Vermicompost enriches the soil, improves its physical properties, and enhances the yield and quality of crops. Moreover, since Shri Komal Reddy had livestock, he could utilize farmyard manure and crop residues for vermicompost production, turning it into a profitable enterprise.

Training & Motivation

Motivated by the potential benefits, Shri Komal Reddy participated in a skill based training program for rural youth conducted by KVK Mamnour during 18.11.2021 to 24.11.2021 in collaboration with MANAGE, Hyderabad & SAMETI, Telangana. The training on vermicompost production equipped him with the necessary knowledge and skills to implement this practice on his farm and apply vermicompost to his crops.



Socio-economic impact of program

- The Skill Training programme for rural youth helped Shri Reddy to acquire knowledge and skills on vermicompost production. This enabled him to take up this activity at his farm and apply vermicompost for his crops.
- Earlier, his crop yields were declining, and wilt disease was prevalent in his chili crop. However, after acquiring the skills in vermicompost production, he witnessed improved crop yields, enhanced produce quality, and a reduction in the wilt problem.
- Now, he was able to generate a supplementary income of Rs. 64,000 per year through vermicompost production.

Contribution of the program

The training program has a significant contribution in agricultural practices, crop yields and income of Shri Komal Reddy. By equipping him with the necessary skills and knowledge, the program empowered him to address challenges, improve productivity, and contribute to the sustainable development of agriculture in his region.

Influence on other Farmers

- The success of Shri Komal Reddy and the visible benefits of vermicompost influenced many other rural youth from his and nearby villages. The positive outcomes and increased yields in his crops, developed interest among other farmers for organic inputs.
- Vermicompost production became an income-generating activity that required minimal inputs, further encouraging other farmers to adopt this practice.

Training Coverage

The training program covered various aspects related to vermicompost production, including the scope and importance of vermicompost, introduction to vermi technology and vermicomposting, the role of earthworms, identification of different types of earthworms, collection and identification of native earthworms, utilization of vermi compost in agriculture, selection of site and physical requirements for vermicompost units, preparation and maintenance of vermi beds, different composting techniques (anaerobic and aerobic), waste material classification and disposal techniques, and the application of vermicompost in organic farming with an eco-friendly approach.



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(99) Spores of Success – empowerment of youth through mushroom production

Story of Smt Bandana Reang from Gomati district of Tripura

Background

Smt Bandana Reang, a determined housewife from Paharpur ADC Village in the Gomati district of Tripura, has embarked on a remarkable journey of self-employment and empowerment through agriculture. Income of his husband was not sufficient to meet the family needs. In search of additional opportunities in agriculture, Smt Bandana Reang sought to enhance her skills and knowledge to contribute to the financial well being of the family.



Training & Motivation

Motivated by her aspirations, Smt Bandana Reang enthusiastically participated in a week-long skill-based training program conducted under the component of SMAE implemented by the Ministry. The training program with focus on on "Oyster Mushroom Production," was organized from 30th January to 5th February 2023 by Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Gomati, Amarpur, Tripura, with the supported of State Agriculture Management and Extension Training Institute (T-SAMETI) and MANAGE, Hyderabad.

Socio-economic impact of program

The impact of the skill-based training on socioeconomic status of Smt Bandana was profound. Prior to the training, her monthly income did not exceed Rs. 2,000. However, equipped with the knowledge and skills gained from the program, she successfully ventured into oyster mushroom production and experienced a significant increase in her monthly income. By implementing the techniques and skills acquired during the training, she is now able to realise a monthly income of Rs. 5,000 using the existing resources.

Contribution of the program

The program contributed immensely to her success. She realised the importance of hygiene and cleanliness when selecting paddy straw, cultivation rooms, materials, and mushroom spawn. The program also covered valuable insights into marketing and value addition of mushrooms, broadening her understanding of the agribusiness potential within the industry.

Influence on other Farmers

- The transformation of Smt Bandana Reang in terms of remarkable income generation and unwavering passion for mushroom production have inspired many other women in her locality to follow in her footsteps. She has emerged as a role model, admired for her expertise in mushroom production and marketing.
- Her success story has also captivated the attention of rural youths, who see her as an example of empowerment and entrepreneurship. Eager to share her knowledge and contribute to the community, she engages with other women farmers in her village. She imparts her expertise in various activities and programs organized by ATMA and KVK and continues to support the growth of mushroom production in her region.

Training Coverage

During the training program, participants of the program received comprehensive coverage on various aspects of mushroom production. The curriculum included introduction to mushroom production, principles and practices of cultivation, types of mushrooms (edible, non-edible, medicinal, and poisonous), agribusiness opportunities and constraints,



house construction, oyster mushroom cultivation procedures, bag preparation techniques, infrastructure requirements, economics of oyster mushroom production, management of competitor molds/ fungal and viral diseases, bacterial diseases, abiotic disorders, and the identification and management of insect pests and nematodes affecting mushroom crops. Practical orientation was facilitated through exposure visits.

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(100) A story of struggle to success of a rural youth in integrated dairy farming

Story of Shri Amir Ahmad Shah from Budgam district of Jammu & Kashmir

Background

Shri Amir Ahmad Shah, a diligent resident of Hajibagh village in Budgam district, Jammu & Kashmir, found himself in a challenging situation due to the poor financial condition of his family and lack of suitable employment opportunities. Determined to sustain his struggling family, he turned to dairy farming in search of a viable livelihood option.



Training & Motivation

In search of knowledge and support to improve his dairy farming venture, Shri Amir Ahmad Shah seized an opportunity to attend one-week skill-based training program organized by KVK-Budgam, in collaboration with the State Agriculture Management and Extension Training Institute (SAMETI), SKUAST-K, and the National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE), Hyderabad. The program, held from February 6th to February 12th, 2021, focused on the principles and practices of integrated dairy farming. This comprehensive training equipped Shah with the necessary knowledge and skills required to enhance his dairy farming practices.

Furthermore, as a participant of the program, Shah received a low-cost vermi compost unit from the Kendra, providing him with an additional source of income through vermicomposting. The training program also facilitated his connection with Department of Animal Husbandry in Budgam, ensuring ongoing technical guidance and support for his dairy farming endeavour.

Socio-economic impact of program

Motivated and armed with newfound knowledge, Shri Shah applied for benefit under Integrated Dairy Development Scheme (IDDS) offered by the Department of Animal Husbandry, Government of Jammu & Kashmir. With the benefit available under the Scheme, he established Shah Dairy Farm with five crossbred dairy cows. He expanded his farm subsequently to 22 animals, demonstrating his dedication to growth. Shah takes pride in selling his dairy farm produce, particularly milk, through his own outlet in Safakadel, Srinagar. The farm now produces an impressive average of 120 litres of milk daily. The skill-based training provided Shah with scientific knowledge and skills for integrated dairy farming, inspiring him to venture into vermicomposting as an additional income-generating activity. With the implementation of these skills, Shah's dairy farm and vermicomposting unit now generate an annual income exceeding Rs 5.2 lakhs.

Contribution of the program

The program played a significant role in success of Shri Shah by providing better understanding of scientific dairy farming, including aspects like health care, feed and fodder management, market linkage, reproductive management, and breed selection.

Awards & Recognition

Shri Shah was honoured with the Champion Farmer Award by the Honourable Vice Chancellor of SKUAST-Kashmir during the KISAN SAMAN DIWAS in 2021. His remarkable journey has also inspired other farmers in his community to pursue integrated dairy farming, transforming him into a role model for rural youth.

Influence on other Farmers

The success of Shri Shah has had a profound influence on other farmers in his locality. Through his impressive income and unwavering passion for integrated dairy farming, he has inspired and motivated many others to follow his footsteps.

Shri Shah has emerged as a role model, particularly for the local rural youth, who now see the potential for sustainable and profitable farming through his example.

Training Coverage

The training program encompassed a wide range of topics, including integrated dairy development opportunities, winter feeding management for dairy animals, demonstrations on feed block and urea molasses mineral block preparation, dairy entrepreneurship development schemes offered by the Jammu & Kashmir Government, estrous detection and breeding management of dairy cows, preparation and management of quality farmyard manure (FYM), practical demonstrations on vermicomposting and dairy health management, farm record-keeping, vaccines and vaccination schedules for dairy cattle, management of repeat breeding, processing and value addition of milk, quality evaluation of milk, farmer producer organizations related to dairy farming, and feed and fodder conservation and preservation.

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