

## Case Study

Baghamari is a small tribal village in Mohana Block of Gajapati District with 60 households situated in the hills of Eastern Ghats. (It is 7 km from Chandragiri, a small township.). Sri Godavari Mondal, 38, is a typical tribal (Saura) farmer with pleasing manners. Although, He had no formal education, he can able to read alphabets in Oriya. He lives with his wife, 4 children and his old parents. He inherited 1.30 Ac of paddy land out of which 0.50 Ac is jholla land in which he used to raise Dalua paddy along with other farmers in the “Jholla”, taking advantage of the water from a small hill stream. Sri Mondal used to apply chemical fertilizers, as fellow farmers, @ about 30-50 kg Gromore and 40-50 kg Urea per Acre. The average yields of Dalua paddy (Rabi paddy) were 12 to 15 quintals per Acre in the traditional flooding method.

Sri Mondal was approached by us to take up “SRI” during Rabi 2007-08. He has agreed to take up “SRI” (after a lot of persuasion) simply due to the confidence and trust reposed in us and in our work in other activities like Natural Resource Management, Agriculture livelihood initiatives, Organic Farming, etc.

Sri Mondal was guided by our staff all through the “SRI” cultivation beginning from preparation of raised nursery bed.

About half a ton of green leaves, 2 Tons of F.Y.M, 2 quintals of pulse residue and 20 kg of karanja oil cake were put in his field of 0.50 Ac and thoroughly mixed with the soil before puddling. One kg of paddy seeds, used in the village by the farmers for dalua paddy, locally called as “chinna”, was sown in the nursery bed.

Before transplanting 20 kg of vermi-compost was applied. After leveling the field, lines were drawn at a distance of 30 cm with ropes as we had no markers. 12 day old seedlings were transplanted one seedling in each hole. His family members, some

villagers, besides our staff were involved in the transplanting operation while the entire village was watching curiously.

Although he was repeatedly advised to slightly irrigate and dry the field alternatively, he used to irrigate the field at nights as per the suggestion of his neighboring farmers. Weeding with “Mandwa” weeder was done only twice.

The villagers as well as the passersby were passing sarcastic comments about the outcome of the yield and used to chide Sri Mondal for his foolish adventure in taking up SRI. When the SRI Field of Sri Mondal became the laughing stock of the village, he abandoned the field altogether. But, after two months of transplantation when profuse tillering took place (35 to 52 tillers per hole) Sri Mondal again took care of his field. Mild stem borer attack was noticed in the neighboring fields and the pest was also observed in the field of Sri Mondal. “Trichogama” cards were planted in the field and liquid pesticides (prepared from cow-dung, cow urine and leaves of Karanja, Neem and calotropis) was also applied.

Crop cutting was conducted both in the “SRI” field and the neighboring control plot in presence of the entire village and 45 farmers from nearby villages.

The yield from “SRI” field of Sri Mondal was 27.60kg/Ac while the control plot (Neighbor plot of same variety) was 14.72 kg/Ac.

The crop cutting and weighing was done entirely by the villagers and farmers who attended. All were impressed by the yield of “SRI” crop in which no chemical fertilizers or pesticides were applied. As a consequence of this 48 farmers have taken up “SRI” cultivation during Kharif 2008-09 in about 20 Ac and we hope to cover about 100 Ac under SRI in the coming year in Mohana Block.