

Case Study
A Ray of Hope

PROJECT - SRI/SA (SDTT)
Village - Lembapanka
Name of the Farmer - Padmanava Nayak .



Padmanava Nayak & his wife

45years old Padmanava is a tribal and the sole bread earner & head of his 10 member BPL family. He lost his left hand in an accident. By then, he was only 18 years old.

For livelihood, Padmanava resorted to seasonal tiny business. His total land is about 2 acres. Mostly jungle land but acquired. Vegetables, paddy & other crops like small millets from this land could not help him for whole years' requirement. Because of his poverty, Padmanava had no social position in his village & amongst his clan.

Padmanava could not recall or remember any occasion when he was invited to any village meeting or social gathering. He was not worried for it but used to be sad and sorry for not able to send his children to school for financial weakness. His small children and wife were wholly dependent on him.

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Poverty & labor taught his family members to be unconditionally obedient to the family head and to stay together as they knew their main strength was packed in solidarity.

One of the field offices of SACAL was established in the village Lembapanka. A village meeting was arranged where Padmanava was invited. Very carefully Padmanava listened main topic 'SRI'. He too participated in the village meeting & took active part in the discussion about 'SRI' promotion/adoption.

SACAL enlisted his name in the project as a beneficiary partner for his intense interest & desire for SRI.

By this time, SACAL already experimented SRI at a village called Baghamari about 40 km away from village Lembapanka. One exposure visit for 35 interested lead farmers from Malaspadar GP was arranged by SACAL. At the time of exposure to Baghamari village, the plot was ready with very high yield of paddy awaiting harvest. (Final stage). Padmanava visited the plot with others & talked to the farmer Godavari to learn every details & exact problems of SRI practice.

Padmanava took resolution to go for SRI. His innocent calculation of possible higher produce in less land & inexpensive inputs allured him to go for SRI Challenge.

Subsequently, Padmanava was given training on SRI, vermin compost, FYM preparation. All assistance like Dhanicha seeds, paddy seeds, karanja oilcake, FYM, vermicompost, Azotobactor & PSB were given to Padma after practical measurement of his field where he wanted to cultivate SRI. He was told to use Mandwa weeder & markers kept at strategic points from where Padmanava agreed to bring, use & return. He never lent his ear to the sarcastic comments of other farmers who could never accept the SRI method as a sure way for more yield through organic system. For most of the farmers, it was madness for a farmer to transplant paddy plants having 10-12 days growth and not to keep water in the field alike traditional method. The staff of SACAL always guided him with absolute assurance of success. There was a time when the plot received no rain turning his plants yellow. Fortunately, rain came as blessing at the nick of time. He realized, SRI needs less water but it needs it dearly.

His plots are located just adjacent to road which goes to 30-40 villages. Everyday people from number of villages go on the road & observe the gradual SRI cultivation process. To-day Padmanava looks & compares his field with his neighbors. Everyone appreciate him for his endeavor & early bird approach. He is satisfied and looks forward hopefully to the harvest expected to be 2 more than his traditional practice & packages.

SACAL

This time, he has not purchased any chemical fertilizer or would ever do. Vermicompost emancipated Padmanava from the crime of damaging soil & its productive strength by using chemical fertilizer & pest control medicines.

Padmanava in his training of organic farming technique, learned how to prepare organic plant-growth tonic & pest control solution/methods.

Vermicompost is going to be his strength as his vegetables would be certified sooner as organic produce.

In the meantime, he has accepted an order to supply hand pounded organic rice (about 100kg) at higher rate of 33% extra than the market sales price. Padmanava is hopeful; the SRI would bring revolution to employment, livelihood & better living condition.