

“SRI” that Supports Livelihoods

Name of the project:- Promotion of SRI

Name of the Farmer:- Subas Dalai

Village:- Lembapanka

P.O:- Malaspadar

Via:- Mohana

Dist:- Gajapati

Family Details:- (a) Mother-

(b) Wife-

(c) Daughters-(1) Jasomati (10 Years)

(2) Sunita (8 years)

(d) Son- Kanha (4 Years)

He is a tribal marginal BPL farmer with very less income. To ensure living for self & dependent family, he spends most of his time as a laborer against daily wage. Poverty has taken him to a condition where social in-security is visible. In any village meeting Subas stays at the last place. No body wishes him nor asks him his welfare. A perfect neglect. Nobody care to his opinion nor values his comments. He dreams& dreams only.

He was present in a workshop about “SRI” conducted by SACAL. Very intently he listened about SRI. That was the water shed in his life. He visualized a powerful ray of hope in the darkness of his condition. Observing his interest, inquisition & his condition, staff of SACAL included him in the project as a partner.

“I am not a literate farmer but I have a clear perspective of SRI” Subas announced. Subas never missed any workshop or ‘SRI’ training camp conducted by SACAL. Always the first man to arrive in any meeting/workshop/training programme connected with SRI.

One of the farmer named Godabari of village Baghmari was supported by SACAL, did SRI reluctantly. Gradually, the rice plants grew to full vigour raising interest among others. Along with other farmers, Subas too travelled 32 km from his home to have a look at the SRI demonstration field in Baghmari village.

He was amazed to discover 95 nos (in average) of tillers in each rice plant. In the presence of visiting farmers rice plants from 10'X10' area were cut & paddy collected to know the quality, weight & volume. All agreed to the volume as three times more than their conventional practice.

Subas returned with assurance & firm conviction. SACAL selected some interested farmers having roadside land for the purpose of SRI demonstration. Subas's name was in the list.

Since the day, he was selected as a SRI demonstrating farmer, he become Siamese to his tiny plot.

The best thing was – 'the algorithm of SRI' was on his finger-tip. SACAL extended all required assistance like seeds, organic compost, Dhanicha seeds, weedier & required knowledge.

SRI demands clock –work & exact calendar of work schedule. Subas adhered to them. Uprooting or removing weeds on 10th day, 20th day, 30th day & on 40th day from the day of transplantation was done without fail.

Subas's yield was three times i.e. about 15 qtl of paddy from ½ ac of land, a never believe result.

Subas wanted to sale his paddy & at justified rate at proper market. SACAL gave him information & address of a buyer who was ready to buy organic rice if it is dehusked by traditional hand /foot pounding methods. Being supported by his family members , Subas sold about 600kg rice @Rs30/kg, gaining Rs 18000/-, a substantial amount never ever he imagined.

He was still having rice stock with him for a month of remaining days. Just after the first harvest, he did again for 2nd time SRI. So also vegetable cultivation for extra support.

Initially, the input requirement for organic farming was accepted by Subas. His ardent desire was for vermin compost which actually enhanced the productivity of soil.

Subas's vermin compost pit is now giving about 2000kg of extra compost for sale. Vegetable & rice grown with vermin compost are highly demanded. He is now a happy farmer to whom others envy & appreciate.

He shows his contentment when others ask him to narrate his arduous journey which took him to gain a place of economic freedom.

His son& daughter are going to school. The holed thatched roof is repaired. After a year or two, he plans to build the roof with tata's corrugated tin. When asked – Subas said, he accepted SRI as the last resort for his small land was positioned at a place where water storage was a problem & SRI needs less. More over buying fertilizer was a dream.

Now he laughs at others who still hold belief that organic farming is an impracticable system for higher return, because he proved it otherwise.

In village meeting, Sarpancha calls Subas to take his place at the frontline to what he denies. A sense of pride flow in the hearts of his family members. They all won, jointly . They give credit to SRI but with humbleness agree that to deal with the meance of poverty number of strategies should be accepted. To begin let us try with SRI.