

“SRI” in Ragi

Lembapanka is small village of Malaspadar Gram Panchayat of Mohana Block with 22 households. Bhaskar Dalai lives in that village with his wife, mother and son. He is a hardworking farmer of that village. He is an agriculture labour having a small patch of highland. During rainy season, he cultivates Ragi and Small amount of paddy in this highland. Apart from this he works as a cowboy taking the cattles of all the families for grazing which adds to his income.



The farmers of that village got inspiration from SACAL organization, working in the neighbouring villages and decided to form a group named SANKARA SARANA. This group was created to propagate the usefulness of traditional agricultural practices and importance of organic compost and manure. Bhaskar Dalai is one of the members of this group.

In July 2008, SACAL had organized a 3 days' workshop cum exposure visit to Nayagarh district's SAMBHAV organization. 20 farmers were selected for the exposure visit. The workshop was organized to discuss on a new method of cultivation called SRI (System of Rice Cultivation) using local inputs and resources. Kumari Sabarmati was the resource person for the training. Bhaskar Dalai was one of the trainees.

After returning from the workshop, under the guidance and cooperation of the Agriculture Officer of SACAL, Bhaskar Dalai decided to cultivate Ragi in SRI method in 20 cent of land. He prepared the land and started ploughing the field after applying compost to the field. Then he prepared seeds bed of 10" x 4" and sown Ragi seeds after treatment by cow-urine. He transplanted 10 days old seedlings in the furrows at a distance of 10" from plant to plant. He was overwhelmed to see the yield of 2.30 quintals of Ragi out of 20 cent of land and decided to cultivated Ragi in 1 acre of land during the next season.

Halapanka is a very small village of Mohana Block in Gajapati district having 45 households with a population of 264. Suseni Gomango resides in this village with her family of 7 members

She has 2 acre of high land and 2 acres of low land. Her husband does not show any interest towards cultivating their lands. Her father-in-law helps her in ploughing the field. Her husband Sri Janana Gomango, extends no helping hand to his wife as well as to his family. She herself with the help of her father-in-law works in the field day and night to feed their family.



In the meantime, SACAL, a social work organization intervened in Malaspadar Gram Panchayat. The staff of SACAL presented street plays on the benefits of traditional agricultural practices and organic method of cultivation and staged among the people of different villages, the usefulness of SRI method of Cultivation. These street plays motivated Suseni Gomango. With a lot of curiosity and queries, she contacted the SACAL staff. SACAL shared with Suseni Gomango, the technical expertise and supported her with the inputs like – Dhanicha, Karanja cake, Neem cake, Marker, weeder, etc.

She decided to cultivate paddy in 1 acre of land in SRI method. In 50 decimal of land, she used Kalajira variety and in the rest 50 decimal land, she used HMT Sona variety. She followed the technicalities of the SRI method like Nursery bed preparation, seeds treatment with cow urine, transplantation of 10 days old seedlings, use of weeder in the field, etc.

She was very excited to see the impressive yields she received; she received 10 quintals of Kalajira rice and 17 quintals of HMT sona. The yield confirmed her faith and belief in SRI method of cultivation and is presently cultivating local variety in 50 decimal of land in rabi season.

She herself is overwhelmed and is spreading her happiness among the villagers sharing her experiences with them and motivating others to adopt the SRI method of cultivation.