

BETTER LIVELIHOOD WITH BETTER WATER AVAILABILITY (STORY OF A HAPPY FARMER: SRI LAXMAN MUDULI)

Behind the Scene:

Koraput is a district of India in southern Odisha. The district is located in the Eastern Ghats and is known for its hilly terrain, rich and diverse types of mineral deposits and its tribal culture and tradition under the Eastern Ghats high lands agro-climatic zone. Accordingly, lesser fraction of crop lands, water availability and storage is a major concern for the farmers, while they depend only on monsoon cultivation.

Pre – Scenario:

Sri Laxman Muduli of Temariguda village of Laxmipur block GP: Panchada of Koraput district. The village with under privileged tribal community mainly depend upon rainfall for irrigating their crop land.

Sri Laxman Muduli has a total of 7 acres of land for cultivation, but most of the area were left barren and waste land for years due to water scarcity for irrigation. He used to cultivate small patches of his land with limited water availability and his productions could meet only his family consumption. It was observed to be tough for him to sustain his family livelihood, health and children's education expenses with mere income. He also sometimes used to go for other works apart from his primary source of agriculture for further income to sustain his family.

Intervention:

With the launch of the Farm Pond scheme, **“Every willing farmer can have a farm pond”**, a farm pond was constructed in the land of Sri Laxman Muduli, Village: Temariguda, GP: Panchada, Block: Laxmipur, District: Koraput, in the year 2019-20. The farm pond was constructed with a dimension of 15m x 15m x 3m, at a cost of Rs. 1,50,000/- out of MGNREGS fund, under the executive supervision of Project Director Watersheds (Deputy Director Soil Conservation), Koraput. This intervention aimed to provide him the life saving irrigation throughout the year and could facilitated Sri Muduli to grow his crops in every Rabi, Kharif and Zaid season. The expectations fruited to reality in the following year.

Post – Scenario:

After the excavation of the farm pond, the water scarcity constraint for Sri Laxman Muduli was nearly solved. Now, when he has sufficient irrigation water, he diverted to seasonal vegetable cultivation throughout the year and earned a good profit. He is now able to use High yielding Variety (HYV) seeds with organic farming and sufficient irrigation to ensure higher and healthier yield.

Starting with use of a small patch of land for his family consumption, now he has expanded to cultivate his 5 acres of land and sells his production in nearby market and enjoys a better livelihood through higher income.

During the discussion with Sri Laxman Muduli by the local officials of Directorate of Soil Conservation and Watershed Development, his tentative annual production and income as follows:

Sl No	Crop Name	Yearly HARVEST QTY (Qtl)	Avg. Selling Price (Rs/Kg)	Yearly Income (Rs)	Yearly investment (Rs.)	Net Profit (Rs.)
1	Cabbage	6.60	30.00	19800.00	4800.00	15000.00
2	Chilli	1.80	80.00	14400.00	5500.00	8900.00
3	Onion	5.40	40.00	21600.00	8500.00	13100.00
4	Garlic	2.4	120.00	28800.00	9900.00	18900.00
5	Ginger	3.60	70.00	25200.00	6600.00	18600.00
6	Tomato	4.80	25.00	12000.00	4500.00	7500.00
7	Brinjal	9.60	20.00	19200.00	4200.00	15000.00
8	Cauliflower	8.40	45.00	37800.00	14000.00	23800.00
9	Potato	13.50	25.00	33750.00	12000.00	21750.00
10	Coriander	0.75	100.00	7500.00	3000.00	4500.00
TOTAL				220050.00	73000.00	147050.00

With a considerable higher income profit, he is now be able to manage his family livelihood very well and focuses to utilize all his 7 acres of land with the help of some hired farm labourers.

Convergence from other line departments:

With the availability of sufficient irrigation through the construction of farm pond, attempts have been made to multiply the income of Sri LaxmanMuduli through Horticulture and Fishery departments.

Now, with the Scheme Provisions of Directorate of Horticulture, Mango plantation has been undertaken in his land and expecting a good harvest in coming years.

Further, Sri LaxmanMuduli has also seeded fingerlings in the constructed farm pond to take up Pisciculture and awaiting netting and harvest by next year, which will further fetch him a good amount of cash.

Now a days, Sri LaxmanMuduli is determind to a happy and successful farmer in Temariguda village and is an example to other budding farmers of the location. The combined interventions of different schemes of Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment has spread a smile on the faces of many farmers like Sri LaxmanMuduli.



(FARM POND OF SRI LAXMAN MUDULI, VILLAGE: TEMARIGUDA, LAXMIPUR BLOCK, KORAPUT)



(Photographs of Seasonal Vegetable Cultivation and Mango Plantation in the crop lands of Sri LaxmanMuduli)