

## FARMPOND:ASILVERBOONTOPOORFARMER'S FAMILY

### INTRODUCTION

Irregular monsoon has been continuing to be a menace for Angul block since last couple of years where agriculture practice is being managed mostly depending on rainfall. As a result farmers are discouraged to grow crop in their fields due to prevalence of dry spell during Kharif. Hence to provide assure irrigation in such situations throughout the year,

Farm Pond could be a smart and sustainable approach. During the COVID-19 Pandemic, Farm Pond under the scheme MGNREGA is proved to be the small land marginal farmers.



### PROJECT INTERVENTION

Susant Divedi, a progressive farmer of Bedasan village under Bedasan GP owns 2 Ha of cultivable land. It was laying fallow due to scarcity of water and his family members were living hand to mouth as he was practicing a single crop i.e., paddy and annually earned around Rs.15,000 to Rs.18,000 for own consumption.. The land feasibility and all requisite documents were verified by the technical team for availing farm pond to the beneficiary. A Farm pond was excavated in the Kansa padia of size 20 x 20 x 3 M having inlet and outlet provision, through MGNREGS under the 5T with the help of Project Director Watersheds, Angul. The total cost was 1.993 lakhs.

### RESULT AND IMPACT

The Farm pond has a great impact on enhancing the livelihood of farming community through changing the crop productivity as well as cropping intensity. It has also helped in changing the economic situation. He is now growing vegetables such as Drumstick, papaya, Brinjal over 2.0 Acre land and doing bund cultivation of Banana and



The beneficiary has also started Argar Pisciculture with stocking of 4kg fingerlings in the pond area with a view to earn good remuneration. Besides this, he has taken up New Mango plantation around the farm pond during FY 2020-21. The farm pond has strengthened his livelihood security as he is earning 25000 to 30000/- per annum.

Susant Dwivedi has planned to grow more Rabi crops due to availability of water and he is interested to grow banana in coming year for commercial purposes which will provide him an additional income of 10000 to 12000/-

The other positive outcomes of excavation of farm pond in Susant Dwivedi's field are as follows:

- During Covid-19 pandemic situations, labors were engaged in construction of farm pond for getting daily wages, generating 784 person days.
- By the end of September 2020, it was estimated that 1200cm surface runoff could be collected and around 2Ha of lifesaving irrigation could be facilitated in its' command areas.
- Soil moisture condition has been improved to grow crop in the adjoining areas.

After seeing the results, farmers of his locality are showing keen interest to conserve rain water through pond for better production and have decided to replicate this idea to improve their livelihood. As a whole, farm pond can also be utilized to prevent the drought like situation as well as fulfilling farmers' demand in a sustainable way.

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