

FARM POND RE-ENGINEERED FOR DOUBLING FARMERS' INCOME

The Farm ponds under 5T initiative under MGNREGA has turned out to be a blessing and has become a strong source of income for many beneficiaries during the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2019-20. A farmer in Manibandha Gram Panchayat jurisdiction in Bolagarh block has excavated a farm pond under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) and taken up fishery and vegetable cultivation along with paddy to get maximum returns from his 4 acres.

Sri Nanda Kishore Chualasingh, age 48 yrs of Bankapalli village Manibandha GP, Bolagarh Block of Khordha district is a poor marginal farmer belonging to BPL category having scanty sources of income from agriculture. He was having dream to excavate a tank of his own, but due to limited resources he could not be able to succeed. He came to know the MGNREGS programme from AFO Bolagarh that government is providing free pond.

Sri Behera realised that government schemes were meant for uplifting the livelihood in rural areas, so he constructed a farm pond of dimension 15m × 15m × 3m utilizing funds under the MGNREGS in the financial year 2019-20 through Soil Conservation Department, Khordha and completed the tank during April 2020. The estimated cost of Farm pond was Rs 1.43 Lakhs. Then he started cultivation of vegetables on the embankment, plantation in the periphery and fishery in the pond. He has cultivated black rice in the year 2020 for the first time and he has planned to cultivate vegetables like cucumber, brinjal, chilli this financial year. During August 2020 he prepared the tank for fingerling rearing and stocked Rohi and Bhakura. He has planted cashew and acacia on the pond and has a plan to plant mango and papaya trees there.

According to Sri Nanda Kishore, integrated fish farming with horticulture is an alluring option for generating rural livelihood. He also stated that prior fish farming, he was doing paddy in that field and annual average income was Rs. 25000/-. He has stated that by adopting this multipurpose farm pond his income has been increased by twice this year and. According to him, his net profit was more than one lakh only because of multi purpose use of storage water of farm pond. As this is one of the ideal multipurpose farm ponds with much alluring income, the farmers of nearby villages visited this project and some of them are motivated to take up such integrated project. He is very much indebted to Soil conservation dept. for wholehearted support for making this project a great success.



Before execution offarmpond

Execution of farmpond



