



The Inspiring Journey of Anand Singh: A Success Story in Organic Farming from Rohtak, Haryana

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In the vibrant agricultural landscape of Haryana, India, where vast fields stretch across the horizon and traditional farming methods have long been the norm, a remarkable transformation is taking place. This is the story of Anand Singh, a beacon of hope and innovation in organic farming. Mr. Anand Singh aged about 53 years, from Nonand village of Rohtak, Haryana has been doing organic farming since 2016. He is a well educated progressive farmer. He has done B.A., M.A., D.P.Ed, M.P.Ed, and M.Phil. He is also a member of FPO group. He does organic farming in his 12.5 acre of land. He grew up working in the fields, helping his family grow traditional crops such as wheat, paddy and sugarcane. Like many other rural farmers in Haryana, initially he also relied on conventional farming but with the passing time the health of their soil deteriorated and the economic pressures mounted. Then, it became clear that a change was needed. This success story unfolds as a testament to the transformative power of organic farming, showcasing how innovative practices can rejuvenate the land, improve livelihoods, and inspire a broader movement towards sustainable agriculture in Haryana. Entering the world of organic farming was not merely a business decision but a profound commitment to environmental sustainability and community well-being.

Inspiration Behind Starting Organic Farming

During his initial time of farming, Anand was dependent on conventional farming methods due to which the quality of soil and water started deteriorating and despite of using fertilizers, pesticides and weedicides the yield was declining drastically. Along with all of these, he had to face financial crises because the total cost of cultivation also increased and he was unable to bear the unnecessary expenses of chemicals. At this point, Anand realized that continuing on the same path would not lead to a sustainable future. Then, he also realised that along with the environment human health is also being affected by the excessive use of agrochemicals. their residues gained entry in food chain. As a result many people has to face allergies, respiratory diseases, cardiovascular diseases and other cancerous diseases. So motivated by a desire for sustainable agriculture and better health for his community, he embarked on a journey towards organic farming.

Early Struggles and Challenges

In 2016, Anand was struggling with an unforgiving truth. The traditional farming methods that he and his family had relied upon for generations were no longer enough to sustain them. So, he decided to opt organic farming for his livelihood. But the journey was not easy. Initially, it was a daunting task; he had to educate himself about organic methods, pest management, and soil health. So to reduce the gap of knowledge and technology he attended workshops organized by local agricultural universities and connected with fellow organic

farmers through social media platforms. Anand learned about crop rotation, composting, and the importance of maintaining biodiversity on his farm.

On the other hand, Anand faced skepticism from neighbours who were accustomed to conventional farming. He had to face peer pressure for opting organic farming. However, he remained steadfast in his commitment to organic practices and started his journey. His first challenge was to restore the soil health, which had been depleted by years of chemical use. Then, he also find difficulties in practicing natural pest and disease control as in initial years organic farms are more susceptible to pest and diseases due to which the yield fell drastically. As a result he also had to face financial crises for initial three to four years. But after continuing organic methods for three to four years he noticed improvement in soil health and fertility. Soil regained his nutrient recycling power and hence fertility improved. Along with this, the input cost also decreased and the yield improved with better quality. He prepared different organic pesticides and fungicides along with biofertilizers for pests, diseases and nutrient management:

Nutrient Management: For maintaining the soil health, Anand prepared JEEVAMRUT in his field with the help of organic ingredients. He prepared it by mixing 10L cow urine, 10kg cow dung, 1Kg jaggery, 1Kg besan, half Kg live soil in 200L of water. He said this mixture needed steering every morning and evening for 1 week with the help of a wooden stick. Then after one week liquid manure got ready. This manure showed miraculous results in Anand's field.

Pest Management: For controlling pests, Anand prepared pesticide from organic ingredients which are easily available in our farms and nature. He prepared it by mixing 2Kg leaves each of Dhatura, Aak (*Calotropis gigantea*), Oleander (kaner), Neem, Castor (Arand), Cannabis (Bhang) and Papdi. Along with half Kg each of Green chilli, Red chilli, Garlic and Tobacco. It gets ready within 15 days and after these 15 days it can be sprayed in field for effective pest control.

Fungal Disease Management: Anand prepared fungicide by mixing 250g powder of Amla (Indian gooseberry) with 20L of buttermilk in a large copper container or a copper wire. Then he kept the solution for 7 days. After 7 days the fungicide got ready to be sprayed in field for effective disease control.

Micronutrient Source: He prepared natural micronutrient source for healthy growth of plants by mixing 200L of waste decomposer with powder of any three pulses (Example, Moong bean, Chickpea, Black gram etc.) and powder of any three oilseeds (Example, Soyabean, mustard and linseed) along with 1Kg Geru (Red ochre) in a copper container. Then, he kept the mixture for 21 days. It got ready to be sprayed in field after 21 days.



Economic Benefits

Anand's commitment to organic farming led to significant economic benefits. Initially, he sold his produce at local farmers' markets, where consumers were eager to support

sustainable practices. As word spread about the quality of his organic produce, demand surged. Within three to four years, he expanded his market reach.

The economic impact was profound:

- **Increased Income:** Anand reported a 40% increase in income within three to four years of transitioning to organic farming. Higher market prices for organic produce meant that even smaller quantities sold for greater profit.
- **Cost Savings:** By reducing reliance on chemical inputs and fertilizers, he cut his production costs significantly. The composting system also provided a sustainable source of nutrients for his crops.
- **Diversified Revenue:** Anand diversified his farm by incorporating organic dairy from a few desi cows he raised. This not only provided additional income streams but also enhanced soil fertility.

Community Impact

Inspired by Anand's success, other farmers in his village began to adopt organic practices. He took the initiative to conduct workshops, sharing his knowledge about sustainable farming techniques. His story became a beacon of hope, demonstrating that organic farming could be both environmentally friendly and economically viable.

Significance

Mr. Anand Singh is a torchbearer among farmers to adopt ecofriendly techniques for crop management. This is a big step to popularize and increase the area under organic farming. His innovative ideas will help to establish an ecological balance with natural resource management, enhance soil fertility and prevent pest problems economically. Moreover, market of organic produce is getting popularity day by day.

Future Aspirations and Way-Forward

With growing demand for organic produce, he plans to expand his operations, investing in better irrigation systems and he is also planning for organic orchard of Guava, Citrus, Mango and other fruits. He heartily desires to popularize the use of his innovative techniques of organic farming for crop management to save our environment from soil, air and water pollution.

Conclusion

Anand Singh's journey from conventional to organic farming is a testament to the power of innovation and perseverance. Through his hard work, he not only transformed his own life but also inspired a movement towards sustainable agriculture in his community. His success story highlights the economic benefits of organic farming, proving that with dedication, farmers can thrive while contributing positively to the environment. As organic farming is rapidly growing in India, he is spreading a healthy set-up for positive economic outcome. He is a wonderful example to change mindset of farmers. His thoughts are pioneering and will have tremendous scope to establish a disease free and well-fed society by providing healthy food.

Message to Other Farmers

Anand wants to give message to his fellow farmers that they should start organic farming as soon as possible to protect our soil, water, air and biodiversity. Because due to use of chemicals not only our environment is affecting but our human health is also affecting. So to make our planet a sustainable and healthy place we should together adopt organic methods for crop production. Along with this organic farming also gives you a very good revenue by reducing input costs.