



Success Story of Ramandeep Singh: A Progressive Farmer

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Introduction

Farmer Name: Ramandeep Singh

Age: 33

Village: Fatehgarh Jattan, Punjab

Landholding: 12 acres

Father: Late Ravi Singh

Background

Ramandeep Singh, 33, son of late Ravi Singh, belong from Fatehgarh Jattan in Punjab. Coming from a farming family, Ramandeep grew up watching his father struggle with challenges that are common in Punjab's farming. Dependence on wheat and paddy, rising costs of inputs, uncertain weather, and fluctuation crop prices. His father mainly cultivated wheat and paddy, which provided food but not always a stable income. Some years brought good harvests, but other years the family had to face financial problems due to market crashes and high prices. After his father's untimely demise, Ramandeep has to take up responsibility for his family and ancestral land. Instead of losing hope, he resolved to bring positive change. He completed his education, which gave him both confidence and exposure to modern farming ideas. He realized that if farming had to remain sustainable for his generation and beyond, it had to evolve. His vision was clear—to reduce risks, diversify practices, and add value to traditional farming. This determination to improve his family's livelihood became the foundation of his journey as a progressive farmer. Ramandeep decided that farming should not just be about survival but about creating opportunities for growth, innovation, and prosperity.

Diversified Farming Practices

Unlike many farmers in Punjab who stick to the wheat-paddy crop, Ramandeep chose to diversify his farming system. He knew that depending only on two crops exposed his family to multiple risks—monsoon failures, rising input costs, and market problems. To overcome this, he introduced a mix of food crops and fodder crops on his 12 acres. By rotating crops and including maize, vegetables, and green fodder along with staples, he ensured that his land remained fertile, his soil regained nutrients, and his income was distributed throughout the year. One of his major focuses was fodder cultivation, which not only saved money otherwise spent on buying fodder but also improved the health and productivity of his dairy animals. Crops like berseem and maize became an important part of his farming plan. The use of organic manure from his dairy further enriched soil health, cutting down input costs. Market-wise, his diverse produce opened new opportunities. Some crops were sold directly in local mandis, while vegetables provides better returns through direct selling in nearby markets. Ramandeep's approach towards diversified farming not only strengthened his income flow but also encourage the other farmers that monocropping is no longer a sustainable option.

Dairy Farming

Dairy forms the backbone of Ramandeep's enterprise. With 5 cows and 9 buffaloes, he supplies milk to private vendors and Verka, ensuring steady income. The dung from animals is used as organic manure, boosting soil fertility and reducing chemical fertilizer use. For Ramandeep, dairy farming forms the backbone of his agricultural enterprise. With 5 healthy cows and 9 buffaloes, he built a thriving dairy unit that provides his family with a steady and reliable source of income throughout the year. Unlike crops, which are seasonal, dairy ensures daily cash flow, making it easier to manage household expenses and farm investments. Ramandeep pays special attention to the health and nutrition of his animals. By feeding them high-quality green fodder grown on his own fields, he not only saves money but also ensures high milk yield.



Piggery and Fisheries Expansion

After making his dairy farm successful, Ramandeep diversified his income by starting piggery and fisheries. Though pig farming was uncommon in his area, he managed it with proper care and earned steady returns. He also built fish ponds, which provided food for his family and profit from local sales. These enterprises reduced risks from crop failures and price changes, showing that planning and courage make diversification successful.

Adoption of Solar Energy

To overcome frequent power cuts and high electricity bills, Ramandeep installed solar panels on his farm. This powers irrigation pumps, dairy equipment, and his household. The eco-friendly investment significantly reduced his costs and inspired other farmers in the region to adopt solar energy. Apart from cost savings, this eco-friendly initiative has also made his farm environmentally sustainable. By reducing dependence on conventional electricity, he has contributed to cleaner energy use. His decision has inspired many other farmers.

Achievements

- Adopted crop diversification beyond wheat and paddy
- Established a successful dairy farm with 14 milch animals
- Started piggery and fisheries for additional income
- Installed solar panels to reduce costs and ensure energy security
- Improved soil fertility through use of organic manure
- Actively participates in KVK and Agriculture Department training programs

Message to Farmers

Ramandeep strongly believes that farming should no longer be seen as just growing wheat and paddy. His message to other farmers is simple yet powerful: Agriculture has many opportunities. If we only depend on one or two crops, we will always face risks. Diversify your farming according to your land and resources. Start dairy, try fisheries, or explore piggery. Adopt renewable energy like solar or biogas to cut costs and reduce dependency on electricity. Grow fodder for your animals and use their dung as manure—it will save money and improve your soil. Most importantly, never stop learning. Attend training programs, meet progressive farmers, and adopt modern science along with traditional wisdom.