

## From Small Beginnings to Expanding Horizons

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### Farmer details

Name: Kirpal Singh

Age: 78

Village: Dugri

**K**irpal Singh, a 78-year-old farmer from Dugri village in Punjab, is a shining example of how vision, dedication, and continuous learning can transform traditional farming into a thriving and sustainable livelihood.

Kirpal Singh began his journey in agriculture at the young age of 18. Having completed his Class 12th education, he joined his father in managing their 10-acre family farm. Like most farmers in their village at the time, his father followed conventional practices, cultivating wheat, rice, and sugarcane year after year.

While these crops provided stability, Kirpal always felt there was potential to do more with their land.

While pursuing his graduation, Kirpal was introduced to the concept of the Integrated Farming System (IFS). This approach focused on combining different agricultural activities such as crop production, horticulture, and livestock to maximize productivity and income. Inspired by this idea, Kirpal shared his knowledge with his father. Though initially hesitant, his father trusted his son's vision and agreed to experiment. With his father's support, Kirpal converted 4 acres of their land into a kinnow orchard (fig 1). From the remaining 6 acres, he planted seasonal crops on 4 acres. On the remaining 2 acres, he planted fodder crops, and on the last 1 acre of land, he started preparing manure. Around the same time, he also started a dairy unit with 10 buffaloes and cows. Balancing his studies and farming responsibilities was not easy, but Kirpal remained committed. He actively helped his father manage the farm while continuing his education.

After completing his graduation, Kirpal took his passion a step further. He began attending Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) trainings and Kisan Melas to stay updated with modern agricultural practices. These platforms exposed him to new techniques, improved crop varieties, and better livestock management practices. Over time, his kinnow orchard started yielding good returns. The combination of fruit cultivation and dairy farming created multiple sources of income, reducing risk and increasing overall profitability. With



Fig 1



Fig 2

careful planning and hard work, Kirpal gradually expanded his operations.

Today, Kirpal Singh owns 18 acres of land and manages a successful dairy unit (fig 2) with 20 buffaloes and cows. His journey from a traditional farmer's son to a progressive agriculturist reflects the power of knowledge, innovation, and perseverance.

Kirpal Singh's story is not just about success in farming; it is about the courage to adopt change, the importance of education, and the value of blending tradition with modern practices. Even at the age of 78, he continues to inspire farmers in his village and beyond, proving that growth is always possible with the right mindset.