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Success Story of IFS Model as Poultry as a Major Component

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Mr. Harakanta kachari, a tribal farmer from betagaon village under Bhergaon Sub-division of Udalguri district, Assam, has emerged as a successful entrepreneur through the adoption of an Integrated Farming System (IFS). Residing approximately 87 km from the district headquarters, he transformed his traditional farming into a profitable and sustainable enterprise with technical guidance from Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Udalguri, and financial support under the NABARD-sponsored IFS project initiated in 2022. The project integrated poultry, fish farming, and maize cultivation, complementing his existing crop and livestock enterprises. Presently, Mr. Boro earns an annual net income of approximately ₹2.60 lakh from agriculture and allied activities. His success has inspired many farmers in the region and established him as a role model for sustainable farming and rural entrepreneurship.

Keywords: Integrated Farming System (IFS), Poultry, Fish Farming, NABARD, Rural Entrepreneurship, Livelihood, Udalguri

Introduction

Udalguri district of Assam has a predominantly non-vegetarian population, resulting in a consistently high demand for meat, eggs, and fish. More than 32% of the district's population belongs to Scheduled Tribes (ST), and a large proportion of rural households depend on agriculture and livestock for their livelihood. Despite the growing demand, local production of meat and fish remains inadequate, creating a significant gap between production and market requirements. To address this challenge and enhance farmers' income, Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Udalguri, in collaboration with Assam Agricultural University (AAU) and with financial assistance from NABARD, launched a project entitled *"Identification and Popularization of Feasible and Profitable Integrated Farming System Modules for Different Agro-Ecological Situations of Udalguri District of Assam for Doubling Farmers' Income."* The project aimed to demonstrate sustainable and economically viable farming models suitable for small and marginal farmers.

Success Timeline and KVK Intervention

Mr. Kachari came into contact with the scientists of KVK, Udalguri, in 2020. Having already established one fish ponds covering 0.21 ha, he expressed keen interest in adopting an Integrated Farming System. Recognizing his enthusiasm and commitment, KVK scientists selected him as a beneficiary under the Poultry–Fish–Maize IFS module. During 2020–21, KVK organized training programmes on integrated farming practices at his farm. Based on the project plan, implementation began during 2022–23 with the provision of essential inputs, including fish fingerlings, a poultry house, and 50 Vanaraja chicks for egg production. Prior to the intervention, Mr. kachari was engaged in cultivation of paddy and toria along with piggery, goat rearing, and fish farming. He owns approximately 3.0 ha of agricultural land, where he follows a double-cropping system of paddy followed by toria. The rice varieties cultivated include Ranjit, Bahadur, Swarna, Maniram, Joha, and Bao rice, while both local and TS-38 varieties of toria are grown. With continuous technical guidance from KVK, he diversified and strengthened his farming system by incorporating improved livestock and poultry enterprises.

At present, he maintains 16 Assam Hill goats and 6 pigs for breeding purpose, poultry farming, maintaining 33 Vanaraja birds, 37 Pati ducks, and 46 local chickens. The integration of crops, livestock, poultry, and fisheries has significantly enhanced resource utilization, reduced production costs, and increased farm profitability.

Impact of the Success

The Integrated Farming System has substantially improved Mr. kacharis's household income and livelihood security. His integrated poultry-cum-fish farming enterprise generates an annual net income of approximately ₹2,04,000. Goat farming contributes an additional income of around ₹24,000 annually. Poultry farming alone provides an average annual income of nearly ₹1,10,000, while cultivation of paddy and toria under the double-cropping system contributes approximately ₹80,000 per year. Overall, Mr. Kachari now earns a net annual income of nearly ₹2.60 lakh from agriculture and allied sectors. The adoption of the Integrated Farming System has ensured year-round employment, efficient utilization of farm resources, enhanced nutritional security, and diversified income sources. His remarkable success has motivated many farmers in the Bhergaon subdivision to adopt integrated farming practices. Today, Mr. Harakanta Kachari stands as a role model for sustainable agriculture and rural entrepreneurship in Udalguri district, demonstrating how scientific interventions, institutional support, and farmers' dedication can transform traditional farming into a profitable and resilient livelihood.



Glimpses of project photographs (Fish cum Poultry)

Conclusion

Mr. Kachari has emerged as a role model for the youth of Udalguri district. Instead of remaining unemployed, he chose to engage in multiple income-generating activities through an Integrated Farming System (IFS), transforming himself into a successful rural entrepreneur. His dedication, innovation, and hard work have inspired many young people in his village and surrounding areas to take up farming as a sustainable livelihood. Today, farmers, rural youths, and aspiring entrepreneurs regularly visit his farm to learn about the Integrated Farming System and adopt its technologies. His success has significantly contributed to promoting scientific and diversified farming practices across the district.