

“Diversified farming and mechanization have strengthened my livelihood and secured my family’s future”

IFS–WADI Based Sustainable Farming: Case Study of Shri Daityaraj Patel

Name: Shri Daityaraj Patel

Gender: Male

Age: 54 years

Address: Badmundaloi Village, K. Jamankira GP, Kuchinda Block, Sambalpur Dist, Odisha

Total Landholding: 5 Acres (4 Acres ancestral land

+ 1 Acre WADI)

Primary Source of Income (Earlier): Paddy cultivation

Project: NABARD IFS – WADI Programme

Implementing Agency: SARC (Social Action for Rural Community) NGO



Background

Shri Daityaraj Patel is a hardworking and progressive farmer from Badmundaloi village who traditionally depended on paddy cultivation over his 4 acres of ancestral land. While paddy farming ensured basic food security, the income was seasonal and often insufficient to meet household needs, especially with the growing educational expenses of his son, who is currently pursuing an engineering degree.

To support his family, he also engaged in part-time contract work and owns a tractor and a concrete-cement mixture machine, which provided additional income. However, a stable and diversified farming system was still needed to ensure long-term financial security.

Introduction of IFS–WADI Intervention

In **2023–24**, Shri Patel joined the NABARD-supported IFS–WADI Programme implemented by SARC NGO. Under this initiative, he developed **1 acre of upland into an orchard-based integrated farming system**, aiming to generate year-round income and improve land productivity.

Orchard Development (2023-24)

- **Mango:** 10 plants
- **Cashew (Kaju):** 30 plants
- **Total Area under WADI:** 1 Acre

The orchard is in a healthy growth stage, with regular care practices such as irrigation, weeding, and organic input application being followed.

Intercropping and Farming Practices

To ensure continuous income and proper maintenance of orchard plants, Shri Patel adopted seasonal intercropping:

- Kharif Season: Mustard
- Rabi Season: Potato
- Summer Season: Chilli

These practices have helped in:

- Improving soil fertility

- Enhancing moisture conservation
- Reducing weed growth
- Supporting better growth of fruit plants

Income from Integrated Farming (2025–26) (Approximate)

Crop	Area (In Acre)	Gross Income (₹)	Expenses (In ₹)	Profit (₹)
Potato (Rabi)	0.4	40,000	17,000	23,000
Mustard (Kharif)	0.3	15,000	4,000	11,000
Chilli (Summer)	0.3	25,000	9,000	16,000
Total Intercrop	1	₹ 80,000	₹ 30,000	₹ 50,000

Orchard Income

- Cashew (30 trees × 1–1.5 kg/tree @ ₹120/kg) ≈ ₹4,000–₹5,400
- Mango: Expected to start fruiting in coming years

The orchard will gradually provide an additional and reliable income source.

Additional Livelihood Support

- Owns a **tractor**, reducing cultivation costs and generating rental income
- Engaged in **contract work**, ensuring supplementary earnings
- Owns a **cement mixture machine**, adding to financial stability

Impact and Outcomes

Diversified income sources through agriculture and non-farm activities

- Increased annual income and improved financial stability
- Better support for family needs, including higher education of his son
- Improved utilization of upland through orchard development
- Reduced dependence on mono-cropping (paddy)
- Enhanced confidence in adopting modern farming practices
- Recognized as a progressive farmer in the village

✓ **Life Improved:** Yes

✓ **Inspired Other Farmers:** Yes (approximately 5–7 farmers)

Farmer's Experience

Shri Daityaraj Patel shares:

“Earlier, I depended mainly on paddy cultivation, and income was limited. After joining the WADI project, I started growing mango and cashew along with seasonal crops. Now I earn throughout the year, and it has helped me support my family and my son’s education. I feel more confident and secure about the future.”

Conclusion

The IFS–WADI Programme has brought a positive transformation in the life of Shri Daityaraj Patel by promoting orchard-based integrated farming along with diversified livelihood activities. His ability to combine farming with mechanization and additional income sources has ensured economic stability and resilience.

This case highlights how the WADI model can not only improve farm productivity but also support long-term goals such as children's education and overall family well-being, making it a replicable model for farmers in Badmundaloi village and Kuchinda Block.