

Case Study

From Traditional Farming to Ragi Revelation – The Inspiring Journey of Namita Chadiya

Introduction:-

Namita Chadiya, a housewife and farmer from Kodopada village, GP-Tainsar, Block-Kuchinda, District-Sambalpur, has emerged as an inspiration through her remarkable transition from traditional farming to successful millet cultivation. Her journey highlights the power of adopting innovative farming practices and the impact of support systems in enhancing rural livelihoods.



Challenges and Initial Struggles:-

Before venturing into millet cultivation, Namita primarily relied on livestock and assisted her husband in cultivating horticulture crops such as chilli, maize, vegetables, and paddy. Despite their efforts, traditional farming methods yielded unsatisfactory results, leaving them with limited income and unutilized fallow land.

Introduction to Millet Cultivation:-

Namita's turning point came with the introduction of millet cultivation through the **Sri Anna Abhiyan**, facilitated by **Social Action for Rural Community (SARC), Kuchinda**. Guided by SARC staff, she learned about the potential of millet, particularly ragi and received hands-on training in modern agronomic practices.

Adoption of Line Transplanting (LT) and Best Practices:-

With the support of SARC, Namita utilized 2.00 acres (0.8 hectares) of fallow land and cultivated ragi using the **Line Transplanting (LT)** method during Kharif 2024. She meticulously followed essential agronomic practices, including:

- Land and nursery bed preparation
- Proper line spacing and weeding
- Application of organic inputs like FYM, Handikhata, and Jiwamruta at the right intervals

Despite facing challenges like heavy rainfall soon after transplanting, Namita's dedication and timely intervention ensured better tillering, indicating improved productivity.

Impact and Inspiration:-

Namita's success with ragi cultivation has not only transformed her family's financial stability but has also inspired other farmers and women in her village. Witnessing her achievement, many have shown interest in expanding their cultivation areas under millet, contributing to a potential shift in local agricultural practices.

Significance and Conclusion:-

Namita Chadiya's journey underscores the importance of agricultural initiatives such as the **Sri Anna Abhiyan** and **ATMA**, which empower farmers with knowledge and skills to adopt innovative farming techniques. Her inspiring story demonstrates how community-based interventions can lead to sustainable livelihood improvements and encourage widespread adoption of climate-resilient crops like millet in the region.