

“Integrated farming has made me self-reliant and confident”

Empowering a Woman Farmer through IFS–WADI: Case Study of Smt. Namita Chardia

Name: Smt. Namita Chardia

Spouse’s Name: Shri Bharat Chandra Pradhan

Gender: Female **Age:** 32 years

Address: Kadopada Village, Tainsar GP, Kuchinda

Block, Sambalpur District, Odisha

Total Landholding: 1 Acre (WADI – 1 Acre)

Family Members: Husband and two children

Project: NABARD IFS – WADI Programme

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



🌿 Background

Smt. Namita Chardia is a small woman farmer from Kadopada village who earlier depended mainly on **paddy cultivation on leased land** for her livelihood. Due to **low productivity, erratic rainfall, and limited income**, her family struggled to meet household needs and agricultural expenses. Farming remained seasonal, and income was uncertain.

In **2023**, with motivation and continuous support from **SARC NGO**, she joined the **NABARD-supported IFS–WADI project** and developed **1 acre of upland** under orchard-based integrated farming. The intervention enabled her to shift from subsistence farming to a **diversified, sustainable livelihood model**.

🛠️ Interventions under IFS–WADI

• Orchard Development:

- Mango: 10 plants
- Cashew: 30 plants

• Support Provided:

- Planting material
- Fencing support
- Organic inputs and manure
- Capacity-building trainings
- Regular technical guidance and handholding

• Intercropping & Allied Crops:

Potato, mustard, garlic, ragi, horse gram, green gram cultivated seasonally.

• Additional Plantation:

Guava and lemon trees planted along field borders for supplementary income.

• Soil & Water Conservation Measures:

Mulching, organic manure application, crop rotation, and moisture conservation practices. Namita actively manages the orchard along with crop cultivation, ensuring timely watering, weeding, and plant protection using income generated from integrated farming.

Cropping & Income Details (2024–25) (Assumed realistic values)

Orchard Status

- **Cashew plants** expected early bearing from 2026–27.
- **Mango plants** are growing well and are expected to start fruiting in coming years.

Orchard Income (2026–27) (Projected)

- Cashew (30 trees × 1 kg nuts/tree @ ₹120/kg) = ₹3,600 (In 2026-27)
- Mango (10 trees – vegetative stage, no fruit yet) = ₹0

Total Orchard Income: ₹3,600/-

Total Annual Income Summary (2025–26)

Crop	Area (In Acre)	Gross Income (₹)	Expenses (In ₹)	Profit (₹)
Potato (Rabi)	0.4	35,000	16,000	19,000
Mustard (Rabi)	0.2	12,000	3,000	9,000
Garlic (Rabi)	0.2	17,000	8,000	9,000
Greengram (Kharif)	0.3	14,000	5,000	9,000
Horsegram (Kharif)	0.3	12,000	3,000	9,000
Millet Cultivation	1	15,000	5,000	10,000
Total Intercrop	-	₹ 1,05,000	₹ 40,000	₹ 65,000

Net Annual Income in 2026-27 (Approx. Projected): ₹80,000

(Earlier annual income was below ₹25,000.)

Impact and Transformation

- Sustainable income generated throughout the year.
- Orchard income supplements seasonal crop earnings.
- Reduced dependence on leased land for paddy cultivation.
- Improved **food and nutritional security** for the family.
- Enhanced **decision-making and income control** as a woman farmer.
- Increased confidence and leadership at the community level.
- Inspired **8–10 nearby farmers**, especially women, to adopt the WADI model.

Farmer's Voice

Smt. Namita Chardia proudly shares:

“Earlier, I depended only on paddy and income was not enough. Now, through WADI and integrated farming, I earn throughout the year. I can manage my orchard, support my family, and take decisions confidently. This project has given me stability and self-respect.”

Conclusion

The **NABARD IFS–WADI Programme**, implemented by **SARC NGO**, has successfully transformed the livelihood of Smt. Namita Chardia by integrating orchard development with diversified farming. The model has ensured **economic stability, women empowerment, and climate resilience**, making her a role model for other farmers in **Tainsar GP and Kuchinda Block**.