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Success Story

Shri Ram Kumar Singh: A Farmer of Natural Farming

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Introduction

Shri Ram Kumar Singh, age, 73 years, village & post office Vikrampur, Begusarai, is a well-known natural farming farmer in the Begusarai district. He decided to pursue natural farming after retiring as a reputed teacher to raise public awareness of soil health and environmental issues. To practise natural farming, he has owned three local cows and a 3-acre area of land. Besides maize and Berseem, which are planted for fodder, the pointed gourd, banana, onion, and potato vegetables are now grown by utilising natural farming techniques. Their Sources of Motivation are Bihar's Agriculture Department, KVK, Begusarai and other organisations that provide training on natural farming practices and extension activities.

Reason for adopting natural farming

Ram Kumar Singh is an educated farmer. After the retirement the teacher, he decided the natural farming for to following reasons:

- Natural farming is thought to be a profitable agricultural method with the potential to increase employment and rural development.
- Because natural farming does not utilize synthetic chemicals, there are no health risks or dangers. The food provides better health advantages because it has a higher nutritional density.
- Natural farming maximizes the quantity of "crop per drop" by using a variety of crops that support one another and cover the soil to reduce unnecessary water loss through evaporation.
- The biology of the soil, including the bacteria and other living things like earthworms, is where Natural Farming has the most direct effect. The health of the soil is largely dependent on its inhabitants.



- Livestock integration into farming systems is crucial to natural farming and aids in ecosystem restoration. Eco-friendly bio-inputs, like Jivamrit and Beejamrit, are made from natural ingredients like cow dung and urine.
- Plant development is being aided by the changes in soil structure brought about by organic carbon, no/low tillage, and plant diversity, even in the face of harsh conditions like drought.

Technology and Innovation Adopted

For natural farming methods, he has consistently made Beejamrit, Bhanjeevamrit, Jeevamrit, Panchparni, Dashparni, Neemastra, and Brahmastra, among others. For the organic-based fertilisers, he has also created vermicompost and liquid-based dung decomposers.

Innovation developed

He has prepared microelements-based fertilizers for the nutrition of plants. For the preparation of microelements-based fertilizers, he used Besan of three different Pulses (2 kg of each), three types of Oilseeds (2 kg each), 2 kg Maize, 500 g Cu, 500g FeO, Zn, Bo, Al (250 g each), 2 kg Ashwagandha, 4 kg ripe Banana, 4 kg Bel, five types rock (each 1 kg) are ground well and mixes in 50 litres already prepared liquid decomposer. Rotate clockwise & properly mix this solution for 21 days. Filter this content after 21 days. Solution (5%) of this filtrate is used as a spray in the crop before and after the flowering. This solution can be used up to 60 days after the preparation.

Achievements of natural farming practices

Enterprises	Average change in Cost of production (%)	Average change in Yield (%)
Crops (Wheat, Paddy etc.)	(-) 12.51	(-) 20.47
Oilseeds (Mustard etc.)	(-) 17.48	(-) 10.29
Vegetables (Potato, onion etc.)	(-) 14.63	(-) 4.55
Fodder (Berseem, Maize etc.)	(-) 35.11	(+) 3.26
Milk production	(-) 35.71	(-) 4.26
Average change	(-)19.93	(-)13.72

Every cow's calved once a year with few health problems from the last three years.

Contributing Factors for the Success of the Enterprises

Mr. Singh has embraced natural farming and has thoughtfully produced several natural farming inputs. He has also taken training from Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Begusarai, and other organizations in natural farming, organic farming, and livestock husbandry.

Awards/ Recognitions Received



Natural farming piqued Shri Ram Kumar Singh's interest. Additionally, he is raising awareness of the value of natural farming among various groups of people. As a result, Mr. Singh was honored by numerous institute bodies. Here is a list of some of the honors and accolades they have received.

- ✓ Certificate of appreciation from ATMA Begusarai
- ✓ Certificate of appreciation from Bhoosari Farms Pvt. limited
- ✓ First position for Potato in the Exhibition on Fruits, Flowers and Vegetables dated: 12-13 March 2021
- ✓ Best of India. Biz Award in the Mega Mumbai World Expo & Conference dated: 4-6 March, 2022
- ✓ C₁ certificate in Organic Farming
- ✓ Certificate of Appreciation for Organic Farming in Jal Jeevan- Hariyali Abhiyan By the Department of Agriculture, Bihar

Importance of Other Farmers

A hundred or so farmers in the area have opted for natural farming thanks to Shri Ram Kumar Singh's inspiration and his awareness campaign. He is the district of Begusarai's natural farming resource person.

Conclusions

Ram Kumar Singh is a progressive farmer who uses natural farming methods since they boost crop yield while also lowering input expenses. Farmers who practice natural farming have healthier soil and plants.

