



Case study on the agricultural practice of Andharimunda villagers

After and before the intervention of SEWA with APC and NPM

SEWA, is a proactive community-based organization working for the most vulnerable and socio-economically marginalized sections of the population in the state of Odisha since 1991-92 with Mr Sushil Kumar Dash as Secretary cum Chief Functionary. SEWA is a rural-based organization which focuses on livelihoods, food and nutrition security, agriculture and allied activities, Natural resource Management, Watershed Management, Vocational Training for the development of the poorest of the poor with a special emphasis on women, children and vulnerable. SEWA is a pioneer in building institutions, developing models, inclusive in its development approach and promote the sustainable development process.

Now, they have intervened APC (Agriculture Production Cluster) and NPM (Non-pesticide management) practice to improve their income and enhance their production. The APC program makes them aware of forming groups and producing one type of crop which will bring a bulk profit to the farmers. Our SEWA team imparting non-pesticide preparation and its usage to improve the food quality they produce.

They are working in many nearby villages for the farmers' development in the agriculture field and improve their economic status. Out of which we visited a watershed area Andharimunda village, Laikera, Jharsuguda district which is under one of our cluster manager Mr Ashutosh Garnayak. We went to visit the reserve area Hatia Nala, Dudkabahal and interacted with few farmers working in the field. Almost all the families in the village are small farmers. SEWA's main aim is to promote the same type crop and presently they are encouraging farmers to grow CHILLI, CAULIFLOWER and BRINJAL. There were three farmers and their details are as followed:

1. Loknath Naik

Loknath's family consists of 6 members including him. He has two sons and both are married, with his wife. They are completely dependent on agriculture. Both the sons help him in the field with the support of his daughters-in-law and wife. He has around a 5-acre field for farming.



2. Sobharam Naik

Sobharam's family consists of 7 members including him. He has 3 sons and out of the 3, 2 are married and his wife. Even this family's only income source is farming. All his sons are engaged in farming to help him with the support of rest of the family members. He has around a 4-acre field for agriculture.

Both the family this time are growing chilli in the area which is closer to water and cowpea away from water as they can be raised with limited water. They are growing chilli in around 7-8 acre area. Their main is red chilli as per the market demand, this chilli are also known as 'Bamra Chilli'. Our team is also proposing them to get a chilli drier using which they won't depend only on Sun.

3. Subrata Kumra

In Subrata's family there are 5 members his mother, grandmother, younger brother and sister. He is from Dudkabahal. Subrata's brother and sister are studying. His mother help him in farming. He is in farming since 3 years. Their only source of income is agriculture. Subrata has around 0.82 acre field where he is also growing Chilli and it comes under the APC project.



Before the intervention of SEWA:

- Farmers use to practice mixed cropping like a small amount of tomato or potato or chilli which was not giving a huge profit to them.
- Moreover, the technique to plant the crops were different. Earlier they use to plant the crops without keeping a proper distance between the crops which imbalances the distribution of water, air, sun rays and fertilizers and also damages the food.
- Due to the above reasons the production decreases which affects the economy of the farmers.
- When they were following this practice, they use to earn 30-40,000 annually.
- It is important to mention the expenses on pesticides and chemicals they use, it also degrades the quality of food.

After the intervention of SEWA:

- Now, our organization is promoting to grow a single type of crop to get a huge profit out of it.
- They are imparting ways to increase the production of crops like maintaining a proper distance between the plants so, that they can grow easily and get all the nutrients and water for healthy growth.
- Our team also passed on the methods to prepare NPM with less expenditure with the available raw materials like nimastra, agnyastra, brahmastra etc. which helps to protect the crop from insects and other diseases.



- The farmers are obliged to receive this knowledge which will help them in future to increase their crop production which will result in high income.
- After receiving this support from our organization the farmers this time are expecting an income of above 50,000 this year.
- As this village comes under the watershed program, NABARD has helped farmers with 6300 per family to improve their farming practice which will give a leap to their economy.
- Now, farmers are happy that the quality of the food will improve further as they are using NPM instead of chemicals which were resulting in the health problem of the country.

Finally, it was great to hear from the farmers that they are getting benefits and are looking forward to get more support from our organization SEWA which is "For the people and by the people".