

Success Story – 1 2014

Progressive farmers in cultivation of cash rich horticultural crops in rainfed area

Sri Dusmanta Patra, S/o Bhimsen Patra aged 35 is a graduate farmer of village Ludupalli, block-Ambabana, of Bargarh district, practising traditional Rice cultivation since last 15 years. His economic status was very poor due to monocropping of Rice though he has 16 acres of land. He always thought to be a man of higher income groups and earning lakhs per annum. He was very upset as his area is a rainfed patch of the district without any irrigation facilities.

One day he came in contact with Scientists of KVK, Bargarh located at a distance of 80 km from his village, who insisted him to take up horticultural crops using micro irrigation systems. They took him along with a group of farmers and exhibited micro irrigation system on the occasion of district level agricultural fair *Dhanuyatara* at Bargarh. From that day onwards he contacted the local agricultural extension officer, arranged subsidy, purchased drip systems and installed it in an area of 7 acres in his field. He started cultivating Chilli (VNR 22) in an area of one acre and utilizing water from a single dugwell by drip fittings. He also followed plastic mulching, fertigation and practised integrated crop management practices suggested by KVK, Scientists.

Initially he invested Rs 20,000 towards purchase of drip systems from agricultural Department and Rs. 86,000 towards cultivating Chilli.

After six months he harvested 42 quintals of green Chilli and sold it @ Rs 50 per Kg. and earned a net profit of Rs.1,04,000/-.

Today he is the most advance farmer because of using drip irrigation system for the first time in his block. He has now taken up Brinjal in an area of two acres and Ginger in one acre of area. He is earning Rs. 6 lakhs per annum by taking above horticultural crops from his farm alone. The farmers of the nearby villages interestingly called him as *Pipewala*. The district administration selected him as a member of ATMA governing body of Bargarh district for the year 2013-14.

