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Editorial *Volume 9 Issue 1*

A Success Story of A Farmer from Lummynri Village, Ribhoi Who Implemented FDC through Integrated Farming System

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Editorial

Mr. Spikshon Kharkrang, a 62-year-old progressive farmer from Lummynri village, Meghalaya, represents a successful example of livelihood enhancement through scientific farming interventions and institutional support. He lives with his wife and three children, and the entire family is actively involved in managing their farm, reflecting a strong family-based farming system.

Background and Farming System

Mr. Spikshon practices diversified farming, cultivating a range of vegetables and field crops along with cattle rearing and piggery farming. While his farming system was well diversified, he faced two major constraints:

- Acute shortage of manpower, especially during land preparation, which restricted expansion and timely farm operations.
- Severe pest infestation in crops, leading to reduced yields and lower productivity.

These challenges limited the scalability and profitability of his farm despite his willingness to adopt improved practices.

Institutional Support and Capacity Building

Mr. Spikshon became a beneficiary under a project funded by NABARD titled "Integrated Farming System for Livelihood Security and Doubling the Farmer's Income through Implementation of Farm Development Card (FDC)". Under this initiative:

- A Farm Development Card (FDC) was prepared specifically for his farm, outlining enterprise-wise planning and income enhancement strategies.
- He received hands-on training on:
- Integrated Farming System (IFS)
- Vermicomposting
- Production technology of vegetable crops

To support adoption of these technologies, he was provided with critical agro-inputs, including:

- 25 poultry birds
- Knapsack sprayer
- Bio-pesticides
- Vegetable seeds and kitchen garden kits
- Turmeric rhizomes and saplings
- Pig feed

These inputs enabled him to strengthen integration among crops, livestock, and allied enterprises, thereby improving resource recycling and income stability.

Mechanization Support

A major breakthrough in addressing the labour constraint was access to a power tiller, provided under another project titled "Development of Model Fruits and Vegetables Village in Meghalaya", funded by ICAR-Indian Institute of Vegetable Research. The project was implemented under the leadership of Dr. U.K. Behera, Dean, CoA, Kyrdemkulai and Principal Investigator, along with Dr. Priyadarshani P. Mohapatra, Assistant Professor (Horticulture), Village Coordinator and Co-PI.

The power tiller, kept under provisional ownership with the village headman, significantly reduced dependence on manual labour, ensured timely land preparation, and enabled Mr. Spikshon to upscale his cultivation area efficiently.

Enterprise-wise Performance and Income

Among all enterprises, King chilli emerged as the most profitable component of his farming system.

Cost of cultivation (1,000 King chilli plants):

- Total cost: Rs. 1,02,750
- Yield: 720 kg
- Sale price: Rs. 500/kg
- Gross return: Rs. 3,60,000
- Net return: Rs. 2,57,250

Other enterprise-wise income details include:

- Paddy cultivation: Rs. 34,000
- Piggery: Sale of 8 piglets @ Rs. 4,500 each and 1 adult pig @ Rs. 22,000, generating a net income of Rs. 44,000
- Poultry farming: Net income of Rs. 11,000
- Vegetable crops:
- Tomato: 1,200 kg sold @ Rs. 20/kg, net income Rs. 6,000 (yield affected by climate variability)
- Cucumber: 800 kg sold @ Rs. 20/kg, net income Rs. 8,200

Overall Impact

Through the adoption of an Integrated Farming System, supported by capacity building, mechanization, and timely input supply, Mr. Spikshon successfully transformed his farm into a resilient and profitable unit. The total income generated from all enterprises reached Rs. 3,52,200, with King chilli alone contributing the largest share (Figure 1).

Figire 1: Small and marginal farmers in the hill regions of Meghalaya.

Conclusion

Mr. Spikshon Kharkrang's journey highlights how institutional support, scientific planning through FDC, access to machinery, and enterprise diversification can effectively address labour shortages, reduce production risks, and substantially enhance farm income. His case stands as a replicable model for small and marginal farmers in the hill regions of Meghalaya aiming for livelihood security and income doubling.