

A new ray of hope in Red Lateritic Region!

Name: Shibdas Hembram

Training Period: February 2018 to April 2018

Address: Village: Lajna, Block: Kashipur, District: Purulia

Background: Shibdas, a 28 years young farmer was already inspired to cultivate chemical free vegetables after realizing the adverse effects of chemical fertilizers and pesticides. But he used them for his own consumption and selling of the surplus. Average total yearly profit he had was Rs. 4000/-. During this time, he met a DRCSC staff, who encouraged him to pursue a training course on Commercial Vegetable Garden.



After Training: Shibdas has brought few major changes in practice, such as he uses mulching method to



increase water retention capacity of the soil, practiced mixed cropping in beds, growing vegetables in trellis and improved space management, He commercialised vegetable cultivation after training. At an expense of only Rs. 8000/-, he started growing chili, beans, eggplant, in his homestead area. The total sale in the past six months was for Rs. 25000/-, which implies he had a profit of Rs. 17000/-. After this huge success, he revolved his profit to expand his business and invested in leasing an area of 2 acres. Shibdas sowed watermelon in

nearly 1 acre land, bottle gourd in 0.66 acres, bitter gourd in 0.16 acres and lab lab beans & long yard beans in 0.4 acres of land. Apart from this, he has planned to cultivate maize, papaya and elephant foot yam in the next season.

Results:

- Annual income has increased by 80%.
- He engages 4-5 daily labours in his field, when required.
- He now motivates other farmers in his village to produce organic vegetables.

Way Forward: "I am happy as a chemical free vegetable cultivator, and have increased my income through this." Shibdas says. He added that he requires a better guidance of his business planning to expand business in near future.