

## Trying all possibilities of integration

Farmer's name: Ajit Singha Babu  
Village: Pyanchashimul, Block: Chhatna  
District: Bankura

Ajit Singha Babu is 73 years old. Even at this age, he is very active and enthusiastic about exploring the possibilities of integrating the different systems and subsystems of his farm. With support from DRCS under the NABARD CCA Project, Ajit Babu has set an example of a successful IFS design in his own holding.

In about 1440 sft land adjacent to his house, he has made a nutrition garden. In raised beds, he has grown a mix of fruit and leafy vegetables like coriander, onion, radish, punka, spinach, brinjal, tomato and the rest. On the trellis he has lifted lab-lab beans and bottle gourds. For the bottle gourds, he used a third generation cutting technique for multiplying the production manifolds and it has worked like magic. Ajit Babu had a bumper production of bottle gourds.

In the other bed, he cultivated a mix of fenugreek, carrot, beat, punka, piring, cucumber, turnip, garlic, horse beans, spinach etc accompanied by some medicinal plants & herbs . In the middle of the plot there is one tank for growing azolla. Azolla is used as a feed for country chicks, ducks and goats. He used water trap for pest control of brinjal as per agro-advisory of DRCS.

He has applied only cow-dung and vermi-compost as fertilisers. After meeting the requirements (vegetables etc.) of his family throughout the year, he regularly earns good amount of money by selling his produce in the market.



Beside nutrition garden and mixed cropping, he is engaged in livestock rearing. In another plot, there is a pond; additionally he has a poultry farm adjacent to the pond, where he rears native varieties of chicken and ducks. He has also installed an incubator to hatch eggs scientifically and easily.



Ajit Singha Babu is busy working in his farm...

**Major changes in practice:** Nutrition Garden, *Ardha Muktangan*, Livestock Rearing, Azolla Culture, Incubator, Medicinal Plants, Ditch, Mixed Cropping etc.

**Major outcome:**

- ❖ Ajit Singha Babu is now less dependent on the market .
- ❖ Through *Ardha muktangan* technique of rearing country chicks and ducks, his family now earns an amount of Rs. 7000/- per year by selling eggs and Rs. 9500/- onwards from the sale of country chicken.
- ❖ By hatching eggs through the incubator, his family earns Rs. 5000/- from the sale of country chicks and ducks.
- ❖ Azolla is used as the feed for country chicks, ducks and goats
- ❖ He earns about Rs. 3000-4000 per year from the sale of vegetables in the local market after self consumption.

