

Chandana Tudu

Ranjandih Village, Rangamati-Ranjandih GP, Kashipur, Purulia

The Past

Once an agro-labourer from the native village and her story changed by adoption of climate-resilient farming practices is nothing less than inspiring! By cultivating their 3.5 bighas of land (within which 1 bigha Kanali land and 2.5 bighas of Baid land) they could hardly mitigate their hunger for 6 months. As the cultivation was completely based upon monsoon rain, the family could barely produce 400 kgs of paddy in the Kharif season and her husband also had to work sporadically as a labourer. Thus, they used to earn Rs. 3000-4000 jointly that could barely meet their needs.



The Process of Change

In 2018, with the support from DRCSC, a perennial ditch (happa) was developed in her Kanali field. Today, the happa has helped the family in doubling the paddy production from 400kgs to 800kgs also 4 to 5 local varieties of fishes are cultivating in the pond for her family consumption. Apart from the farm pond, other climate resilient farming techniques adopted by Chandana that has become the key changes:-

1. Crop Diversification with 10-12 kinds of local food-crops per season
2. Growing 2 Cycles of Vegetables in Rabi and Summer Seasons
3. Single stick paddy cultivation
4. Use of local seeds
5. Development of nutrition garden
6. Rearing of native breeds of livestock
7. Use of bio-fertilizers like vermicompost and biogas slurry
8. Use of bio-pesticides like Amritpani
9. Use of localised weather information and agro-advisory

The Present

The ditch has helped Chandana converting the single crop land into double crop land. Now she grows 24 additional food crops as compared to zero in pre-program period. The Tudu family once used to have boiled rice with locally collected weeds growing in the wild to partly satiate their hunger. They could manage even this very humble meal only once or twice a day. However, the program has changed the situation for the family. “We now have 2 to 3

different kinds of vegetables with rice every meal, having three fulfilling meals a day”, shared Chandana with a wide grin. Additionally, the adoption of climate-resilient farm practices has reduced the cost of cultivation, diversified income streams, and decreased the dependency on market-bought food-items.

Annual Value Created by the Family through Adoption of Climate Resilient Farming (INR)

Income from selling crops per year	2900
Savings on pesticide per year	300
Savings on fertilizer per year	400
Income from livestock per year	7000
Worth of additional rice consumed from own land per year	8960
Worth of additional vegetable consumed from own land per year	10000
Total Value Created Per Year	29560

