

Rita Kamila



This is a story of a small marginal farmer, Rita Kamila, who lives at Ramganga village of Patharpratima Block of South 24 Pargana District, West Bengal. The place Ramganga is in Sunderban delta, therefore, breaching of river embankment, cyclone, flood & inundation are inevitable. As a consequence, these people face a very serious problem i.e. soil & water salinity which in turns affects the livelihood. Scarcity of fodder, firewood & water are major concerns after the Aila. Rita kamila also faced the same problems while running her farm. She has total

1.65 acre of land, including her house, pond, homestead garden & agricultural land. Agriculture is the main source of earning for her family. As her husband is a van puller she alone has to manage the farm. Earlier, she was a conventional farmer. She used to apply chemicals, fertilizers & pesticides in her agriculture field as well as in her homestead garden. There was no diversity & integration in her farm. As the days were passing by she realizes that the cost of external input in her farm is getting higher. She was searching for an alternative way to get rid of this problem. She came to know about Indraprastha Srijan Welfare Society who was working in collaboration with DRCSC to attain food & livelihood security of poor & marginalized farmer through sustainable management of natural resources. She was oriented & trained on various topics of sustainable agriculture. She understood the importance & benefits of integration & interrelation of various sub-ecosystems. She tried to implement all her knowledge in her own farm. Gradually she was getting benefit out of it. With monetary & technical support from ISWS & DRCSC she shaped her agricultural land.



For her homestead garden she started using techniques like mulch, raised bed, circle bed, mix cropping etc. Both for her homestead garden & agricultural land she started applying organic manure, vermi-compost, liquid manure, bio-pest repellent. She is now using the farm waste to prepare compost. She installed bio-gas which is saving her time and firewood. As a consequences of all these external input for her farm get reduced. She is rearing/raising local varieties of chick, ducks & small cattle, which is also fetching extra income to her family. The productivity & diversity of her

farm get increased. She is now able to cultivate/grow paddy, seasonal vegetables, fish & duck at a time. She is utilizing the space available along the periphery of pond bank & agri-field by planting perennial, semi-perennial multipurpose trees and vegetables (climbers & creepers) using trellis. That in turns satisfying her need of food, fodder & fire wood. Nevertheless, her risk of farming gets reduced. She has been able to enhance her family's food & livelihood security.