

Success Story: Kamala Murmu-A Progressive Farmer

Name: Kamala Murmu

Village: Hetasura, Bankura

Group: Hetasura Bindhi Chandan Mahila Group

Family Members: 5

Kamala Murmu, a smallholder farmer from Hetasura village, joined DRCSC in 2022. With 7 bigha cultivable land and a modest livestock base (Goat-10, Pig-1, Chicken-6), she has transformed her farm into a diversified, low-cost, and sustainable model. Today, she is working as a Lead Farmer, inspiring others in her community.



Key Interventions:

1. Nutrition Garden

Area: 1.5 decimal (near homestead) | Seasons: Pre-kharif, Kharif, Rabi

Kamala Murmu cultivates around six different types of vegetables throughout the year in her nutrition garden. This ensures that her family gets fresh vegetables for nearly six months, reducing their dependence on the market and improving overall household nutrition.

Annual Savings: ₹7,200

2. Mixed Cropping

Area: 1 bigha | Type: Organic cultivation

She practices mixed cropping by cultivating mustard and cowpea together on the same plot. This method improves soil fertility, reduces risk, and allows her to harvest multiple crops from a single piece of land.

Production: Mustard – 50 kg, Cowpea – 3 kg

Cost: ₹1,700 | Income: ₹3,180



3. Paddy Cultivation

Total Area: 7 bigha

Indigenous (1 bigha): Mugai&Bhutmuri | HYV

(6 bigha): Lalat, BB11, Puja

She cultivates both indigenous and high-yielding varieties of paddy, ensuring food security as well as market income. The use of organic practices helps in maintaining soil health and reducing input costs.

Production: ~30 quintal (HYV) + ~210 kg (Indigenous)

Cost: ₹25,000 | Income: ₹75,440



4. Millet Cultivation (Ragi)

Area: 0.5 bigha | Season: Kharif

Kamala Murmu cultivated ragi millet for the first time and achieved a good yield. This shows the potential of millet as a climate-resilient and low-input crop suitable for the region

Production: 51 kg

Cost: ₹1,300 | Income: ₹4,160

5. Scientific Livestock Rearing

Livestock: Goat – 10, Pig – 1, Chicken – 6

She follows scientific livestock rearing practices including proper feeding, vaccination, and shed management. This has improved productivity and created a steady source of income.

Sales in 2025-26: Goat (3), Pig (2), Chicken (3)

Income: ₹19,200 | Cost: ₹2,800

6. Use of Gobar Gas

Source: Biogas unit provided by DRCSC

Kamala Murmu uses gobar gas for daily cooking, which has eliminated her dependence on firewood. This not only reduces expenses but also supports an environmentally friendly lifestyle.

Previous Cost (Firewood): ₹45/day

Annual Savings: ₹16,425



Annual Cost–Benefit Summary (2025–26)

Combination of Activities	Activity	2025-26			2024-25		
		Cost (₹)	Income (₹)	Benefit (₹)	Cost (₹)	Income (₹)	Benefit (₹)
6	Nutrition Garden (Savings)	0	7,200	7,200	600	5310	5310
	Mixed Cropping	1,700	3,180	1,480	2000	3210	1210
	Paddy Cultivation	25,000	75,440	50,440	28100	68,600	40,500
	Millet Cultivation (Ragi)	1,300	4,160	2,860	0	0	0
	Livestock Rearing	2,800	19,200	16,400	4000	10,000	6,000
	Gobar Gas (Savings)	0	16,425	16,425	0	16,425	16,425
Total		30,800	1,25,605	94,805	34700	103545	69445

Conclusion

By effectively combining multiple livelihood activities, Kamala Murmu has built a sustainable, low-cost, and diversified farming system. This integrated approach has improved her family's nutrition, increased income, reduced expenses, and strengthened resilience against risks, making her a model farmer in the community.

