

A small initiatives leads a great impact in Agriculture Practices

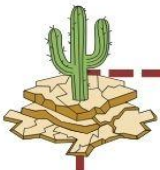


- **Background :** Farmers in Mujrakundi village under Saltora block of Bankura district are small and marginal. Due to irregular rainfall and lack of irrigation facilities, their farming was completely dependent on rain. One crop was grown that is paddy. The yield of which was also uncertain. Due to this, economic crisis and poverty were the main problems to live their livelihood. For this reason, the beneficiaries of SUFALA project, grouped name “Jaba Baha Nagorik Sangathan” of Mujrakundi village under Kanuri panchayat requested for a new excavation of farm pond to solve the problem of the water table.

DRCSC, after knowing about this major issue faced by the group, extended a helping hand for them. The staffs members of Sufala project held several meetings with the group members on this issue. Through these discussion, the benefits that could be gained from the farm pond were discussed in details and the location of the place where farm pond excavation will be done was decided by the group members and a joint initiative was planned accordingly. The main objectives of this initiatives :

1. **Fish Farming business :** Creating a new source of income by farming fish in farm pond .
2. **Water use in agriculture :** Water from the farm pond will be useful for the use of agricultural purpose.
3. **Vegetable cultivation on the bank/side of the farm pond:** As a result , they will be able to increase their income and livelihood through farming in a sustainable manner.





- **Excavation of Farm pond :** The group members utilized their own labor to conduct essential preparatory steps. The process began with site cleaning, where members removed all surface vegetation, including shrubs and tree roots, from the designated pond area to prevent future seepage and ensure soil integrity. Following this, the pond’s dimensions and outline were carefully marked, based on the approved design plan for water collection and storage. During this excavation process, the group members have earned some money by actively participating in this activity as a daily labour.

Total cost – Rs. 27237

Local assistance – Rs 8028

Work started – 27.02.2025

Completion date – 05.03.2025

- **Present situation:** They were greatly benefited by digging the farm pond. They have come forward for fish farming or pisciculture (Rohu fish, Katla, Mrigal carp, Asian Seabass, etc) and vegetable cultivation on the bank of farm pond, as a result of this initiative they found a good way to earn a living. Those families who were mainly depend on rainfed for agriculture, are now farming accordingly to the season and are cultivating paddy during the Kharif season, cultivating mustard , Pigeon pea , Grass pea , wheat during Rabi season. Along with seasonal vegetables like Pumpkin , Bitter Gourd, bottle gourd, leafy greens or vegetables, cucumber, corriender, cauliflowers, cabbage, spicy vegetables like mustard greens, ginger, radishes, onions , garlic etc. throughout the year. From this practice, their financial condition has improved. They sell those products at their nearby local markets jointly.

Category	Invested	Sell	Profit
Vegetables	Rs. 8700	Rs. 37,900	Rs. 29,200
Fish Farming	Rs 1100	In process	

Jaba Baha Nagorik Sangathan at Mujrakundi village has demonstrated how, instead of relying solely on government projects for village development, a local community can effectively utilize its resources with the financial support of an NGO like DRCSC, and collective efforts of the village people to bring about overall development of the group. This is a model situation that can be used as a successful example for other. The central goal is to transform the farm pond from a simple water storage facility into a productive, income- generating asset. This requires developing a plan that integrates sustainable aquaculture (like fish farming), which can provide a regular source of protein and market income, along with planning the strategic use of stored water for high-value cash crop cultivation during dry periods, thus enhancing agricultural yields and profitability. By focusing on productivity, equitable benefit sharing, and continuous capacity building, the pond will serve as a catalyst for collective prosperity and a model for community – driven resource management.

