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FROM GRADUATE TO AGRIPRENEUR (YOUTH): AMIYO HANSDA'S JOURNEY TOWARDS CLIMATE- RESILIENT ENTREPRENEURSHIP

- *A sequel to the previously shared case story, showcasing further achievements...*

- **Name:** Amiyo Hansda
- **Age:** 22 Years
- **Village:** Sumaidi
- **Gram Panchayat:** Simla-Dhanera
- **Block:** Kashipur
- **District:** Purulia

SODI!



TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH CLIMATE ADAPTIVE LIVELIHOODS

• FAMILY BACKGROUND:

- **Amiyo Hansda** lives with his father, mother, and sister, making a family of four members.
- Despite limited financial resources, he has always been committed to learning and self-improvement.
- Alongside his studies, he regularly supported his family in agricultural activities during his leisure time

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• CHALLENGES FACED:

- After completing his graduation, Amiyo became actively involved in farming to support his family's livelihood.
- As residents of the semi-arid and drought-prone region of Purulia, the family frequently experienced crop losses due to erratic weather conditions.
- Limited livelihood opportunities and climate-related risks made it difficult to generate a stable income.

• PROJECT INTERVENTION:

- Amiyo learned about the Youth Entrepreneurship Development Training on Commercial Vegetable Cultivation and Nursery Management through his mother, who has been associated with the project since 2023.
- Motivated to build a sustainable livelihood, he enrolled in the training programme organized under "Transforming Lives Through Climate Adaptive Livelihoods" implemented by DRCSC.

• SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE ACQUIRED:

Through the training, Amiyo gained practical knowledge on:

- Climate-resilient commercial vegetable cultivation.
- Nursery establishment and management.
- Scientific seedling production.
- Mixed cropping techniques.
- Climate-adaptive farming practices.
- Crop planning and management.
- Sustainable agricultural practices.

• NURSERY ENTERPRISE:

- Following the training, Amiyo established a small vegetable nursery during the Rabi season.
- He produced: 1,000 tomato seedlings & 1,500 brinjal seedlings.
- Each seedling was sold at ₹0.90 per plant.
- Total income earned from nursery sales was approximately ₹2,250.
- The nursery not only generated additional income but also encouraged him to expand his agricultural enterprise.

• COMMERCIAL VEGETABLE CULTIVATION

- Amiyo cultivated seasonal vegetables on 2 bighas of agricultural land, including:
- Bottle gourd
- Okra
- Ridge gourd
- Bitter gourd
- After meeting household consumption needs, he sold the surplus produce in the local market.
- Income earned from vegetable sales was approximately ₹3,500.

➤ EXPANSION THROUGH MIXED CROPPING:

- Encouraged by the initial success, Amiyo expanded his commercial vegetable cultivation during the **pre-Kharif season**.
- On **3 bighas of land**, he adopted mixed cropping and cultivated:
- Watermelon
- Cucumber
- Pumpkin
- Okra.

➤ INVESTMENT AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT:

- The total cultivation cost was approximately **₹35,000**.
- To meet this investment, Amiyo accessed financial support through his mother's Self-Help Group, "**Marshal Dahar Mohila Samity**".

➤ INCOME GENERATED:

- From the sale of produce, he earned approximately:
- **Watermelon:** ₹60,000
- **Cucumber:** ₹5,000
- **Pumpkin:** ₹5,000
- **Okra:** ₹500
- **Total income generated: ₹70,500**

• FUTURE INCOME POTENTIAL:

- Crops such as **Bottle Gourd, Ridge Gourd, and Red Amaranth** are yet to reach the harvesting stage.
- These standing crops are expected to generate additional income in the coming weeks.

• KEY OUTCOMES AND IMPACT:

- Successfully established a vegetable nursery enterprise.
- Adopted climate-resilient farming techniques learned through the project.
- Expanded cultivation from household farming to commercial vegetable production.
- Generated significant income from diversified vegetable cultivation.
- Improved household financial stability.
- Enhanced technical knowledge and confidence in climate-smart agriculture.
- Reduced dependence on a single source of income.
- Developed the foundation for a sustainable agri-enterprise.

• TRANSFORMATION:

The Youth Entrepreneurship Development Training transformed Amiyo from a recent graduate assisting his family in farming into a young agripreneur with a growing commercial vegetable enterprise. By combining scientific cultivation practices, nursery management, and mixed cropping, he has created a sustainable livelihood model that is both economically rewarding and climate resilient.

• TESTIMONIAL:

Amiyo and his family expressed their sincere gratitude to DRCSC for providing technical guidance, training, and continuous support. According to them, the programme has enabled the family to establish a sustainable livelihood, improve household income, and build confidence to expand their agricultural enterprise. The additional income is now being used to meet household expenses, reinvest in farming activities, and strengthen the family's financial security through regular savings.

• KEY ACHIEVEMENT AT A GLANCE:

- **Graduate youth trained under the Youth Entrepreneurship Development Programme.**
- ***Earlier practised single stick paddy cultivation on 4 bighas of land, observed significant increase in tillers from 14-16 to 26-28 tillers. This had also increased his overall production.***
- ***Earlier established a vegetable nursery producing 2,500 seedlings and earned ₹2,250 from nursery seedling sales.***
- ***Earlier cultivated seasonal vegetables on 2 bighas of land and earned ₹3,500 from surplus vegetable sales.***
- **Expanded commercial cultivation to 3 bighas through mixed cropping.**
- **Accessed ₹35,000 for cultivation through an SHG-linked loan.**
- **Generated ₹70,500 from commercial vegetable cultivation.**
- **Additional income expected from Bottle Gourd, Ridge Gourd, and Red Amaranth yet to be harvested.**
- **Successfully established a climate-resilient commercial vegetable farming enterprise.**