Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development

SODI!

DRCSC

From Monocropping to Diversified Farming



Beneficiary Fulmani Hemram, 50	**VILLAGE** Parsuli
FAMILY 3 members	**LAND HOLDING** 2.5 bigha
WOMEN'S GROUP Jaba Baha Mahila Samiti	**LAND USE** 1.5 bigha paddy; 1 bigha vegetables

Fulmani Hemram's journey towards diversified livelihoods, better nutrition and sustainable agriculture.

Life before the intervention

For Fulmani Hemram, a 50-year-old farmer from Parsuli, agriculture was central to the livelihood of her three-member family, but her farming system offered limited options for diversification. During the monsoon, she cultivated high-yielding paddy variety 'Sankar' on 1.5 bigha of lowland, mainly for family consumption and sale of any surplus. On the higher land near her home, she grew bitter gourd as her principal commercial vegetable, following a largely monocropping approach.

Her farming depended heavily on synthetic chemical inputs. She owned three cattle and reared backyard chickens naturally, while the household relied on a traditional mud oven for cooking. A well was available on the farm. Despite these resources, her agricultural activities remained concentrated in a narrow range of crops and livelihood options.

Project support from DRCSC

Through the ongoing project "Transforming Lives Through Climate Adaptive Livelihoods", DRCSC have supported Fulmani in exploring a more diversified farming system, linking crop production, household nutrition, livestock, farm-waste management and improved cooking facilities.

DIVERSIFYING THE FARM

More crops. More livelihood options.

A nutrition garden for the family

One of the first changes was the establishment of a four-decimal nutrition garden to improve access to home-grown food for the family. Fulmani uses water from her existing well to meet the garden's watering needs during summer.

Moving beyond a single commercial crop

For several years, bitter gourd was her principal commercial vegetable. With guidance and help from the service centre, she introduced commercial mixed cropping on 17 decimals of land in the current year of 2026. The plot includes brinjal, bitter gourd, millet, taro (kochu) and turmeric. This broadens her crop mix beyond a single commercial vegetable and creates opportunities to spread production risks and diversify produce for consumption and sale.



**Family members take care of the garden and the mixed cropping

Rediscovering traditional paddy

In the previous year, Fulmani cultivated the traditional desi paddy variety ‘Bhutmuri’ on nine (9) decimals of land. She used single-stick practice, skip rows and line sowing. The overall productivity and cost-effectiveness she observed encouraged her to continue with traditional varieties. In the current year 2026, she expanded this effort by cultivating another desi variety, ‘Sathia’, on 17 decimals of land.



These experiences reflect Fulmani’s growing willingness to test and build on farming practices, using observations from one season to guide decisions in the next. Actual yield, cost and resilience benefits will need to be assessed over time.

LIVELIHOODS & HOUSEHOLD WELL-BEING

Building on every farm resource

5	20+	3
Goats in total (2 pregnant)	Chickens ready for sale	Cattle retained

Closing the nutrient loop

A vermi compost-making grow bag was provided to help integrate livestock waste into farm nutrient management. Fulmani has begun preparing compost, but earthworms have not yet been introduced; the vermicomposting process is therefore not fully established. With continued support, the unit could help recycle nutrients and potentially reduce dependence on purchased inputs.

Livestock as a growing asset

Under the project,Fulmani received two goats.Her herd has now grown to five, including two pregnant goats. She also has more than 20 chickens ready for sale and continues to own three cattle. Together, these animals broaden the household’s livestock assetsandcreate opportunities foradditional income, subject to animal health and market conditions.

A healthier kitchen

The household’s traditional mud oven has been replaced by a smokeless oven. The intervention aims to reduce exposure to cooking smoke and reduce the time and cost associated with fuel use, improving the household cooking environment.

A journey still growing

Fulmani’s experience shows a gradual shift from dependence on a narrow range of crops towards diversified farming, a dedicated nutrition garden, expanded livestock assets and improved household facilities. Her progress combines project support, service-centre guidance, existing resources such as her well, and her willingness to test new practices. Continued monitoring will help document changes in yields, costs, income, nutrition and household fuel use.