

Crop diversification-A boon to success

Name of the farmer	:	Uttam kumar Budhia
Address	:	Village-Kamardha, Grampanchayat-Kamardha, Block-Lanjigarh, District-Kalahandi Contact no-7894022729
Agro climatic zone	:	Western undulating

Introduction

Kalahandi is a tribal dominated district of Odisha and majority of the population depend on agriculture as their primary source of livelihood. Village Kamardha is situated at 45 km away from Bhawanipatna having 4 hamlet villages and population is around 800 where 60% of the population belongs to SC & ST community. Most of the farmers of the village depends upon agriculture and animal husbandry for their source of livelihood. Uttam Kumar Budhia (aged 50) a small farmer having land of 9 acres, in which he cultivates paddy, green gram and maize to sustain and maintain the wellbeing of his family of six members. During a field visit the plight & problems of the farmer were discussed on crop failure due to weed infestation in paddy, YMV in green gram, underutilization of uplands, lack of proper crop planning, terminal drought, lack of knowledge about suitable varieties and hybrids are the major constraints.

Initiative

A bench mark survey was conducted in the village highlighting the major constraints and possible interventions and scope for development. A schematic crop planning/crop calendar was developed focusing on the resources availability. The farmers were advised to opt for crop diversification by growing suitable maize hybrids in upland regions replacing paddy. Application of pre and post emergence herbicide in Paddy to suppress weed growth, precaution measure to manage YMV infestation in Green gram and cultivation of suitable variety for Rabi-green gram, use of biofertilizer in pulse crops to enhance root nodulation.

Technology

- Maize cultivation (local cultivar) is substituted by Hybrid Maize
- Promotion and Introduction of Hybrid Maize (Hycel) for higher productivity along with STBF
- Weed management in paddy (Pre emergence)-Bensulfuron methyl+pretilachlor@10kg/ha 0-5 days after transplanting.
- Demonstration of suitable Green gram variety-TARM-1
- Seed inoculation with Rhizobium & PSB culture 20gms per kg of seeds.
- Installation of yellow sticky trap and spraying of imidachloprid 6ml/15lit of water to control YMV.

Key results

Following the scientific method of cultivation the farmers could get higher yield (26%) in compared to the previous year. Training cum demonstrations, field day, diagnostic field visit was conducted at farmers field to witness the advantages of the technology at the same time convergence activity was taken up by the district department to promote soil testing and STBF, use of bio fertilizer and scientific cultivation of paddy and non-paddy crops by NFSM etc.

Crop	Area (ha)	Yield (Q/ha)	Cost of cultivation (Rs/ha)	Total Gross income (Rs/ha)	Total Net Income (Rs/ha)	Total income (Rs.)
Paddy	2.0	37.5	20,000	1,05,000	65,000	65,000
Maize	1.6	20	12,000	57,600	38,400	38,400
Green gram	2.0	6	10,000	60,000	40,000	40,000
Total (Rupees One Lakh fourty three Thousand four hundred)only					Rs 1,43,400/-	

Views of the Farmer

Innovative techniques, methods and material surely help the farmers in enhancing production. Farmers should be aware about the latest technology and use it practically in the field situation to gain the advantage out of it. Awareness campaign and extension programme through farmers training should be imparted before the onset of cropping season.

By following scientific method of cultivation and practically applying the technical know how in the field situation the farmers could get a net benefit more than one lakh rupee per annum from 2ha of land. Witnessing his success farmers are shifting from paddy cultivation to non paddy crops. His hard work and dedication leads him to be a successful farmer in the village and truly he is a source of inspiration for others.