

Success stories of KVK Dhubri during 2015-16

Success Story:

Mr. Dhruvajyoti Barua, a rural youth of North Kachakhana village of Dhubri district of Assam took up agriculture as his profession and livelihood after completion of graduation in science and has become an inspirational force for others in the locality. He is having 10.5 ha of Land. Out of this land, he allotted 4.0 ha for field crops (Out of this area, 3.0 ha are under rice and rest 1.0 ha is under oil seed and pulse crops), 3.5ha for Plantation crop i.e. in Tea. He also cultivate Banana in 1.0 ha (Individual) & 5.0 ha (In group approach), Ber (Thailand) in 0.5 ha and Guava in 0.12 ha area. In addition to these, he is having Agro-forestry/Apiculture /Sericulture activities and go for Bamboo plantation in 1.0 ha, Agar plantation in 0.13 ha, Teak plantation in 1.0 ha and Kitchen garden in 0.2 ha. He is also having fishery of 1 ha land area. After realizing the market demand of banana and the profit one can earn from banana cultivation, he started banana cultivation in 2008 in 1.0 ha personal land with necessary guidance from KVK scientists. In 2010-11, he introduced tissue culture plant in his banana orchard with all assistance from KVK Dhubri. During the process of establishing a banana orchard, he experienced that *in vitro* (tissue culture plantlets) plants offered superior and more homogeneous populations than *in vivo* plants; however, most of times they are too expensive for the farmers and often planting materials are not available to the farmers. So he adopted an innovative method for getting superior quality planting materiel from his orchard.

After visiting the established tea gardens of Assam and West Bengal, he realized that it could be a profitable endeavour for improving his farm income and he decided to start tea plantation in his 1.5 ha backyard land of his home in consultation with the Scientists from KVK Dhubri in 2010.

Gradually he expanded the area under tea plantation during subsequent years and presently, he possesses a small tea garden covering 3.5 ha within his farm land. During the initial period of slow growth, he started utilizing the space between tea rows by intercropping rapeseed. Rapeseed, a short duration crop requiring only 90 – 95 days to complete its life cycle is being successfully intercropped in his tea plantation during rabi season and this practice resulted in additional production of 9.0 quintal rapeseed per ha in 2014 with net return of Rs. 24,000.00 per hectare and gave stability to his farm income. The additional income realised from his garden helped him to meet the expenditure towards maintenance



of tea garden during initial years. Another innovative practice adopted by him in his tea plantation is the introduction of medicinal plants as shade tree. Conventionally, tea is grown under shade trees in Assam which regulate temperature and humidity at bush level along with other advantages. In general, permanent shade trees such as *Albizzia lucida*, *A. odoratissima*, *A. lebbek*, *Derris robusta* etc are planted in tea gardens, however, in addition, Mr. Barua introduced *Maha neem (Azadirachta indica)* and fruit plant Aonla (*Emblica officinalis*) having medicinal values as shade tree in tea plantation. He utilizes neem leaf extract for managing some insect pests of tea crop. Mr. Barua was the first person to introduce tea cultivation in Kachakhana area of Dhubri district of Assam which was earlier thought to be a business of rich people. He adopted successful marketing strategy for selling green tea leaves to M/S Newlands Tea Garden, Kumargram, West Bengal at higher prices in comparison to his counterpart selling tea leaves to the local tea companies. In 2010-11, he earned a net profit of Rs. 1, 35,000 from 1 ha area and during 2014-15, Mr. Barua could generate net revenue of Rs. 2, 30,000.00 from tea enterprise with cost benefit ratio of 2.47. He has been a successful small tea grower in his locality and after seeing his success, another three rural youth of his village started tea plantation in 4 hectare area.



Mr. Dhrubajyoti Barua has revolutionized banana cultivation in his locality. His success has been turned out to be an inspirational force for many rural youths to accept farming as a source of livelihood. Under his leadership, many rural youths of his locality and also from neighboring villages formed groups to start banana cultivation in commercial scale. These groups adopted scientific banana cultivation technologies and many groups introduced high density planting and tissue cultured planting material. Now, Banana is one of the most popular crops of his village covering 25.0 ha. Many govt. organizations, NGOs, farmers group used to visit their crop field to visualize commercial aspect of banana cultivation. Achievement of Mr. Baruah was recognized by State Dept. of Agriculture, Assam by giving **Best Farmer Award** of Dhubri district in 2009-10. This year his name was nominated by KVK, Dhubri for **IARI Innovative farmers Award, 2016** and he got this award. He received this award in Krishi Unnati Mela held at IARI, New Delhi from Central Agriculture Minister Radha Mohan Singh on 21st March, 2016.