



Leading the Change



Purushottam Randive leads by example and is inspiring the marginal farming communities to aspire for better income by adopting an Integrated Farming System approach

Puroshottam Randive, a farmer from the Potgaon village in Gadchiroli, is an inspiring story. A marginal farmer with limited land-holding and a traditional farming practice, he was no different from the rest of the farming communities, till a few years ago.

When asked to throw light on his uninspiring past, he said, *“My family used to practice traditional paddy farming resulting in limited profit. But soon I realized, if I want my productivity and profits to increase, I must adopt a more scientific approach of cultivation with low input cost and aim at an optimum land utilization pattern to generate income”*.

Puroshottam had to face many challenges when he began to change the existing scenario. Limited manpower, inadequate irrigation, lack of knowledge of agri tools didn't help his cause and he was restricted to mono-cropping. He saw a ray of hope when he got to learn about Integrated Farming System from the local agriculture knowledge center, agriculture university department etc. He was curious to gather significant first hand knowledge and continued to learn more about Integrated farming system. With this acquired knowledge, he started experimenting on his farm in 2020.

Currently Puroshottam is taking multiple gains by optimally utilizing his farm resources through Integrated farming system.



Out of 1.25 acre of his total farm land, he strategically allotted half an acre to dig-up a farm pond for micro-irrigation and fishery. He used the remaining land to cultivate selected high-value vegetables such as; *Bitter Gourd, Ridge Gourd, Turmeric, Drumsticks and Tomatoes* along with Paddy (During Kharif and Ravi Season).



Multi Initiatives taken

He managed to install *solar panel* through the govt. scheme to facilitate micro- irrigation of his farm land. In addition to vegetable and crops he grew fishes like Tilapia, Rohu, Katla in his farm pond. On the bunds of farm pond he planted 200 drumstick plants (ODC 3 Variety) in July 2020 and started harvesting in Jan 2021 .

It is quite evident from the income he generated from current harvesting season that the Integrated Farming System approach has made him achieve maximum production from limited land holding.

| S.N | Agri Entity | Expenditure in ₹ | Total harvest (in Qtl.) | Approx. Profit In ₹ (Excluding input cost) |
|-----|----------------------------|------------------|-------------------------|--|
| 1 | Bitter Gourd | 25000 | 25 | 62,500 |
| 2 | Paddy | | | |
| | Monsoon Season | 15000 | 20 | 27,000 |
| | Summer Season | 15000 | 40 | 60,000 |
| 3 | Fishery (Farm Pond) | 8000 | 1 | 17,000 |
| 4 | Turmeric | 10,000 | 1 | 15000 |
| 5 | Drum Stick | 2500 | 150 | 8000 |

After achieving the significant profit from integrated farming approach he now aspires to add more to it like poultry, duck farming etc., What made this case study an ideal example for rest of the community is Purushottam's willingness and passion to adopt scientific approach towards integrated farming system. He is indeed a role model for his fellow farmers and he is willing to share his experience and help others to get more out of their resources.

