



Oozing Success of **MR. SUDHIR PRASAD** **FROM BIHAR**

Mr. Sudhir Prasad of Roseda, Samastipur, Bihar was initially an agricultural crop grower in his 7 acres of land. But he was not satisfied with the low income from conventional agriculture crops; he started farming with horticulture crop Litchi, as Litchi cultivation gives a good income within a short period. Since litchi fruiting is yearly one time phenomenon, eventually the income also once in a year. He thought about earning more and increase intermediate income by utilizing the interspaces between Litchi plants. He was always in search of suitable and profitable medicinal plants for growing in the available interspaces. At that time Ramnagar, East Champaran, Bihar was dominated by Nepalese wild Satavar for its satisfactory tuber production and fetching good price. He gained interest on collected information from Ramnagar area about cultivation of Satavar of Nepal variety successfully. First time he collected 2 kg. Satavar seeds, raised the seedlings in the nursery and planted in the interspaces. The crop was well grown, produced considerable quantity of tuber but due to lack of knowledge of processing, the entire production was wasted.



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As failure is the pillar of success, he tried to educate himself to fill the knowledge gap regarding agro-techniques including primary processing and post harvest management of yield. He met Dr. J.L. Srivastava at State Forest Research Center, Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh and undergone training on this subject. By acquiring knowledge, he started again the cultivation of Satavar and Kalmegh in the interspaces properly and could able to increase his income from the sale of processed yield in the local market. He gained full confidence when he earned fifty thousand rupees (Rs. 50,000) per acre from Kalmegh, he thought about further expansion of this farming. He contacted Dr. J.K. Handu, scientist of Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University who joined him and started working together in the new expanded farm.

Mr. Sudhir Prasad was nominated as a member of the National Horticulture Mission in the year 2001 and being impressed by his work, he was honoured at the World Ayurveda Congress held in Delhi in the year 2004. Later, he worked tirelessly for the proper development of Litchi, for which the then Agriculture Minister Mr. Nitish Kumar also approved the Litchi Research Center in Muzaffarpur.



Mr. Prasad's relentlessly struggle for medicinal plants farming continued by uniting the farmers and the youth and motivating them for cultivation of medicinal plants. In the later days, he started producing Sarpagandha and Satavar seeds and started making them available to the farmers, for which his income increased from seventy thousand rupees (Rs. 70,000) per acre to three lakh rupees (Rs. 3,00,000) per acre per year. Along with farming, seed production proved to be a blessing for his income. His activities made him capable to attract Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya (BCKV), the institution brought Sarpagandha plants from him for cultivation. Later, he formed Atma Dwar Farmers Beneficial Group and established Amrit Vatika Medicinal Plant Nursery under it. In addition to income from nursery, his annual income reached up to 3-5 lakhs.

Observing his efforts and success, ATMA Samastipur appointed him as the chairman of the Farmers Advisory Committee of Rosera block in the year 2017, during this tenure Mr. Sudhir Prasad did commendable works on the cultivation of medicinal plants and Jatropha till 2020. Presently Mr. Sudhir Prasad is managing the programmes as a State Secretary of Arogya Bharti in North Bihar and is engaged in the promotion of cultivation of medicinal plants in every nook and corner of the country along with entire Bihar.





Mr. Sudhir Prasad has worked for the cultivation of medicinal plants with the following different institutions of the state and the country -

1. Medicinal cum Aromatic Plants Growers Association of Bihar
2. Indian Society of Agri Business Professionals, New Delhi
3. ATMA Samastipur
4. Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University, Pusa and Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Birauli, Samastipur
5. Mithila Sanskrit Research Institute, Darbhanga
6. Rajkiya Maharani Rameshwari Bhartiya Chikitsa Vigyan Sansthan, Darbhanga
7. Shri Ram Herbs Gayatrikunj, Motihari, Bihar
8. Pupri Gaushala, Sitamarhi
9. Swami Vivekananda Cancer Hospital, Darbhanga

Mr. Sudhir Prasad has also got an assignment for cultivation of Jatropha in 35 acres under the Rashtriya Srama Vikas Yojna (RSVY) of the Government of India and promoted it by forming eight (8) medicinal plant producer groups in the year 2014, courtesy of the National Horticulture Mission.

Mr. Sudhir Prasad has taken very important role for establishment of medicinal plants garden in 30 households and herbal gardens in 9 Schools from 2021 onward, after a publicity program has been conducted by the National Medicinal Plants Board, East Zone, along with Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India for cultivation of Giloy.

From the year 2018 Mr. Sudhir Prasad has participated in various programs and co-operated in making the programs successful, conducted by the Regional cum Facilitation Centre, Eastern Region (RCFC-ER), National Medicinal Plants Board, Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India, at Jadavpur University, Kolkata. Apart from this, he is organizing several exhibitions of medicinal plants in the state and outside the state, resulting better publicity for promotion of medicinal plants and fulfillment of objectives of RCFC-ER and NMPB.



Mr. Sudhir Prasad is now 73 years old. He has been engaged in the promotion of medicinal farming since 2001 by acquiring knowledge through training from several institutions. Mr. Sudhir Prasad has so far inspired more than 3000 youths from about 10 states for medicinal plants farming. He has also established Amrit Vatika Nursery where 145 medicinal plants species are grown, which is used as an area for displaying medicinal plant species as well as collection of seeds and raising of seedlings, making medicinal farming accessible and profitable therefore to encourage medicinal plants farming.

Being impressed by the commendable works of Mr. Sudhir Prasad, several organizations of many states honoured him. His activities as a state secretary of Arogya Bharti, has proved a remarkable contribution in promoting Ayurveda, medicinal farming and organic farming. Still now, Mr. Prasad keeps propagating knowledge in this field by organizing exhibition of medicinal plants seeds and plants in various training programs of RCFC-ER and other government, non-government organizations.

His devoted works on medicinal plants promotion and subsequent benefits of farmers recommends to be known as a medicinal plants oriented entrepreneur, promoter and social worker especially in Bihar.

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