

## Success Story on More Crops per Drop for Horticultural Crops

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Mr. Tejendra Ray (51) is a well-known progressive farmer from Saharsa district, Bihar State, India. He has been involved in farming along with his brother. From the beginning itself, he was keen to learn and adopt new production techniques. This passion led to him adopting drip irrigation when it was introduced in agriculture.

He got a field automated drip irrigation system installed for vegetable cultivation in his farm. Presently, he is cultivating exotic varieties of vegetables and fruits on 5 acres of land on an experimental basis.

He has dabbled with this technology for both vegetables and cereal crops. His specialisation and experimentation extended to fruit cultivation and he adopted crop rotation and Farm Yard Manure (FYM) use and kept the field fallow from March to June every year in order to maintain soil fertility. He also adopted integrated pest and disease management.

He has carried forward the legacy of his brother by maintaining records of income, expenditure, production and sales management of each and every crop.

Over a period of time, he started facing labour problems at his farm due to high wages of agricultural labourers. In order to overcome this problem, he motivated those working on his farm to become working partners in his business. Though the response was not very encouraging initially, with time, it got significantly better and he was able to solve the problem of shortage of agriculture labourers.

In addition to commercial farming, he maintains a kitchen garden. He started growing organic vegetables at his farmhouse in Saharsa. In the initial years, he shared the produce with his friends and relatives, and based on their feedback regarding quality and taste, he expanded it on a commercial scale.

As the consumer base increased for fresh farm produce, he opened a retail outlet on the field itself and started selling produce to consumers at a reasonable price. Eventually, he

started spreading awareness about the importance of agriculture and convinced people that agriculture too can be remunerative.

His hard work and continuous efforts were awarded and appreciated by the Agriculture Department and Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Saharsa, Bihar and he share his knowledge and experience with other farmers and agriculture officers in programmes arranged by these organisations. His plan for the future is to expand the area of cultivation for crops that witness good yields.

