

## Ravinder Singh's Agro-Forestry

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ARTICLE ID: 42

Mr. Ravinder Singh (53), a forward-thinking farmer from the SAS (Sahibzada Ajit Singh Nagar) district of Punjab state, hails from the little village of Batta. At a very young age, he began farming. Mr. Ravinder asserts that the environmental circumstances in a certain place have an impact on how we develop as a civilization. He is really interested in farming because his forefathers were farmers. Nearly 37 years have passed since he first entered the agricultural industry. For him, farming is an art form rather than just a way to create food; the green leaves, the beauty of the saplings, the sowing, and the harvesting all have their own allure. He has 18 acres of irrigated land where he grows poplar tree and the traditional crops like wheat and rice and is a graduate. He cultivates cottonwood trees, sometimes known as poplar trees, in addition to growing staple crops like rice and wheat. He also has three or four buffaloes of the Murrah breed. Nevertheless, he does not sell the milk since he consumes it himself and gives it to his workers.



He began practising agroforestry around 15-20 years ago. He initially planted poplar trees on 2 acres of his total 18 acres of land, and over time, he continued to expand it by 2 acres every other year. He began engaging in agroforestry primarily for two causes. One, he believed that practising Agro-forestry was a good approach to preserve and safeguard the environment as well as his land. Second, he believed it would be financially advantageous for

him. Although it takes the tree about 5–6 years to reach its full height. He made the poplar kind of tree his choice since it grows one of the fastest compared to other tree species and produces wood of excellent quality. Agro-forestry was Mr. Ravinder Singh's concept, and his colleagues and co-workers encouraged him to start it. Before growing the poplar tree, he did a good deal of research. He currently makes about 6-7 lacs per acre from growing poplar trees also he gets around 15-20 quintal yield per acre from growing wheat and rice. His father, who was also a farmer in his youth, left him inheritance land, which he now owns. In addition to farming, Ravinder Singh has his own transportation business.



According to Mr. Ravinder Singh, he claims that agroforestry has numerous advantages, including economic and environmental advantages. He has noticed changes in his property and the environment around it as a result of his work with agroforestry. He has witnessed how well the soil conditions, such as moisture retention and soil quality, have contributed to the preservation of soil nutrients and improved microbial activity. Additionally, he noticed that as the biodiversity of the area increased, so did the air quality.





While cultivating, he encounters difficulties like high wind gusts occasionally, which might lead to reduced yield when more water is sprayed to the crops. There are times when the market's rate is too low and he considers not expanding them again, but when he takes into account other considerations, he motivates himself to move forward. He persisted in farming despite the ups and downs. He further stated that current market prices are good and functioning effectively. He advises those who wish to start agroforestry businesses to be patient, as it is a terrific business to start with. It is preferable for beginners to start with 1-2 acres and then gradually expand the cultivation area by 2 acres, 4 acres, etc. At first, it could appear challenging, but as the years go by and we gain expertise, it becomes better.

Mr. Ravinder Singh appreciates the vegetation, and seeing it inspires him to work hard and visit the farm. Mr. Ravinder considers a seasoned farmer to be a true agriculture scientist. He credits hard work and making the correct judgements at the right time for his success. The young people should "take up agriculture and related activities and preserve our ancestral occupation for future generations," he further said.