

Success Story of Shri Shashikant Ekanathrao Karhale of Hingoli District in Natural Farming

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ARTICLE ID: 41

Introduction

Shri. Shashikant Ekanathrao Karhale is farmers of Basamba Village Kalamnuri tehsil of Hingoli District. Due to excessive use of fertilizers, insecticide, pesticide and hazardous effect of chemical farming on human and animal health. To overcome problems, he undertaken knowledge from Shri. Shubhash Palekar and guidance of KVK through which he motivates to prepare natural inputs and use jivamrut, bijaamrut, agniastra in farming and getting best results in natural farming. To gain knowledge, improve skills he started to participate in seminars, training, meeting and using social media tolls for seeking information about scientific approach and innovation in natural farming.



Problems Faced by The Farmer in Conventional Agriculture.

- Excessive use of fertilizers, insecticide, pesticide
- Hazardous effect of chemical farming on human health
- Cultivation cost is high & less production.
- Soil degradation due to excess use of flood irrigation
- Lack of awareness about package of practices of crop
- High inputs cost
- Lack of skillful labor
- Market fluctuation
- Lack of farm mechanization
- Climate change

Farmer Got Introduced Introduction to Natural Farming

- **Awareness:** The journey typically begins when a farmer becomes aware of natural farming practices through Shri. Subhash Palekar, undertaken training from VNKMV, Parbhani & got information from Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Hingoli about preparation of natural farming inputs and discussions with farmers who have already adopted natural farming.
- **Initial Interest:** Interest development intrigued by the concept of natural farming; the farmer develops an interest in learning more about it. They recognize the potential benefits, including reduced input costs, improved soil health and sustainable agriculture practices.
- **Participating in training:**
The farmer attends training programme organized by VNMKV, Parbhani for getting details knowledge. These events often feature experienced natural farming practitioners who share their knowledge and experiences.
- **Connecting with Natural Farming Farmers:**
The farmer connects with other farmers who are already practicing natural farming. They join natural farming groups where they can exchange ideas, share experiences, and seek guidance.
- **Application of Knowledge:** The farmer returns to their own farm and begins to implement the natural farming practices they've learned. They may start by transitioning from conventional methods to natural farming techniques.
- **Continuous Learning and Improvement:**
Natural farming is an evolving field, and farmers are encouraged to stay updated with the practices. They can continue attending training, group meeting and networking with other farmers to improve their skills and knowledge.
This journey from initial awareness to formal training in natural farming is a significant step towards sustainable and environmentally friendly agriculture, with the potential for healthier crops, reduced environmental impact, and long-term benefits for both the farmer and their community.

Practices Adopted

- Crop Rotation

- Biological pest control
- Shifted from conventional farming to natural farming after 5 years and cultivating turmeric crop through using natural farming practices.
- Prepared and used beejamrit for seed treatment as well as jivamrit for nutrition management.
- Prepared and used dashparni ark, brahmastra, neemastra and agniastra for controlling sucking pests.
- Demonstrated natural farming practices to other farmers in the village. Through his innovative approach and methodology most of farmers were inspired by and started practicing natural farming.
- Conservation tillage methods mulching protect the soil from erosion, conserve moisture, and reduce weed growth.
- Trees and shrubs are integrated into farming systems to provide shade & windbreaks.



Constraints Faced by Farmers in Adoption of Natural Farming

- Non-availability of specialized market.
- Labor intensive farming.
- Unfair price for produce in market.
- Minimum Support Price is not given to crops.
- Lack of skillful labor for inputs preparation.

Suggestion Of Farmers to Overcome Problems in Natural Farming

- Government should provide adequate support due to yield gap in natural farming.
- Marketing facility should be available in District.
- Certification agency should avail for product verification.
- Minimum Support Price should provide.
- Government laboratory should available to measure contents available in inputs.

Benefits and Achievements

- Utilized crop residues for mulching.

- Improved soil health.
- Generated employment.
- Generated higher income through value addition of produce.
- Consulted by many farmers for natural farming.
- Encouraged several farmers to adopt natural farming.

Shri. Karhale's journey into natural farming was a resounding success. His interventions, rooted in the principles of harmony with nature, yielded a multitude of benefits, including resilient crops, improved soil health, enhanced biodiversity and reduced reliance on chemicals, economic viability, and sustainable agriculture. He became a beacon of hope, demonstrating that natural farming could be a viable and sustainable path towards a more harmonious and productive future.

Conclusions

- Government should provide minimum support price to natural farming crops.
- Marketing facilities should be available in the district.
- Trained instructor in natural farming should be available at district level.
- Government laboratories should be available to measure contents available in inputs.
- Making natural farming inputs available locally
- Awareness at consumer level about natural farming
- Government should be subsidized on inputs preparation
- Natural Farming practice help in ensuring food security