

## Empowering Farmers through Natural Farming: A Success Story from Maharashtra

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### Introduction

Hingoli district, located in the Marathwada region of Maharashtra, has the largest area under rainfed farming in the state. The average annual rainfall in the district is about 908 mm, but rainfall is uncertain and often erratic. This, combined with climate change, floods, droughts, and unseasonal rains, leads to low crop yields and excessive use of pesticides, insecticides, and fungicides. As a result, farmers in the district have low annual incomes. To overcome these problems, Shri Dadarao Chandrabhan Raut, a farmer from Dhanora village in Basmat Tehsil, decided to grow soybean using natural farming practices five years ago. He was motivated to do this because the continuous use of chemical fertilizers had degraded the physical properties of his soil.

### Plan, Implementatin and Support by KVK

Based on a situation analysis and farmer needs assessment, Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Tondapur, Hingoli district, conducted a training program on the importance, preparation, and use of natural farming inputs in soybean production. Farmers gained knowledge and skills from this training, and as a result, they began to prepare and use Bijamrit for seed treatment, Jivamrit for soil nutrition management, and Dasparni Ark, Brahmastra, and Neemastra to control pests in soybean production. Farmers also used the WhatsApp and Facebook groups created by KVK, Tondapur, to learn and share information, and they participated in agricultural exhibitions.

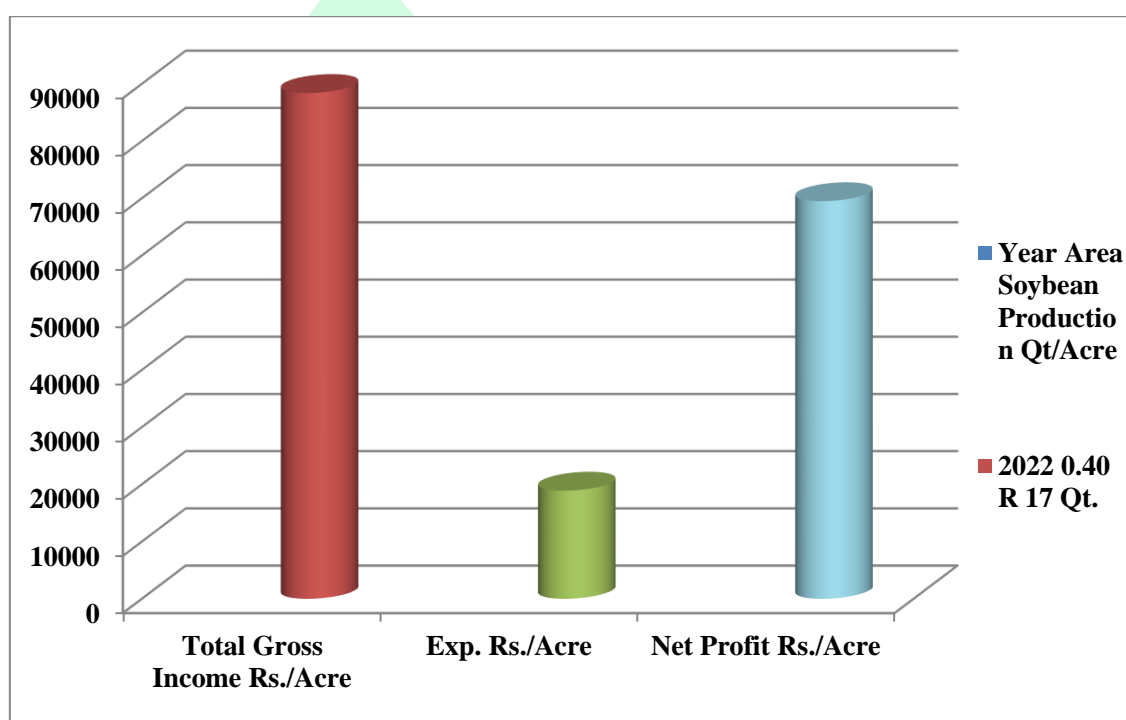
### Output

1. Shri Dadarao Chandrabhan Raut achieved a soybean yield of 17 quintals per acre by growing the Green Gold (3344) variety and using natural farming practices.

- He used raised beds with ridges spaced 120 cm apart, a top width of 60 cm, and a height of 45 cm, with spacing between plants of 45 cm by 5 cm.

**Table 1. Economics of Soybean Production through Natural Farming (Per Acre)**

Sr. No.	Year	Area (ha)	Soybean Production Qt/Acre	Total Gross Income Rs./Acre	Exp. Rs./Acre	Net Profit Rs./Acre
01	2022	0.40	17 Qt.	88400	18900	69500



**Fig. 1. Economics of Soybean Production through Natural Farming (Per Acre)**

### Outcome

By seeing the success of Shri. Dadarao Chandrabhan Raut's soybean crop, farmers from nearby villages were inspired to start using natural farming practices themselves. They began to prepare and use bijamrit, jivamrit, dashparni ark, brahmastra, and neemastra in their soybean production, which reduced their use of chemical inputs. Shri Raut himself has expanded his natural farming practices to include turmeric, chickpea, and sorghum crops.

### Impact

Natural farming has had a positive impact on the biology of soil microbes and other living organisms, such as earthworms, in soybean crops. Soil health management practices

such as crop rotation, cover cropping, compost application, and the use of natural farming inputs for seed treatment, soil management, and pest control have helped to reduce the use of chemical inputs and improve crop yields and productivity. The integration of livestock into the farming system has also helped to restore the ecosystem. Farmers from nearby and other villages have visited Shri Raut's plot to see the impact of natural farming on soybean production. They have been inspired to adopt natural farming practices themselves and have taken training on natural farming inputs from KVK, Tondapur.



**Visit & Guidance by Dr. P. P. Shelke  
(Senior Scientist & Head) KVK, Tondapur  
to Jivamrut Unit**



**Visit & Guidance by Dr. P. P. Shelke  
(Senior Scientist & Head) KVK, Tondapur  
to Vermicompost Unit**