

Success Story “Mohan Singh: A Remarkable Journey of Successful Sugarcane Farming in Rural Punjab”

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Sugarcane is one of the world's most widely cultivated crops, with over 80 countries engaging in its production. India is the 2nd largest producer of sugarcane. This versatile crop is primarily grown for sugar production, but it's also used to make various products like ethanol, molasses, and even bio-plastics. Sugarcane farming plays a significant role in both the global agricultural and sugar industries. Take a journey through the fields of sugarcane with us in this enlightening article. We introduce you to a passionate and diligent sugarcane farmer who has dedicated years to perfecting the art of cultivating this golden crop. Learn how this farmer's commitment to sustainable practices, technological advancements, and a deep connection to the land has not only yielded bountiful harvests but also reshaped the future of sugarcane farming. Dive into the world of this dedicated farmer and discover the sweet secrets behind their success."



Sugarcane (*Saccharum officinarum*) is a tropical and sub-tropical crop that thrives in warm climate with plenty of rainfall or irrigation. It is one of the world's most widely cultivated crops, with over 80 countries engaging in its production. The top producers of sugarcane include Brazil, India, China, and Thailand. India is the 2nd largest producer of sugarcane. This versatile crop is primarily grown for sugar production, but it's also used to make various products like ethanol, molasses, and eve bio-plastics. Sugarcane farming plays a significant role in both the global agricultural and sugar industries. To the present day, and sugarcane



remains a vital crop with a wide array of uses. Beyond sugar production, sugarcane is a source of molasses, used in confectionery and spirits production. Ethanol, derived from sugarcane, is a sustainable biofuel that powers vehicles and reduces carbon emission. Moreover, ongoing research explores the potential of sugarcane in the production of bio-plastics and other eco-friendly materials.

Mohan Singh, a 62-year-old farmer of the village, stands as a shining example of a successful sugarcane farmer, managing his 15 acres of land with unwavering commitment. His story is an inspiring example of how a simple farmer can turn his dreams into a reality. He has almost been engaged in farming for three decades. He inherited his family's land. He is a medium farmer. He used to grow Paddy and Wheat at a commercial level but as time passes, he wanted to double his income. Along with paddy and wheat he grew sugarcane at a small scale. Further he made his mind to grow sugarcane, which in comparison to other crops is more profitable. He realized the immense potential of sugarcane as a cash crop, thanks to the region's favorable climate and rich soil. Over the years, he refined his methods, integrating traditional wisdom with modern agricultural practices. Gradually he has shifted to cultivating sugarcane. He also does intercrop like growing vegetables with sugarcane which brings stability in his income. He grows Paddy and wheat for their own consumption and sells a few quintals. However, his main source of income is from sugarcane cultivation.

Sugar Mill:

Mohan Singh has not only mastered the art of sugar cane cultivation but also ventured into contract farming with a local sugar mill, a strategic decision that has proven to be profoundly profitable. He recognized the potential for growth by implementing technology and collaborating with a sugar mill company which is in Morinda. Every year a contract is signed between them. Through his partnership with the sugar mill, Mohan Singh benefits from a guaranteed buyer for his sugar cane crop, providing him with financial security and the assurance that his hard work will yield a consistent return.

Here are some key technologies that have played a vital role in his success:

Modern Farm Machinery:

Mohan Singh's journey as a successful sugar cane farmer is marked not only by good business decisions but also by a commitment to modernizing his farming practices for efficiency and sustainability. One of the key pillars of his success has been the adoption of modern



machinery notably the tractor, harrow to reduce the labour intensive aspect of farming. The heavy duty machinery is equipped with multiple sharp disc which effectively break the soil level it removes weeds etc, which not only saves time but also significantly reduces the manual labour required for this task.

Soil fertility and Fertilizer Management:

To make informed decisions about nutrient management. His approach in maintaining soil fertility and boosting productivity in his sugarcane farming is a well-thought-out blend of traditional wisdom and modern agricultural techniques. Cow dung manure, a time-honored and organic source of nutrients, plays a pivotal role in enriching the soil on his farm. It is an eco-friendly and sustainable choice that contributes to long-term soil health. Cow dung manure is rich in organic matter, essential nutrients, and beneficial microorganisms. It enhances the soil's structure, water-holding capacity, and nutrient content, creating a nurturing environment for plant roots. By incorporating this natural fertilizer, Mohan Singh ensures that his soil remains fertile and teeming with life, which is fundamental for healthy sugarcane growth. To meet the specific nutrient requirements of sugarcane, especially its high demand for nitrogen, Mohan Singh wisely complements cow dung manure with inorganic fertilizers like urea. Urea provides a concentrated source of nitrogen, which is crucial for promoting vigorous vegetative growth in sugarcane.

This combination of organic and inorganic fertilizers represents a balanced and sustainable approach. Cow dung manure improves long-term soil fertility, reduces the risk of nutrient depletion, and minimizes the environmental impact, while urea supplements the crop's immediate nitrogen needs, thereby maximizing productivity.

Sugarcane Variety Selection:

Mohan has chosen sugarcane varieties that are not only high-yielding but also disease-resistant. This reduces the risk of crop loss and ensures a consistent income.

Economic

Mohan Singh's impressive sugarcane harvest of 300 quintals per acre, combined with his selling price of Rs. 380 per quintal, results in a gross income of Rs. 1,368,000 for his 12 acres of sugarcane. His profit/net return is approx. Rs. 828000 per acre, Gross income from sugarcane: Rs. 1,368,000, Cost of cultivation: Rs. 540,000 and Profit = Rs. 828,000

So, Mohan Singh's approximate profit from his 12 acres of sugarcane is Rs. 828,000. This reflects his successful farming practices and prudent management, resulting in a substantial profit margin.

Additional farming activities on the remaining 3 acres, where he grows either paddy or wheat, with a yield of 28 quintals per acre, the approximate total production from these 3 acres is 84 quintals. However, Mohan Singh keeps 10 quintals for his own consumption, which means he sells the remaining 74 quintals. Given his selling price, the gross return for these crops is Rs. 150,960 so, Net Return = Rs. 123,960

So, for the 3 acres where Mohan Singh grows paddy or wheat, his approximate net return is Rs. 123,960. This showcases his ability to efficiently manage multiple crops, further contributing to his overall agricultural success and income. And also few income from wheat production in 2 acre land is around 30K. Total income-Rs. 979,960 i.e round off 10Lakhs In summary, Mohan Singh has made approx. Rs. 979,960 from his farming. His success shows that smart farming can lead to a good income.



'Farming Smart, Harvests Rich'

Smart farming is the bridge to a prosperous future. Let's cultivate knowledge and innovation to reap the bounty of success in agriculture.