

From Struggle to Success: The Journey of Mahinder Singh, A Progressive farmer

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In the heart of rural Punjab, amidst the green fields of wheat rice and maize, there lies the story of Mahinder Singh, a 62 progressive farmer whose journey is nothing short of inspiring. Mahinder Singh is a hardworking person, who lives in the Punjabi village of Hasanpur in the SAS Nagar district. He is making quick progress in this sector. He sticks out as a brilliant illustration of drive and ambition. Mahinder is turning the earth and planting the seeds of change, even though his contemporaries may be following more conventional routes. Mahinder's story is a testament to the transformative power of passion, hard work, and innovation in agriculture. His story is an encouraging illustration of how a regular farmer might achieve his goals. He has almost spent forty-five years in farming. His relatives left him the land. He is a farmer of moderate size. In the past, he grew wheat and maize commercially, but as time went on, he desired to quadruple his revenue. His family, unlike a lot of people in his village, farmed using conventional techniques, which frequently produced subpar results. Mahinder was adamant on changing things, even in the face of many obstacles like erratic weather patterns and volatile market pricing.

Using sustainable farming practices was one of Mahinder's largest changes. After learning about crop rotation at an upcoming agricultural fair, he started by putting it into practice. This small adjustment increased soil health and broke insect cycles, which in turn decreased the demand for chemical pesticides and fertilizers and lowers the price of buying these expensive chemicals fertilizers as well. Among Mahinder's biggest adjustments was the shift to sustainable agricultural methods. He began rotating his crops, utilizing drip irrigation to save water and applying organic herbicides and fertilizers. Through these methods, he was able to lessen the environmental effect of his farm while simultaneously improving the condition of his land.

Agronomic Practices:

With a 12-acres total holding, Mahinder carefully grows major crops, mostly maize, which is staples in the area. What distinguishes him, though, is his choice to dedicate 3 acres of

his land to the cultivation of vegetables like tomatoes, chillies etc. A crop with special needs that requires special attention. In addition to demonstrating his desire to try new things, this diversification of his farming methods offers him a reliable source of revenue and a range of agricultural products. Mahinder's agricultural style demonstrates his modern outlook and flexibility in making the most of his land's potential.

Maize: The PMH-6 type of maize that Mahinder selected yields about 8 to 10 kg of grain per acre. He must contend with common pests like spotted stem borer and pink stem borer, which might harm his maize crop, much like many other maize producers. Mahinder uses poison and pesticide sprays as control measures for these pests. Farmers that grow maize frequently do this to safeguard their crops and increase yields. A healthy and fruitful maize crop depends on effective pest management, and it is evident that he is addressing these issues in his agricultural methods.



Fig: Maize Field

Early Challenges:

Mahinder assumed control of the family farm after graduating from high school. He had to deal with a number of difficulties, such as degraded land, antiquated farming methods, and restricted resource availability. But rather than letting them depress him, Mahinder recognized these difficulties as chances for development. Following his high school graduation, he took over the family farm and faced a variety of difficulties, such as deteriorating land, antiquated farming practices, reduction of nutrients and scarce resources. Mahinder regarded them as chances for development. He met every challenge head-on, applying cutting-edge methods to rejuvenate the land, maximize resources, and boost output.



Fig: Mahinder Singh at his residence

The following important technologies have been instrumental in his success:

Mahinder started looking at contemporary farming methods and innovations. He went to agricultural fairs, seminars, and workshops to stay up to date on the latest advancements in the industry. In an effort to determine what would work best for his land, he also began small-scale trials with new crops and farming methods.

Current Farm Machinery: Mahinder Singh's success as a maize farmer is a result of both his sound economic judgment and his dedication to updating his agricultural methods for sustainability and efficiency. His agricultural achievement has been largely attributed to his use of contemporary equipment, most notably the tractor and harrow, which lessen the labour-intensive nature of farming. In addition to saving time, the heavy machinery's several sharp discs effectively break the soil's surface and clear weeds and other debris. This greatly decreases the amount of physical labour needed for the task.

Organic Manure and Fertilizers: Manure from cow dung is high in organic matter, vital minerals, and healthy microbes. It improves the structure, nutrient content, and ability of the soil to hold water, all of which help to create an optimal environment for the roots of plants. Mahinder makes sure that his land stays rich and alive by adding this natural fertilizer, which is essential for the proper growth of maize. In order to satisfy the unique nutrient needs of maize, particularly its elevated nitrogen requirements, Mahinder prudently augments the manure from cows with inorganic fertilizers such as urea. A concentrated amount of nitrogen is offered by urea, which is essential for encouraging maize's robust vegetative development.



While urea satisfies the crop's urgent nitrogen needs and maximizes productivity, manure increases long-term soil fertility, lowers the danger of depletion of nutrients, and reduces the environmental impact.

Selection of Maize Varieties:

Mahinder has selected disease-resistant and high-yielding varieties of maize. This guarantees a steady income stream and lowers the chance of crop loss.

Community Impact:

Mahinder's accomplishments were acknowledged in his village. Other farmers began to emulate him and began implementing his sustainable farming methods. As word of Mahinder's story travels throughout his village, farmers are inspired to combine conventional farming methods with cutting-edge techniques. It is an inspiring illustration of what can be achieved with tenacity, diligence, and creative vision in the agricultural sector.

Annual income:

Mahinder has been cultivating vegetables and maize for the past year, and his annual income has reached an amazing Rs. 1,080,000 for his 12 acres of maize, His creative choice to grow veggies earns him an extra forty thousand rupees. When these numbers are added together, Mahinder's anticipated yearly income comes to a whopping 1,120,000 rupees. In addition to making him a prosperous farmer, his commitment to varied farming and wise resource management have elevated him to the status of a modern, progressive agricultural icon.

Conclusion:

Today, Mahinder is not just a successful farmer but also a visionary leader in sustainable agriculture. His journey from adversity to prosperity serves as motivation for farmers everywhere, demonstrating that anything is achievable in agriculture with passion, perseverance, and creativity. The story of Mahinder serves as a reminder that, in order to benefit the environment and coming generations, farming must embrace change and implement sustainable methods.