

Bees empowering women: Success story of a lady entrepreneur

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Nowadays, it is challenging for the small farmers in the villages to make a living from farming alone, so it takes time to look for other sources of income besides farming. This is the story of Bibi Paramvir Kaur, a successful and progressive farm woman living in village Bhunder under the Maur Mandi block of Bathinda district, who has become a successful beekeeper. Someone has truly said that if you want something intensely then the whole universe helps you to get it. It is also true that nature or the Lord helps us only when we help ourselves.

These are the facts that this lady beekeeper has proved after getting training in beekeeping from Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Bathinda. Before coming in contact with the KVK experts Paramvir Kaur used to do only domestic work like other housewives. Her husband Sandeep Singh is a retired soldier. The couple has a 10-year-old son at home.

Due to lack of land, it was very difficult for the family to support themselves on Sandeep's pension. Like a bitter vine, rising prices were making the situation worse. Paramvir Kaur wanted her to do something that would increase her income so that she could meet her other needs in addition to her child's education and household expenses. Being married at an early age, she could only study up to class XII, so doing a small job could not be a way to run a family, but she did not give up. Finally one day she was approached by a relative who is also an old trainee of the KVK and a successful beekeeper of the region. Inspired by his work, Paramvir also joined skill development courses of the KVK during 2018.

She initiated this enterprise with 4 hives and never looked back. With the help of small loans and subsidies, she increased the number of hives to 50 and then to 100. Now she was so mature in this work that she could increase the number of her venture hives to 150

without any financial support. He is keen to learn more about the intricacies of the profession and to expand her apiary.

All the honey she produces was consumed locally in her village only. The sale of honey in the village without any brand at Rs. 300-350 per kg shows her ability to produce good quality, honey. Now she has applied for getting a brand name to FSSAI. During the dearth period, she moves her hives to Rajasthan so that honey production continues uninterrupted.

At present she is earning over one lakh per annum by selling honey. She has also given employment to two workers in her apiary. In this way, she has become self-employed as well as employing others. She also inspires other people in her village to stand on their own feet. We sincerely hope that Paramvir Kaur, an example of determination, hard work, and woman power, will succeed in this endeavor due to her initiative and will be a guide for other women. Finally, we advise other aspiring women to join Krishi Vigyan Kendras so that they too can improve their standard of living like Paramvir.



Fig-1. Paramvir with her loving mates, the Honey bees



Fig-2. Packing honey in glass jars



Fig-3. During a training course at KVK Bathinda