

Saroop Sharma the proponent of Organic Farming



Saroop Chand Sharma S/o Mangat Ram Sharma is a 74 years old farmer from a remote and far-flung hilly Village Dadpeth of Tehsil Mugal Maidan, District Kishtwar. A strict proponent of organic farming, he has been involved in the cultivation of organic kalazeera, rajmash, mustard, cherry horsegram and vegetables. At his farm, he cultivates all kinds of crops and fruits and always remain eager to adopt new and scientific agricultural practices. He possess 12.5 acre of land of which about 2 acre of land is irrigated and rest of land is rainfed . Through his approaches, he has experienced 118.80 percent increase in the net income from farming in the last 3 years. He makes his own formulations and uses wild plant extracts for management of diseases in plants and crops. Inspired by his parents especially mother, he started farming at the age of 19. He shows his indebtedness towards his parents for involving him in the noble profession of farming.

Educated upto secondary level, he always attempts to adopt innovative practices at his farm and educates others also to go for innovative techniques. He is recipient of many state and national level awards and recognitions and is fellow of prestigious Indian Agriculture Research Institute, New Delhi since 2012. For his remarkable contribution in the agriculture sector he has been conferred with various awards and recognitions. He received Indian Agriculture Research

Institute(IARI) Fellow Award during PUSA Kissan Mela during the year 2012 and IARI, New Delhi's innovative Farmer Award during the year 2018. He also received innovative Farmer Award at Annual Kissan Mela from N.N. Vohra erstwhile Governor of Jammu & Kashmir during SKUAST Jammu Kissan Mela during the year 2012-13. Several certificates of involvement in promotion of scientific agriculture, kalazeera and saffron cultivation has also been conferred upon him from the Directorate of Agriculture and Farmers's Welfare Jammu & Kashmir, Division of vegetables Sciences and Division of Agro-forestry SKUAST Jammu. and different departments at district and state levels.

He narrates that disappointed with the low yields from traditional agriculture and cultivation of maize and pulses with unscientific farming, he started looking for innovative agriculture technologies by which he could increase his farm income and make farming more remunerative. He came in contact with the extension specialists of department of agriculture and scientists of SKUAST Jammu. He is cultivating and promoting organic vegetable and crop production in the Chenab Valley for over the last 40 years and have personally mobilized more than 15000 farmers through trainings through his own efforts. He also started contract farming in Samba Jammu and Ramban Districts

He used to get quite less annual income from Maize and pulses. He faced problems like low income from the existing farming system, low production from maize, pulses and vegetable etc. With interventions like restricting of farming system with more emphasis on horticulture and vegetables, adoption of recommended package of practices and organic farming practices, he has reportedly increased him farm income by 110 percent. This year he has cultivated red okra in an area of 2 kanal. He is very active and supportive in various train programmes conducted by KVK Kishtwar in mobilizing the farmers for undertaking organic farming (*Contact details of Saroop Sharma Mobile No. 6005238655 e-mail ID saroopsharma@gmail.com*)

