

Vegetable farming as a livelihood security for an Unemployed Rural youth

Shri Thongam Rabichand S/O Shri Th. Basanta Singh is 26 years old enthusiastic Rural Youth. He is a resident of Leimaram Heinoubok, Bishnupur district of Manipur. He has completed graduation in Science stream in the year 2017 and is married to Smt. N. Ronibala Devi in the year 2018 and has a baby girl of about 5 years old. He is residing with his parents in a joint family. His father was a Labourer and mother was house wife. After marriage, he worked as an electrician in a wage system to earn his livelihood which was not a regular source of income and was inadequate for his family expenditure. So, he started thinking for another source of income generation especially farming on his 0.5 ha farm.



Problem

After completion of his 12 standard Board examination, he was helping his parents by practicing as a part time job in electrification under wages system. He could earn an amount of about Rs 90,000 per annum which is insufficient for the maintenance of his family expenditures and to mingle in the present/current society. So, he started thinking of suitable farming at an area of 0.5 ha.

KVK intervention

One day he along with his friends came to KVK Bishnupur district, Utlou and met SMS-Horticulture and discussed about the Commercial cultivation of Watermelon. After a thorough discussion, it was decided to arrange an Off Campus training programme under Horticultural crops to be organized by KVK Bishnupur district, Utlou. The programme was with Hands on Scientific cultivation of Watermelon. After participating in the training programme, he was interested to start vegetable cultivation by adopting Improved package of practices of high value crops based on market demand including Maize cultivation for vegetable purpose ie. not for grain purpose. He started cultivation of Watermelon, Tomato, French bean and Maize in the year 2023. Under the guidance of the Subject Matter Specialist-Horticulture, in the year 2024, he could increase the cropping intensity by cultivating Broadbean, Garden pea, Cabbage, Rajma, etc. in addition to the previous year crops. Subject Matter Specialist – Horticulture of the Kendra supervised all the practicing technologies adopting at his farm. And, the seeds of French bean

var. Arka Sukomol and Ayoka, Pea var, Kashi Ageti and Arkel, Tomato var. NS-501 and quality vegetable seedlings viz. Tomato and Cabbage were also handed over as an encouragement for his new venture. He was told to participate in all the On campus training programmes under Horticulture conducted at KVK Bishnupur district. On the advise of the SMS- Horticulture, he attended Skill development programmes by CAU, Imphal and other farmers' programmes conducted by the Department of Horticulture and Soil Conservation, Bishnupur district, Manipur

Input, Output and Outcome of the year 2023-24

Table 1. Cultivated Crops and Economics of the farm

Sl.No.	Crop	Area (sq.m)	Yield	Cost of Production (Rs)	Gross Return (Rs)	Net Return (Rs)
1.	Water melon	2500	3,500 kg	29,800	1,00,200	70,400
2.	Tomato	1,875	4,050 kg	38,100	1,18,000	79,900
3.	French bean	600	20.5 kg	5,100	14,700	9,600
4.	Broad bean	600	210 kg	5050	20,250	15,200
5.	Garden pea	600	254 kg	4500	14,970	10,470
6.	Cabbage	625	1,600 kg	3850	16,000	12,150
7.	Rajma	625	295 kg	4850	11,100	6,250
8.	Maize	5,000	10,300 (cobs)	47,500	1,96,900	1,49,000

Social Impact

During short span of time he could earn a net income of Rs 3,52,970 (Rupees three lakhs fifty two thousand nine hundred and seventy) only. He could buy a Honda Activa from the Showroom in the month of February 2024 and a second hand Diesel Autorickshaw in May 2024. Now, he has self confidence in farming and is leading a comfortable life and could manage all his family expenses from his faming enterprise. Her mother also started selling his farm produces as street vendor at the road side of Maibam Lokpa Ching, Nambol. His parents, wife are assisting him in his farming operations. Inspired by his success, many unemployed youths and practicing farmers showed interest in farming and seeking informations and advice from the KVK Bishnupur as well as from him. He has become a successful Rural Youth of his village and also recognized the role and activities of KVK Bishnupur district, Manipur. Now, his future target is to become a prominent Agripreneur who can uplift the economic status of the poor farmers and for the livelihood security of the farming community.



Fig. 1
Discussion with SMS
Horticulture on cultivation of
Watermelon



Fig. 2
OFF campus training
programme on Scientific
Cultivation of
Watermelon at Leimaram
Heinoubok village



Fig. 3
Planting materials of
Watermelon at farmer's
field.



Fig. 4
Method Demonstration on
Scientific cultivation of
Watermelon



Fig. 5
Participated as a trainee
during OFT & FLDs training
programme at KVK-
Bishnupur



Fig. 6
Participated in the
vegetable planting
materials distribution
programme at KVK-
Bishnupur



Fig. 7
Self uprooting of
Cabbage seedlings at
KVK demo unit.



Fig. 8
Cultivation of Tomato var.
NS-501 at farmer's field



Fig. 9
Harvested Tomato var. NS-
501



Fig. 10
Cultivation of Broadbean
with readily available
straw mulch at farmer's
field.



Fig. 11
Vegetative stage of
Broadbean



Fig. 12
Harvested Broadbean



Fig. 13
Cultivation of Cabbage var.
Rareball at farmer's field



Fig. 14
OFT on Varietal
performance of Garden
Pea var. Kashi Ageti



Fig. 15
Cultivation of Rajmah at
farmer's field



Fig. 16
Cultivation French bean
var. Ayoka at farmer's
field



Fig. 17
Harvested French bean



Fig. 18
Raising of maize
nurseries at farmer's field



Fig. 19
Maize F1- Golden cob
nurseries



Fig. 20
Cultivation of Maize F1-
Golden cob at farmer's
field



Fig. 21
Honda Activa and Diesel Auto Rickshaw bought from his
net return within one year



Fig. 22
Used Diesel Auto Rickshaw for marketing purpose.

Some of the photographs of his farm activities