

Harvesting Hope: The Greenhouse Smart Farming Revolution in Janisahi Village



Dibakar Sahoo, a resilient farmer hailing from Janisahi rural village in Dihagoan gram panchayat under Daspalla block of Nayagarh district of Odisha state, is transforming his life through innovative greenhouse cultivation. His family comprises six members, including his wife, his seven-year-old daughter and two-year-old son, and his father and mother.

Initially tending to an 660-square-foot plot where he cultivated vegetables like eggplants, leafy greens, beans etc. Dibakar faced challenges with high irrigation costs and pest-related crop losses. Approximately 8700 rupees were invested, with a significant portion allocated to medicines and chemicals, resulting in break-even points or marginal profits ranging from 6% to 8%.

In a fortuitous turn of events during a community meeting organised by **Jeevan Rekha Parishad (JRP)**, a grassroot NGO in his community, Dibakar learned about the potential benefits of greenhouse farming, a modern and efficient approach to organic agriculture. Also he gained insights into greenhouse farming and its advantages. With the support of **Jeevika Trust, UK**, and JRP's assistance, he successfully established a greenhouse on his farm, initially cultivating 3-5 varieties of leafy greens.

Within the first harvest, Dibakar witnessed remarkable success, growing a substantial amount of leafy greens with reduced investment and at an accelerated pace. Fast forward 3 months, and greenhouse farming has become the cornerstone of his agricultural practices.

Currently investing around 2400 rupees in cultivation, Dibakar allocates no more than 300 rupees for pesticides and fertilizers, and 300 rupees for irrigation over a 45-day period. The result? Profits ranging from 25% to 35%, and remarkably, he hasn't encountered any losses. Even under adverse weather conditions, his lowest profit margin remains at a commendable 6%.

Greenhouse farming has not only improved Dibakar's financial standing but has also allowed his to diversify his crop selection, cultivating a wide variety of vegetables. Embracing modern techniques and using fewer resources, he has elevated both the quality and quantity of his harvests. Moreover, the transition to greenhouse farming has enabled his to adopt organic practices, using minimal fertilizers and contributing to sustainability.