

A Story of a Progressive Farmer, Mint - A Good Earning Source for the Family

Dharapur just 12 kms away from Guwahati city a progressive farmer Sri Subash Kalita a graduate in Arts was an unemployed youth like many other just few years back. He was selected for police service but decided not to go for any job and decided to take agriculture as his only earning source.

Starting with only a 'kata' of land with mint Subhash is now cultivating 4 bighas of mint. He started his business by collecting vegetables from his fellow farmers of his village and sell those vegetables in "Machkhowa" bazaar along with his own production mint. He was that his mints has not a good market day by day and decided to increase his area of cultivation. After some days he earned a good amount of money and purchased a bigha of land and extended his mint cultivation. Problem of water scarcity during the dry months became a major problem for the mint crop and Subash engaged his family members to carry water for watering the plants and he decided to take suggestion from Agricultural officials. Agriculture department has sanctioned his a shallow tube-well is subsidised rate.

Subash tried to get more information regarding the crop and asked the agricultural officials who suggested his to go for some other variety which are mostly grown in Shillong. He brought those varieties also but the crop could not be successful in his soil. Again he tried his original local variety and used organic manure to boost up the production and got a good result.

Subash has a good name for mint in "Machkhowa" market due to his quality, big bundles and comparatively lesser price. He gets many orders for marriage and other functions and parties from various corner of Guwahati. He sells minimum 500 bundles of mint per day which costs Rs. 0.80 per bundle which gives minimum 400 rupees in a day and monthly earnings is Rs. 12,000/- to Rs. 15,000/- per month.

Department of Agriculture has sanctioned an amount of Rs. 1.40.000 as subsidy amount from Area Expansion Programme (Technology Mission) for an area of 5 ha in Dharapur Village under the leadership of Subhash where another 7 farmers will be benefited from the scheme adopted in that village.

With Rs. 15,000/- Subhash has smoothly managed a family of 9 members with 2 brothers and old mothers. Recently Subash got married and we do hope he will be happy in his new married life and will inspired those who are still in search of a Govt. job.

(Source : District Agriculture Officer, Kamrup)