

Extremist turn to Agriculturist

Kumud Deka was born and brought up in a remote village named Panbari nearly 20 km. away from Guwahati by rail road. Panbari is about 42 km. from Guwahati by inaccessible road. He started schooling at Panbari and then tried outside but he had to leave studying due to difficulties of communication and poverty and was instigated by extremist to join them but the Agricultural Department was the cause of his return to the main stream. The department has given him to guidance how to utilise the land of his family for being a good citizen with dignity. He was selected and sent to Coimbatore for Spices training and now has a good Black pepper vineyard getting a good yield and return. He also has a productive creeper of profitable Vanilla crop. During 2002-03 he was provided a subsidy of Rs. 65,000/- under Technology Mission of Horticulture for 5 Ha of Orange through which he rejuvenated about 10 bighas of ancestral orange orchard and extended area by 5 ha. Now he is cultivating his family paddy land with Ranjit, Mashuri etc. HYV seed originally provided by Agriculture department and is waiting eagerly for yield of his new Orange orchard.

Today he owns a power tiller and is a good progressive farmer who showed a good example to the youths who are still in the clutch of economic depression and could not get a govt. job and easily lured by extremist groups.

(Source : District Agricultural Officer, Kamrup)