

Sucess Story of Mr. Madhukar Gavali : Hitech-Vegetable Nursery as Self Employment

Background- Mr. Madhukar Gavali of Village- Ugaon, Tahsil- Niphad, Dist- Nashik. He has education upto 10th standard. He completed 30 days Horticulture Nursery Vocational Training in July 2008 organised by Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Nashik.

His father was marginal farmer with 44 R land holding in which he was cultivating grapes. It was difficult to meet the family financial needs due to uncertain market and climatic factors. He started grape Raisin processing unit in 4 R areas as additional income source. But, it was only four months engagement so using the same available infrastructure he converted raisin shed in to shed-net house and started vegetable seedling raising. He initially raised 10,000 - 12,000 vegetable seedlings using portrays and coco peat as per farmers demand.

As demand raised he expanded his nursery, uprooted the grape orchard and converted the structure in shed net house. After successfully completion of training and technical support from KVK in year 2008-09 he raised upto 2.5 lacs seedlings of different vegetable crops. As Quality production and timely supply of seedling was boost-up to demand for seedling more than 10 lacs in next year. He also modernised the nursery with low cost poly house from his earning and reached the seedling production upto 20-25 lacs annually.

A) Impact-

1. Income Generation- Annually generating more than 75-80 lacs net income. He utilising this income other infrastructural facilities as well new projects like ripening chamber.

The Area available with him was not sufficient to meet the demand throughout the year, so he purchased 5 acres of land in village Pimpalas in Niphad tahasil. Mean while he received the demand for sugarcane for development and other seedlings, Papaya seedlings from adjoining districts. He constructed hi-tech poly house in 40 R area to meet the demand from farmers. At present his annual seedling production of different crops given in table below.

Table- Annual Seedling production.

Name of the Crop	No of seedlings	Rate /seedlings	Approximate Income (Rs.) generated
Tomato	140-150 lacs	0.80-1	80-90 lacs
Brinjal	18-20 lacs	0.70-0.80	10-12 lacs
Cabbage/Cauliflower	32-35 lacs	0.80-0.90	20-22 lacs
Capsicum	70-75 lacs	1.5-2.0	65-70 lacs
Chilli	65-70 lacs	1-1.5	60-65 lacs
Sugarcane	14-15 lacs	2-2.5	18-20 lacs
Papaya	8-9 lacs	10-11	65-70 lacs
Watermelon	24-25 lacs	2.5-3	35-40 lacs
Total	340-350 lacs		250-300 lacs

Annually he is producing about 350 lacs of seedling and generating about Rs.300 lacs with net income of 75-80 lacs.

2. Infrastructure development. : To meet timely and quality water for nursery he constructed the farm pond with 20-25 lac liter capacity. To control PH and EC of used for nursery installed the water treatment unit separately.

3. Employment Generation – He providing employment to 65-70 skilled and unskilled persons required different nursery activities.

4. Farmer Linkages- More than 250 farmers from 3-4 adjoining districts are linked with him. He guiding the farmers, organising training and consultation to the farmers for commercial and high value crop production. More than 2000 farmers from different district and other states visited his nursery.

B) Mechanisation-

*i) Sugar cane Bud Cutting Machine-*Removal of single bud from sugarcane was very tedious, laborious and difficult task, so he purchased mechanised bud removal machine having capacity of cutting 800-900 buds per hour which saves time and labour and increased efficiency.

ii) Seed Sowing Machine – Vegetable seed is very tiny costly and light. It is very labourous to put each seed in portray cavity for germination. So he purchases automatic seed sowing machine of capacity 1200 trays per hour.

C) Other Achievements –

I) Participation in exhibition- He regularly participating different agriculture exhibitions, seminars organised by government as well as private agencies. Guided farmers, rural youths for quality vegetable production.

II) Awards- Receveived - different awards from taluka and district agriculture authorities, Bharat Krishak Samaj, Yuva shetkari Award from ATMA in 2014.

D) Innovative Activities-

I) Fruit ripening chamber- Under the National Horticulture Mission established Ethylene gas ripening chamber of 125 tons capacity. Cost Rs. 85 lacs. He is customising this unit to fruit merchants and farmers, exporters on kg basis. The customers bring their produce for ripening and fetch back the ripen fruits in 4-5 days. He appointed 4-5 labours for loading and unloading of fruits from trucks. One skilled operator monitors the system.

E) Future Projects-

Farmers facing the heavy damping-off problem in chilli and capsicum seedling after transplanting. To overcome this problem he started producing grafted seedlings using local variety as root stock. The demand for grafted seedlings is increasing day by day from farmers.

F) Dignitaries Visited -

His activities were appreciated by the hon. Chancellor of Maharashtra during his visit to KVK Nashik. District collector and commissioner Mr. Davale also visited his unit, Scientist from NRC and Dr. D.K Jain Additional Secretary ICAR visited his nursery.