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Fish Cum Makhana Farming- A Success Story of Progressive Farmer

In the Saharsa district, an Integrated Farming System Model was built by combining fish and water chestnut with fox nut on 125 acres of land. The net advantage of the system was Rs.65,650 when compared to the conventional system, which consisted solely of fox nut production. In cropping system mode, the field-based Makhana agriculture system was standardized with other crops such as fish, rice and water chestnut. The gross returns from Fox nut-fish, Fox nut-rice and Fox nut-water chestnut cultivation were Rs.2,80,250, 2,70,175, and 3,50,280 per ha, respectively, while Fox nut cultivation alone yielded a gross return of Rs.1,30,450.

INTRODUCTION

In a state where people believe fate is more important than hard work, the success story of a farmer named Sri Suresh Mukhiya from Purikh, a village in Saharsa district, is a shining example of how technologically and innovative cultivation methods can transform the agrarian economy and improve the lives of millions of farmers.

The family's total cultivable land area is around 0.5 acre. Previously, he grew conventional crops such as rice, maize, wheat, and coarse grains, but the low monetary returns prompted his family to look for better possibilities. Sri Suresh Mukhiya desired to enhance his family's economic and social standing, therefore he chose agriculture as his primary source of income. He met with KVK scientist Saharsa and decided to use locally available resources in a specific agro-ecological scenario in a very scientific approach to boost farm production of resources. He leased 15 acres of land for Rs-1.75 lakh to cultivate Makhana-cum-fish farming.



Makhana cum Fish Farming

The KVK, Saharsa, advised him on the IFS model, which included fisheries, goatry, poultry, plantation, and vegetable production with Makhana cultivation. He received instruction in fisheries and poultry, Makhana production, and vegetable production, as well as integrated crop management, from the KVK and other institutions. Under the technical direction of KVK, Saharsa Sri Suresh Mukhiya constructed a 15-acre Makhana-cum-fish pond with goat rearing. Sri Suresh Mukhiya earns roughly 3 lakhs per year from his farm's Makhana-cum-fish cultivation and other enterprises. Sri Suresh Mukhiya and his family have made a remarkable transformation in recent years, emerging as role models in their village and surrounding areas. He has helped to persuade approximately a dozen other villages to become Makhana-fish producers. He is pushing the concept of integrated Makhana cum fish farming based on his experiences and training from the Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Saharsa. In the future, he hopes to develop a hatchery production plant as well as a Makhana processing unit. He now has enough money and social standing to live comfortably. He earned gross returns from Fox nut-fish, Fox nut-rice and Fox nut-water chestnut cultivation were Rs.2,80,250, 2,70,175, and 3,50,280 per ha, respectively, while Fox nut cultivation alone yielded a gross return of Rs.1,30,450.



Processing of Makhana

CONCLUSION

Integrated makhana culture with fish, which produces two crops from the same pond, is the most cost-effective use of a pond. This crop diversification technique also reduces the possibility of any of the two crops failing. This improves aquatic productivity and the economic status of makhana farmers. Both components benefit from one another in such a system. Makhana plants provide mechanical support as well as enough substrate for the growth and reproduction of plankton and periphyton. If Makhana farmers used this integration strategy on a larger scale, it would help to boost productivity in North Bihar's aquatic system.