

Scripting Success through Spine gourd Cultivation

Surada is blessed with an abundance of natural and human resources, yet remains one of the poorest regions of the district. The agriculture sector in this region has been severely inhibited owing to different factors such as unavailability of quality inputs, poor technological backstopping and extreme climate events. Despite all these an enthusiastic farmer Sri. Murali Pradhan, aged around 60, hailing from a small village Muliapalli, under Surada block, who has been into vegetable cultivation had come in contact with KVK, Ganjam-I for a customized farm plan in order to get better income.



Given the prominence of vegetable cultivation in the economy of Sri Pradhan, KVK came to realization that providing him different training programmes (i.e. off-season vegetable cultivation, artificial pollination in different dioecious cucurbits, seedling rising under low cost poly tunnels etc.) was the fastest way to boost his vegetable yield and income. After undergoing different training programmes, Sri Pradhan started Spine gourd cultivation in 0.4 ha. under the technical supervision of KVK.

In a village where agriculture hardly throws up surprises, Sri Pradhan earned a net profit of Rs.2, 30,000 within five months. Apart from cultivation he has also started preparing planting materials of Spine gourd and selling those to nearby farmers. Besides that, he is imparting skill training to fellow farmers regarding seed treatment, artificial pollination.

He has four sons, who are equally keen on continuing with vegetable farming and even lend helping hand to him in the fields. He has already inspired many farmers in his village and nearby villages too. For his outstanding achievements he bagged various awards and got recognition at district and state level.