

FARM INOVATOR SRI AJAYA MANDAL
INNOVATION- *ARTIFICIAL POLLINATION IN POINTED GOURD*
AN INNOVATIVE STORY

NAME AND ADDRESS:

Sri Ajay Mandal

Age: 45

Educational Qualification: 8th Pass

Farming Experience: 12 years

Village: MV-8

Block: Malkangiri

Dist: Malkangiri

Mobile No. 9438022045



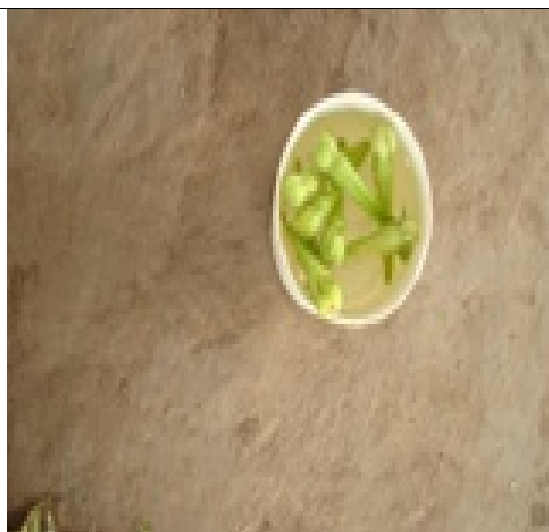
Initial status

Sri Ajay Mandal of MV-8 village is a small farmer. He owns 6.0 acre of land where he used to cultivate crops like Paddy, Green gram and different vegetables to manage his family with difficulty. Ajay got an opportunity to attend training cum exposure visit on pointed gourd cultivation at Boriguma farm organized by KVK Malkangiri during year 2015 by seeing the crop as profitable enterprise he wished to adopt the technology of pointed gourd as a remunerative and profitable enterprise. KVK Scientist imparted training on packages and practices of pointed gourd cultivation and supplied him the good quality planting materials of pointed gourd. Then he tried out pointed gourd cultivation in 20 cent of land. He faced a lot of problem following the practices which he learned from the training. Subsequently he adopted different practice by his own innovative knowledge and came up as successful grower. His intuitiveness is briefed below.

Recommended practice	Problem faced	Innovative practice
Growing of male and female plants together at the ratio of 1 :9	Suppress growth of female plants due to vigorous vegetative growth of male plants	Planting of male plants in separate beds
No artificial pollination is required	Low yield	Yield is 2.5 times more when artificial pollination is practiced. (Artificial pollination: Plucking of male flowers, removal of petals, collection of pollens by hammering with a wooden stick in a glass, diluting with water, sieving using a net and pollinating female flowers by putting a drop of solution using a dropper .In rainy season, plucking of male flower buds in the afternoon, overnight keeping in water and pollinating plants in the morning when the weather is favorable.
Gross return is Rs.40,000/- per acre		Gross return is Rs.100,000/- per acre with an additional cost of Rs. 18000/- towards labour cost for artificial pollination(5 persons/Family members/Children @ 1.5 Hr. per day per acre required for

		pollination).
No artificial pollination is required	Poor fruit setting, small size and weight of the fruit is low (30 %, 25-30 fruits weigh one Kg.)	Better fruit setting, good size and weight of the fruit is more (70 %, 18-20 fruits weigh one Kg.)

Mr. Ajay Mandal has opened the eyes of the pointed gourd growers of Malkangiri district through his innovative practice. Malkangiri district has got a special niche in pointed gourd cultivation in Orissa due to lucrative return and availability in rainy season practicing artificial pollination.



(Soaking of Flower buds)



(Hammering with wooden stick after separating petals & calyx)



(Preparation of pollen solution)



(Pollinating female flowers using a dropper)



(Planting of male plants in separate beds)



(Planting of female plants in separate beds)