

Groundnut - A Promising Crop for Small Farmers

This is the case of a small farmer, who chose to be different from the typical resource poor farmers struggling to make a living in the worst Maoist hit region of Odisha. His deep love for life has not only earned him a descent living but, more importantly, it has inspired many other farmers to follow him.



Sukchand Heera a young farmer belongs to MV-8 village of Malkangiri district of Odisha. Coming from a poor family he has inherited 2 acres of land. His parents wanted their son to study. It was however not possible for him to go beyond 7th class due to poverty. He was forced to return and join his parents in farming. Then his father passed away. He was toiling hard to survive and one day he came in contact with KVK, Malkangiri in one of the Field Day organized by KVK. In year 2009-10 KVK started FLD on Groundnut (Variety-Smruti) in Pedawada, MV-8 and Tamasa villages of Malkangiri district covering an area of 5 hectares. KVK has demonstrated standard practices of cultivation and other intercultural operations including earthing up, pest and disease management etc. As a result of FLD on Groundnut and development of skills through number of trainings, Sukchand decided to go for scientific Groundnut cultivation and contacted KVK. As per the advice of KVK scientists he collected soil samples for testing. KVK has taken responsibility to send the samples to Semiliguda Soil Testing Lab for analysis. KVK has also arranged Certified Groundnut seed (Var: Smruti) for him under FLD. Then Sukchand started Groundnut cultivation in one acre of land by the technical guidance, training and periodic supervision of KVK, Scientists.

To his utter surprise he got 10 qtl. of Groundnut as compared to 7 qtls. from conventional method with an additional yield of 3 qtls from one acre of land by using scientific packages & practices provided by KVK. He was able to earn a profit of Rs.



17,000 in demonstration as compared to 11,900 in local check. In a village where agriculture hardly throws up surprise, Sukchand's case demonstrates that keen interest and self belief can make agriculture a dependable enterprise.

It has now become a fairytale in the region, where the annual earning for a small farmer like Sukchand, does not exceeds Rs 12,000. It is not a story of overnight success but one of the systematic efforts to utilize opportunities, offered to the farmers in the village by KVK, Malkangiri.

