

Integrated Farming Scripts A Success Story

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Dhenkanal: Crop diversification with efficient water management technology boosts productivity. It also maintains soil fertility and encourages farmers to go for integrated farming, said Dr SK Ambast, Director, Indian Institute of Water Management (IIWM), a wing of Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR) here recently.

He said IIWM has scripted success stories while working with farmers in the district during the research. Senior scientists of ICAR-IIWM have been working with farmers on integrated farming and crop diversification for the last 10 years in the district. Now, farmers of Jiral, Parbatia and Arnapurnapur villages have doubled their harvest and are able to sell



IIWM officials interacting with farmers at Parbatia village | EXPRESS PHOTO

their surplus produce in the local market, Ambast claimed.

Official reports said at present, farmers have cultivated maize, groundnut,

vegetables and flowers over 40 acres of land. They were trained by senior agricultural scientists on crop diversification and integrated farming processes.

Meanwhile, ICAR-IIWM have installed 14 drip fertigation system under National Initiative on Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA) in Parbatia village of

Dhenkanal and Gudpada village on Dhenkanal-Cuttack border. The two villages have been adopted as pilot projects under scientific intervention of ICAR-IIWM.

Similarly, IIWM has implemented innovative water management methods in Kamakshyanagar and Sadar blocks. Under the initiative, 100 self-reliant farming communities have been formed in 12 villages.

Rama Chandra Rout of Parbatia village said after being trained, he went for crop diversification and has been earning ₹1.5 lakh per hectare (ha) by growing vegetables in one season.

Principal Scientist of IIWM Dr G Kar said farmers have also shown interest to supplement with Government funds for sustainability of the farming method.