

Scientific Water Management and Crop Diversification Enhanced the Livelihood of Tribal Women



Adoption of line transplanting and integrated crop management in rice



Hybrid brinjal cultivation under mulching with sprinkler irrigation



Adoption of poly-mulching in hybrid tomato



Happy farmwoman with daily harvest of vegetables



Receiving Excellent Farmer Award 2024 from Union Ag & FW Minister

Contributed by

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CONTEXT

- Smt. Mina Mahanta (Village- *Khuntapingu*, GP- Mallarpada, Block- Saharpada, Keonjhar, Odisha).
- With 1.5 ha of agricultural land Smt. Mahanta approached ICAR-IWM for technical know-how in crop and water management.
- Earlier, she was cultivating paddy during Kharif and a few selective backyard vegetables through conventional methods.

INTERVENTIONS

- With the support of ICAR-IWM, Smt. Mahanta started using quality seeds, including HYV paddy seeds, adopted line transplanting and SRI methods and used a cono-weeder besides growing winter vegetables in the paddy fallow area.
- Adopted good agricultural practices such as polythene mulching in vegetables, rainwater harvesting, micro-irrigation systems, balanced use of nutrients and IPM measures in her fields.
- Diversified farming with livestock rearing, fish farming, and paddy straw mushroom farming.

OUTCOMES

- Cropping intensity was doubled to 240% over five years. Motivated to purchase a mini rice huller for additional family income.
- Net annual income increased 2.8 times during seven years i.e. from ₹ 1, 65,000 in 2015-16 (pre-intervention period) to ₹ 4,60,000 during 2022-23.
- Water saving in the short to medium-duration crops was up to 25-35%.
- Smt. Mahanta is the first woman in the area to adopt sprinkler irrigation and mulching technology and a trainer on modern farming in the remote tribal region of Keonjhar.
- Smt. Mahanta was appreciated and recognized at regional and national levels, including the prestigious '*IARI Innovative Farmer Award 2024*' and '*Excellent Farmer Award*' during the '*Regional Agricultural Fair for Eastern Region-2024*' held in Khunti, Jharkhand.