

SUCCESS STORY

Rajkarni & KVK Kathua sets the path for farm women empowerment under NICRA

Compilation

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Introduction

The agricultural experts are recommending diversification as one of the major mantra for achieving doubling of farmers' income. Adoption of diversification by farmers on scientific grounds is what the extension agencies are targeting to set the agenda for agricultural development. Here is a farm women named Rajkarni associated with Krishi Vigyan Kendra Kathua sets the path for women empowerment through practicing and demonstrating scientific diversification on 0.5 hectares of land. Besides farm women, farmers of the village have also witnessed an example of successful model that has led to increase in farm incomes by more than three times with the implementation of scientific interventions adopted by Ms. Rajkarni under the supervision of KVK Kathua. Besides farm women, farmers of the village have also witnessed an example of successful model that has led to increase in farm incomes by more than three times with the implementation of scientific interventions adopted by Ms. Rajkarni under the supervision of KVK Kathua. The success of Rajkarni lies in the fact that KVK Kathua has encouraged her to undertake farming as a location specific integrated model advocated for kandi areas and her success has really set the path for other farm women in the village to develop entrepreneurship abilities. She also sets an example of how the farm women get entry to the business of value addition at village level.

Introduction

Krishi Vigyan Kendra Kathua under the administrative control of Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology of Jammu (J&K) has implemented National Innovations in Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA) project, sponsored by Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi. The project was implemented in the year 2011 in Said and Sohal villages of Kathua district. Diversification is what the experts recommending, as one of the major mantra to achieve doubling of farmers' income. Adoption of diversification by farmers on scientific grounds is what the extension agencies are targeting to set the agenda for agricultural development. Here is the story of a farm women named Rajkarni associated with Krishi Vigyan Kendra Kathua who sets the path for women empowerment through practicing and demonstrating scientific diversification on 0.5 hectares of land.

Situation Analysis

Said Sohal village is a rainfed village selected under NICRA project by KVK Kathua to demonstrate scientific technologies to mitigate the impact of climate change. Women are important instruments in running the farm enterprises in these rainfed areas. However, to develop into an entrepreneur, a woman residing in such a resource poor village requires motivation and right direction. Some of the major problems faced by women entrepreneurs include existence of patriarchal society, absence of entrepreneurial aptitude,


lack of marketing & financial provisions, family conflicts, shortage of raw material, social barriers, lack of information, lack of access to technology and lack of training etc.

However, Rajkarni a farm women of a small Said Sohal village selected under NICRA project has overcome all the problems to become a successful entrepreneur of Kathua district.

Profile of Mrs. Rajkarni, a successful farm women entrepreneur

The profile of Mrs. Rajkarni, a woman farmer entrepreneur of NICRA village is presented in Table 1.

Table 1: Profile of Rajkarni

Age	52 years	
Education	10 th	
Farm Land	2.2 acres	
Marital Status	Married	
Social status	Naib Tehsildar	
Address	Village: Said Sohal	
District	Kathua	

Efforts made by KVK Kathua to attain Gender Mainstreaming in Agriculture

Krishi Vigyan Kendra Kathua through its concerted efforts tries to make farm women strengthened to achieve overall development of agriculture in the district. Some of the steps taken by KVK in this respect are given below:

- Ensuring considerable participation of farm women in training programmes
- Farm women as partners in conducting On-farm Trials
- Farm women as partners in conducting Frontline demonstrations
- Popularization of Value addition among farm women
- Mobilizing farm women through Self Help Groups
- Developing farm women as Master trainers

Rajkarni – a woman entrepreneur

The efforts of KVK Kathua have resulted in developing the confidence of Mrs. Rajkarni, who converted herself from a woman farmer to an entrepreneur. Some of the aspects of her entrepreneurship development are discussed below:

Rajkarni as farm women producing field crops

Rakarni is actively engaged in growing field crops during both kharif and rabi seasons. She was managing all the farm operations herself and taking care of performing all the scientific operations suggested by the KVK. The area managed by her under different crops is presented in Table 2.

Table 2: Cropping pattern followed by Rajkarni

Crops	Area (acres)	Production (q)	Net Income
Kharif			
Maize	1.60	26	15000/-
Sorghum	0.10	1.2	12000/-
Rabi			
Wheat	1.60	15	13200/-
Oats	0.10	1.3	12500/-
Total			52,700/-

The farm area under field crops maintained by Rajkarni has been continuously acted as the premium site of scientific demonstrations by the KVK as shown in Figure 1. All the latest technologies in terms of field crops such as line sowing in maize and zero tillage in wheat etc. are being demonstrated by Rajkarni to the neighbouring farmers.

Figure 1: Demonstrations of scientific recommendations in field crops



Rajkarni as farm women producing horticultural crops

Rakarni is also maintaining an orchard comprising of citrus, mango and guava plants. Besides, vegetable cultivation is also an essential component of nutritional kitchen gardening. The detail of horticultural crops maintained at her farm area is presented in Table 3.

Table 3: Detail of horticultural crops grown by Rajkarni

Crops	Area (acres)	Production (q)	Net Income
Kharif			
Summer vegetables	0.25	10	20200/-
Rabi			
Winter vegetables	0.25	12	21000/-
Fruit crops (Citrus)	0.20	14	12000/-
Total			53,200/-

The demonstrations on improved practices for horticultural crops, including vegetables and fruits are also being conducted on the farm of Rajkarni as shown in Figure 2.

Figure 2: Demonstration of high yielding varieties & scientific practices

Rajkarni as farm women as processor of farm produce

Processing is the most important aspect of rainfed farming. Rajkarni is actively engaged in processing of farm produce, including vegetables and fruits. She has also mobilized neighbouring farm women to adopt value addition in a collaborative manner at village level. The detail of economics of value addition is presented in Table 4 and depicted in Figure 3.

Table 4: Details of processing and associated economics

Items processed	Annual Quantity Produced	Net Income
Pickles		
Vegetables, Lemon, mango	2.0 q	12000/-
Candy		
Aonla	0.35 q	15000/-
Total		27,000/-

Figure 3: Glimpses of value addition performed by Rajkarni



Rajkarni as farm women and Group leader

Rakarni has great leadership qualities which made her successful in bringing all the rural women together to carry out joint efforts in farming, including adoption of latest scientific technologies. The detail of group activities carried out by Rajkarni is presented in Table 5.

Table 5: Detail of group dynamics

Particulars	Members	Group Activities
Group dynamics		
Self Help Group	16 women	<u>Social:</u> Problems identification and solutions through consensus <u>Economic:</u> Management of finances, micro credit, processing & marketing

The group activities of farm women under the leadership of Rajkarni are depicted in Figure 4.



Rajkarni as farm women entrepreneur

Besides, performing farm activities, Rakarni is also managing a shop in her own village wherein she undertakes direct selling of milk and milk products produced by her group's members. The detail of items sold in her shop is presented in Table 6 whereas the glimpses of an entrepreneur are depicted in Figure 5.

Table 6: Detail of items sold in village shop

Particulars	Activities conducted
Business	
Owner of sweet shop	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Processing of milk & sale of milk products• Management of funds and accounts of shop• Generated employment for a full time labour

Figure 5: Enhanced Marketable surplus & processing of milk



Rajkarni as farm women and environmentalist

Being progressive farm women, Rakarni is maintain environment quality by adopting sustainable practices. The detail of different practices adopted in her farm is presented in Table 7 whereas the glimpses of are depicted in Figure 6.

Table 7: Detail of sustainable practices adopted

Particulars	Activities
Conservation agriculture	
Recycling & reuse of farm outputs as farm inputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Vermicompost unit• Use of stored farm pond water for vegetable production

Figure 6: Vermiculture unit and village pond maintained by Rajkarni



Rajkarni as a recognized farm women entrepreneur

The efforts and hardwork done by Rakarni have been well recognised at state and national level. She receives several awards as a token of her contribution for boosting agricultural production and cooperation in NICRA village. A live documentary on her efforts has also been covered by DD Kisan. The detail of her recognition is presented in Table 8 whereas the glimpses of are depicted in Figure 7.

Table 8: Recognitions received by Rajkarni

Recognition at different levels	Recognised by
District level	KVK Kathua
State level	SKUAST-Jammu
National level	DD Kisan

Figure 7: Glimpses of awards received by Rajkarni

