

Model case of Natural Farming Practitioners



1. Farmers Details

Sh Mohd Akbar
R/o.Nangali, Tehsil & District- Poonch

Contact No: 8492916232

Sh. Mohd Akbar is an enthusiastic farmer from the village of Nangali, District Poonch, owning 12 kanals of cultivable land. Village Nangali is located at a distance of 4 km from the district Poonch and hardly 2.5 km from KVK Poonch. Being situated near to KVK, the farmer got in close contact with KVK Poonch for the last 6-7 years and has attended many training programmes on soil health, integrated nutrient and pest management, quality seed production etc. He is a very keen farmer who interacts with the KVK scientists in these training programmes.

2. Uniqueness of work related to NF

He used to practice conventional farming on his farm land. He used to apply the chemical fertilizers and FYM in his farm for so many years, however over the period of time he sensed soil degradation and dip in response to fertilizers by different crops. Moreover during the training and awareness programmes on natural farming conducted by KVK Poonch, he realised the harmful effects of chemicals and pesticides on soil and human health and environment. He also realised the importance of using natural farming formulations in sustaining long term soil health. In the year 2023, he started using natural farming in his vegetable plots including chilles and garlic. Later in 2024, he adopted the natural farming practices like use of jeevamrit, mulching and whapsaa in pecan nut crop. Sh Mohd Akbar was one of the first farmers in his village who started natural farming at his farm in vegetables. He is producing quality vegetables of excellent quality.

3. Major practices of NF adopted: Details

Sh. Mohd Akbar is growing different types of cereals and vegetables like Maize, Wheat, Knol-khol, garlic, radish, tomato, brinjal etc. over the years. At the same time, the farmer has established pecan nut orchard in 6 kanals (0.30 ha) in the year

2024. The farmer attended training programme on HADP at KVK Poonch and was motivated by the KVK Head to adopt high value pecan nut cultivation in his farm. At the same time, he received 100 per cent subsidy for establishment of pecan nut orchard under HADP project from Department of Horticulture. Since, he started natural farming practices in cereal and vegetable crops in 2023, he was motivated to apply jeevamrit in newly established orchards by the KVK scientists and also advised to go for mulching and vapsaa for better plant growth. The farmer established pecan nut orchard on the scientific lines in the month of March 2024 and grows garlic in the fallow land in the pecan nut orchard. Rearing of dairy is integral to agriculture in this hilly area and most of the farmers in villages keep 1-2 milch animals for income and livelihood. The farmer is also rearing 2 buffalo and 8 goat and sheep besides 20 poultry birds in his farm which gives him an additional source of income.

4. Details of area renovation center developed at farm:

The farmer initially set up a demonstration unit on one kanal of land at his farm with horizontal expansion over the last two years. At present farmer is practising natural farming in 8 kanls (**0.4 ha**) including 2 kanals under vegetables and 6 kanals under pecan nut orchard.

5. Methodology of preparation of concoctions/bio-inputs /bio-pesticides

During the training programmes, he learned the methods for preparation of jeevamrit using jiggery, beasn, cowdung, cowurine and soil as well as beejamirt. He used desi cow based formulations like jeevamrit and beejamrit in maize, wheat and vegetables. He collected all the literatures related to application schedule of Jeevamrit and beejarit with dose from KVK Poonch and followed a fortnightly schedule in wheat and vegetables and monthly application schedule in pecan nut orchards. The farmer also practised water conservation techniques through mulching,. He also adopts vaapsa in pecan nut orchards

6. Marketing Strategy of Production:

The farmer is producing maize and wheat mainly for his own consumption. A part of left over produce (only 10-12 quintals of maize and 6 quintals of wheat) is put to sale to families who buy milk from this farmer. Since, these families are health conscious and are ready to pay 20-25 per cent higher price, they buy the produce from the farmer on mutual trust.

7. Economic Analyses

The farmer realized almost similar yield due to natural farming in the last 2 years in wheat and maize after practicing natural farming. However, there was low investment on purchase of inputs such as chemical fertilizers and pesticides. Besides he sold vegetables at a premium price. As a result the farmer realized higher net returns in comparison to conventional farming he practiced earlier.

8. Year-Wise Economic Impact of Natural Farming

		Wheat	Maize	Garlic	cucurbits
2022-23	Area (acre)	0.5	0.5	0.25	0.25
	Yield (q/area)	11.8	17.7	21.9	83.2
	Cost of Cultivation (Rs/area)	5560	5360	11450	7420
	Gross income (Rs/area)	15600	16000	42744	36400
	Net Income (Rs/area)	10040	10640	31294	28980
	B.C Ratio	2.81	2.99	3.73	4.91
2023-24	Area (acre)	0.25	0.25	0.75	0.25
	Yield (q/area)	12.32	17.6	23.2	81.6
	Cost of Cultivation (Rs/area)	2960	2826	34860	7640
	Gross income (Rs/area)	7885	8140	135720	36720
	Net Income (Rs/area)	4925	5314	100860	29080
	B.C Ratio	2.66	2.88	3.89	4.81
2024-25	Area (acre)	0.25	0.25	0.75	0.25
	Yield (q/area)	12.2	18.2	24.0	82.4
	Cost of Cultivation (Rs/area)	3050	2996	36660	7800
	Gross income (Rs/area)	8085	8680	144000	39140
	Net Income (Rs/area)	5035	5684	107340	31340
	B.C Ratio	2.65	2.90	3.93	5.02

Influence on other farmers

The use of natural farming practices has resulted in better vegetative growth in pecan nut orchards. Farmers from the village visit his field to see the technologies adopted by the farmer and ask him the methods of preparation of bioformulaions. He has become a source of inspiration and is frequently consulted by fellow farmers regarding the practices of Natural Farming.



9. **Impact:** From the 2 years experience, farmer has observed a positive effect of Natural Farming on soil health. He observed that his soil is more enriched and easy to work because of increased porosity. The natural farming practices has also yielded led to

- Better quality of produce without any pesticide and fertilizer residue. Heathly food is very important for the health of family members
- Reduced cost of cultivation in comparison to conventional farming

More than 15 farmers of his village have adopted Natural farming practices after seeing his success with NF.

10. How KVK can help in promotion of NF

KVK is already extending full help to the farmer in adopting the NF practices. The farmer learned the techniques of preparation of jeevamrit and bejamrit as well as agniastra, darekastra etc from KVK. KVK scientists provided relevant literature related to natural farming in local language for easy understanding by the farmers and are regularly visiting his field to encourage him for expansion of area under natural farming. The farmer received

key inputs from KVK to establish natural farming demonstration farm including drums, tub, jaggery, besan and pump.

KVKs can arrange some exposure visit to KVK Kurushetra or to Solan to provide training and exposure to the farmer in near future.



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KVK POONCH