

Success Story

The tale of my family's happiness starts from vegetable farming, turning the narrative from hardship to prosperity. With the collaboration of World Neighbor WN, the two-year agriculture program run by RCDSC in Jaleshwar, Mahottari, was initiated. I, Avas Kuwari, was a member of the Muslim Barkati group established in Matihani Municipality Dhirapur Ward No. 1. Initially, I used to work on others' farms as a day labourer to support my family. In the beginning, I borrowed NPR 17000 from our group to start vegetable farming. My entire family collaborated to cultivate vegetables on 10 Kattha of land. In the first two seasons, we earned some profit after deducting the costs of seeds and labor. With that money, we leased another 2 Kattha of land and expanded our vegetable cultivation. We also began rearing poultry. We fed the chickens with food scraps we got from the vegetable market, which reduced our costs significantly.

Under the same program, I took NPR 28000 to start poultry farming. I was the first Muslim in our community to do this. Our culture doesn't allow the same coop to be used by both the bride's and groom's families, but I still proceeded as a pioneer. Many followed in my footsteps after seeing my success. I received immense support from our group. Now, when I look at the diverse vegetables produced from our farm due to our hard work, it fills me with immense joy and pride.

At 45 years old, I had a family of 9, including 5 males and 4 females. My children were young, and I was the sole breadwinner. Everyone relied on me, which was challenging. We often faced hardships, sometimes having enough to eat, and other times going hungry. Memories of these struggles are still fresh.

About 7-8 years ago, the employees of RCDSC came to our village. They encouraged us to form groups, save money, and practice vegetable farming. We were skeptical at first but eventually formed the Muslim Barkati group with 25 members, saving NPR 25 each month. The organization regularly held meetings and training sessions, which enlightened us.

Initially, with the support of the organization, I leased 2 Kattha of land for vegetable farming. My family and I worked diligently. That year, from cauliflower and eggplant alone, I earned about NPR 75,000. My confidence grew, and I expanded my farming activities. Now, I own 2 Bigha of land, have managed to

educate my children, married off some, and even sent two of my sons abroad. My grandchildren are studying in the local boarding school. All of this progress is thanks to vegetable farming.

Today, I earn around 2.3 million annually from vegetable farming alone. Farming vegetables has become the primary occupation for my family. We cultivate seasonal and off-seasonal vegetables. My village is now renowned for vegetable farming. In our village, which houses 250 Muslim families, 90% are engaged in commercial vegetable farming.

Such has been the transformative journey of my family and me.