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Popular Article

Natural Farming practices with Crop diversification is the key of Women farmer's Profitability

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Mrs. Kalyani Kailash Murdare a 39-year-old progressive women farmer from the village Bhagur Varu, Taluka Shevgaon, District Ahilyanagar, Maharashtra, has successfully transformed his landholding of 19 acres into a model natural farming enterprise. She belongs to a farming family, Mrs. Kalyani started sustainable and eco-friendly farming ppractices when she realized the limitations of getting healthy and good quality food from her existing chemical-based farming, during Covid years. The high input costs and declining soil fertility was also an alarming concern. Her journey towards natural farming began in 2022, When she came in contact with KVK Dahigaon-ne Scientists and received guidance about Organic/ Natural farming Practices, Further, she took training on Natural Farming at KVK Dahigaon-ne ne during January 2024 under Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh Natural Farming Mission Project started by Government of Maharashtra.

Vermicompost preparation through Vermibed

She motivated by the vision of reducing dependency on costly external inputs and restoring soil health. She overcomes these challenges by preparation of concoctions/bio-inputs /bio-pesticides with the help of KVK Dahigaon ne Scientists whose technical guidance and

support gave her further confidence to adopt her organic/natural farming practices and proceed towards success.

Integration of Crop/Enterprise Diversification:

The lay out of entire farm of 19 acres has been done in well-organized way which included cconstruction of Farm Pond for uninterrupted water supply with micro irrigation, construction of animal shed, slurry preparation tank, Vermicompost unit, recreation area etc. Adoption of diversified cropping and enterprize pattern for year-round pproduction of various products. Through which she is fulfilling her household needs and excess produce is sold in market.

Components and allotment of area under Natural Farming Practices Followed by her are given as follows:

i) Crops – Sugarcane, Red gram, Wheat, Gram,

ii) Horticulture- Fruit crops -Coconut, Jamun, Mango.

Vegetable crops grown by Mrs. Kalyani at her farm

Vegetable Crops – Brinjal, Cabage, Cauliflower

Flower Crops -Merigold

Brinjal & Vegetable crops grown by Mrs. Kalyani at her farm

iii) Intercropping – Maize + Moong Bean, Wheat + Mustard, Pigeon Pea + Moong Bean

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iv) Mulching – Mulching with Straw and Sugarcane trash management

v) VAPASA- Proper drainage system developed alongside of Bunds and Borders of field

vi) Integration of animals: 20 No. Of Desi Cow reared These cows fed with organic fodder and feed.

Desi cow rearing at Mrs. Kalyani's farm

Area occupied under field crops is 6.5-acre, horticultural crops is 6.5 and under fodder and dairy 6.0-acre area is allotted. Remaining 0.5-acre area is kept for Nutritional Kitchen Garden (NKG).

Methodology of preparation of concoctions/bio-inputs /bio-pesticides:

Slurry Unit: 500-liter Slurry is Produced daily which is applied to Crops@ 200 liters/ acre for field crops and 50 liter each for Horticultural crops ie. Coconut, Jamun and Mango at 15 days interval.

Vermicompost Unit: 2000 Kg Vermicompost unit is established though which 6000 Kg Vermicompost is prepared annually and applied to crops at the rate of 500 kg /acre once in a season.

Bio product Unit

Jivamrut 200 liter jivamrut is Prepared by mixing 20 kg fresh deshi cow dung, 20 liters of cow urine + 2 kg of Jaggary and 2 kg of gram flour mixed together furmrnted for 7 days , this solution is enriched with Azotobactor, P.S.B . K.M.B @2 liter each just before application in the field.

Various concoctions are prepared by Mrs. Kalyani on her farm

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Bijamrut, dashparni, neemark, agniastra and brahmastra also used by her on her field to apply nutreints and protect the crops from pests.

Marketing Strategy: Products are prepared, collected, packed and sold in various housing societies on demand basis and most of the products are sold in the market with good margin.

Component wise Economic Analysis

Component	Area in acre	Total Expenses	Total Income	Net Income
Crops – Sugarcne , Wheat, Bengalgram	6	612500	1178750	566250
Vegetables – Onion, Brinjal, Watermelon	3	152500	375000	222500
Fruit crops – Guava, Coconut, Jamun	3	92500	1462500	560000
Dairy Products	3 acre 12 Cows	262000	420000	158000
Total	15	1929500	3436250	1560750


Self-marketing of her produce

Influence on other farmers:

The experience of Mrs. Kalyani Murdare, highlights that diversification is the key to stability and profitability in natural farming. By integrating crops, vegetables, fruits and livestock, she has created a climate resilient farming system that generates year-round income while reducing risks associated with mono-cropping. Her emphasis on value addition, such as processing sugarcane into Jaggary, milk in to Ghee combined with direct marketing strategies in metropolitan cities like Pune local like farm stall at Farm itself and also supply in local malls, has further enhanced profitability and ensured better consumer trust. Importantly, her journey shows how peer influence and farmer-to-farmer extension can accelerate the adoption

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of natural farming practices, she gains confidence by observing practical demonstrations and results on the ground. Her success demonstrates that natural farming, often perceived as traditional or subsistence-oriented, can in fact be a highly profitable and sustainable venture. It offers farmers not only economic security but also ecological benefits through improved soil health, biodiversity, and reduced dependency on costly external inputs.

Impact:

Mrs. Kalyani Murdare has made significant contributions in promoting natural farming in Ahilynagar District of Maharashtra. With the support of KVK Dahigaon ne, she has increased her outreach and farmer-to-farmer extension. Her farm recorded a marked improvement in soil health, with organic carbon levels on his farm rising from 0.4 to 0.89%, demonstrating the effectiveness of bio-inputs and sustainable practices. More than 250 farmers and 300 Students have visited his farm, and some of them have already adopted natural farming under her guidance. Beyond her field, she has acquired different skills in Beekeeping, Vermicompost making, Milk processing etc. She has strong linkage with AMTA and various state departments sharing practical insights and motivating farmers. She actively supports knowledge dissemination, consumer awareness, and community adoption, making him a regional leader in natural farming.

KVK help in promotion of NF:

KVK Dahigaon ne imparted training for capacity building of farmers in low cost locally available inputs in regional language, demonstrated natural farming practices and technologies through established model at kvk farm, conducting demonstration and on farm trials to prove productivity and economic viability of Natural Farming. KVK also documented and validated indigenous natural farming practices by conducting comparative trails and publish data. KVK also support farmers for establishing bio input resource center, seed bank etc. KVK is also facilitating for creating market linkages with establishing FPOs, promote packing branding labelling of Natural Products. KVK ensure scalable and sustainable adoption of Natural farming.

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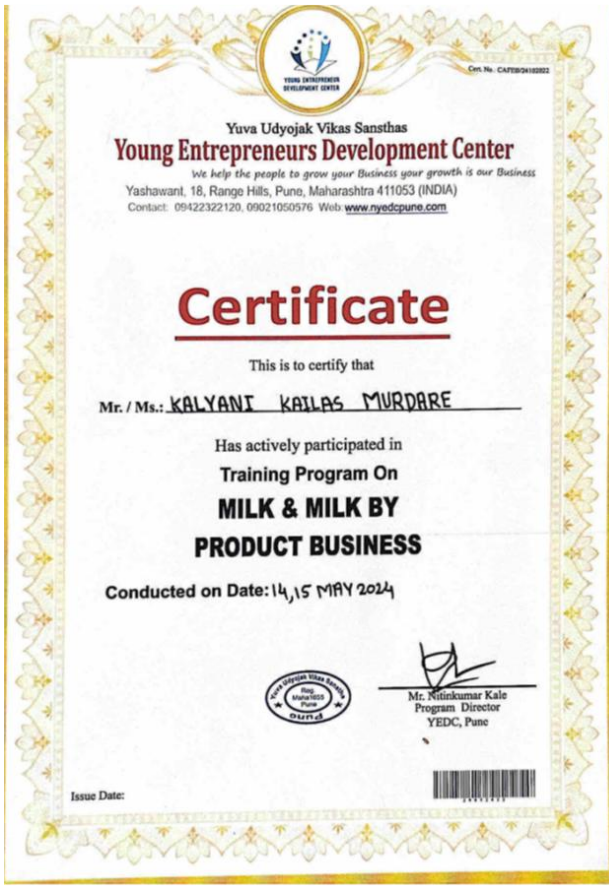

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Certificate

This is to certify that

Mr. / Ms.: KALYANI KAILAS MURDARE

Has actively participated in

Training Program On

MILK & MILK BY

PRODUCT BUSINESS

Conducted on Date: 14,15 MAY 2024

Mr. Nitinkumar Kale
Program Director
YEDC, Pune

Issue Date:

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के माध्यम से पूर्ण किया है।

This is to certify that Mr/Mrs/Ms Kalyani Kailas Murdare has

successfully completed Short Term Beekeeping Training

Programme at Central Bee Research & Training Institute, Pune the

period from 20-02-2024 to 24-02-2024 through

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