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From Zero to 100 Acres: A Natural Farming Success Story of Shri Shiv Narayan Yadav in Jehanabad, Bihar

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A Farmer Who Became a Natural Farming Resource for His Community



Shri Shiv Narayan Yadav, son of Shri Punit Yadav, is a 62-year-old small farmer from Lohgarh village, Makhdumpur block, Jehanabad district, Bihar. He has completed his education up to matriculation and owns approximately 3.0 acres of land. He also maintains 20 indigenous cows, which are an important part of his integrated, Natural Farming-based livelihood system. His major farming systems include crop and dairy-based integrated farming, paddy–wheat–moong, and paddy–lentil cropping systems. Over the years, he has emerged as a practicing Natural Farming farmer as well as a local Natural Farming resource person, contributing to the dissemination of sustainable agricultural practices among fellow farmers. By 2025, his efforts had influenced Natural Farming adoption over approximately 100 acres, while he had trained and guided hundreds of farmers in the district.

Background of the Farmer:

Shri **Shiv Narayan Yadav** is a progressive farmer from Lohgarh village of Makhdumpur block, Jehanabad district, Bihar. He has been engaged in agriculture and dairy farming for many years and has gradually transformed his farming system from conventional crop production into a diversified and resource-based farming system. Initially, his farming was mainly dependent on seasonal crops such as paddy and wheat, with dairy as an allied enterprise.

The farmer faced challenges such as irregular rainfall, crop diseases, increasing dependence on external inputs and difficulties in marketing farm produce. These challenges encouraged him to explore farming methods that could reduce dependence on external inputs and make better use of locally available resources.

Over the years, his interest gradually shifted towards **natural farming based on indigenous livestock resources, farm-made inputs, recycling of biomass and local knowledge**. By 2025, he had developed a strong practical experience in natural farming and was sharing his knowledge and natural-farming inputs with other farmers in Jehanabad district.

Transformation through Natural Farming

A remarkable journey: 0 → 100 acres

One of the most important achievements of Shri Shiv Narayan Yadav is the gradual spread of natural farming in his surrounding villages.

Indicator	**Initial situation**	**Status by 2025**
Area under/linked with natural farming	**0 acre**	**~100 acres**
Indigenous cows	—	**20 cows**
Farmers trained/guided	0	**Hundreds**
Natural farming inputs	External inputs dominated	**Farm-based/local inputs**
Knowledge dissemination	Individual farm	**Village-to-village farmer learning**
Natural farming adoption	Negligible	**Adoption by neighbouring farmers**

Thus, over approximately **10 years**, natural farming associated with his efforts expanded from virtually **zero to around 100 acres**, representing a physical spread of approximately **40.5 hectares**.

Natural Farming Practices and Indigenous Cow-Based Resource Management

A major strength of Shri Shiv Narayan Yadav's natural farming model is his 20 indigenous/desi cows.

The livestock component provides an important local resource base for preparation of natural farming inputs. Natural farming as a livestock-integrated, ecological farming approach in which locally available resources, particularly cow dung and cow urine, are used in formulations such as Beejamrit and Jivamrit, together with mulching, water-management practices and botanical plant protection.

The farmer's 20 indigenous cows therefore serve both as a livestock enterprise and as an important **resource base for natural farming**.

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The most significant feature of this success story is the **knowledge multiplier effect**.

Shri Shiv Narayan Yadav has not restricted natural farming practices to his own farm. He has been: **Learning → Practising → Preparing inputs → Demonstrating → Training farmers → Supplying inputs → Mentoring neighbouring farmers → Expansion of natural farming area**

He has trained **hundreds of farmers** in natural-farming practices. Farmers from nearby villages have visited his farm, observed the preparation and use of natural inputs, interacted with him and subsequently adopted natural farming practices on their own fields.

This farmer-to-farmer model has created a local network of natural-farming practitioners in and around Lohgarh and neighbouring villages of Jehanabad.

Extension impact by 2025

- **Hundreds of farmers trained/guided**
- **~100 acres (40.5 ha) influenced/adopted**
- Natural farming expanded beyond the farmer's own holding
- Local availability of natural farming inputs improved
- Practical knowledge transferred through demonstrations
- Neighbouring farmers started adopting natural farming
- Indigenous cattle became a resource for farm-based input preparation

His farmer-led dissemination aligns closely with the National Mission on Natural Farming's emphasis on trained farmers, Farmer Master Trainers, local resource persons and village-level handholding.

The journey of Shri Shiv Narayan Yadav illustrates how a progressive farmer can become a catalyst for agricultural transformation beyond his own farm. Starting from virtually no area under natural farming, his continuous experimentation, use of indigenous livestock resources and willingness to share practical knowledge helped natural farming spread to approximately 100 acres by 2025 in the surrounding farming community.

With 20 indigenous cows, he has developed an important resource base for farm-based natural inputs. More importantly, he has shared his knowledge with hundreds of farmers, enabling neighbouring farmers to observe, learn and adopt natural-farming practices.

His journey from “farmer practitioner” to “farmer trainer and local natural-farming resource person” demonstrates the power of farmer-to-farmer extension in accelerating sustainable agricultural practices in Jehanabad district.

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Economic Impact

Particular	Before Intervention (2021)	After Intervention (2025)
Area	4 acres	4 acres
Total crop production (Paddy + Wheat)	76.0 q	83.6 q*
Gross Income (Rs.)	₹93,200	₹1,02,520*
Cost of cultivation (Rs.)	₹45,867	₹34,400*
Net Income (Rs.)	₹47,333	₹68,120*
Benefit-Cost Ratio	2.03	2.98*

On his 4-acre holding, Shri Shiv Narayan Yadav has progressively integrated natural farming with crop and livestock enterprises. The farm-level economic assessment should be based on verified 2025 records of crop yield, input expenditure and returns. In addition, his farmer-to-farmer extension has helped natural farming spread from virtually zero area to approximately 100 acres in the surrounding farming community over the last decade

Social Impact and Farmer-to-Farmer Extension

Shri Shiv Narayan Yadav has emerged as a local champion of Natural Farming in Jehanabad district by sharing his practical experience, knowledge and farm-based natural farming inputs with fellow farmers. His approach has extended the benefits of natural farming beyond his own 4-acre holding and created a visible farmer-to-farmer learning network in the surrounding villages.

Over the last 10 years, the area associated with natural farming through his efforts has increased from virtually zero to approximately 100 acres by 2025. Farmers from nearby villages visit and interact with him to learn about natural farming practices and the preparation and use of farm-based inputs. After observing the practices at his farm, several neighbouring farmers have started adopting natural farming on their own fields.

With the support of his 20 indigenous/desi cows, he has also been able to provide natural farming inputs to farmers, helping them access locally prepared resources and reducing dependence on externally purchased inputs. He has personally trained and guided hundreds of farmers on natural farming practices and continues to provide practical advice during crop production.

His farmer-led extension model—"learn, practice, demonstrate and share"—has helped create awareness and encourage wider adoption of natural farming in the local farming

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community. This type of hands-on, farmer-to-farmer knowledge sharing is also consistent with the extension approach of the National Mission on Natural Farming, which emphasizes practising farmers, demonstrations, training and continuous field-level handholding.

Entrepreneurship and Employment Generation

Shri Shiv Narayan Yadav has developed a livestock-integrated natural farming model in which his 20 indigenous/desi cows serve as an important resource for both livelihood generation and preparation of natural farming inputs. Instead of treating livestock and crop production as separate enterprises, he links them through recycling of locally available resources and preparation of farm-based inputs for natural farming.

A significant entrepreneurial dimension of his work is the preparation and supply of natural farming inputs to fellow farmers in Jehanabad district. He has been providing locally prepared inputs and sharing practical knowledge with farmers, thereby creating a local source of natural-farming inputs and reducing farmers' dependence on externally purchased inputs. The National Mission on Natural Farming specifically promotes livestock-integrated farming and on-farm preparation of natural farming bio-inputs.

His farm has therefore evolved beyond being a production unit into a demonstration, training and resource centre at the local level. He has trained and guided hundreds of farmers in natural farming, while farmers from neighbouring villages have adopted the practices after learning from him.

The expansion of natural farming from virtually zero to approximately 100 acres over the last decade has created opportunities for local employment through input preparation, livestock management, farm operations and knowledge dissemination.

The enterprise has scope for further development through organized production of natural farming inputs, packaging and marketing, farmer training, establishment of a village-level bio-input resource centre, and linkage with farmer groups/FPOs. Such local input systems are also envisaged under NMNF through Bio-input Resource Centres.

Awards, Recognition and Media Coverage

Shri Shiv Narayan Yadav has received recognition for his contribution to agriculture and his efforts to promote improved and sustainable farming practices in Jehanabad. He was felicitated by the District Magistrate, Jehanabad, during the District-level Kisan Mela in recognition of his contribution as a progressive farmer. He has also received recognition at the Bihar Agricultural University (BAU), Sabour Kisan Mela, where progressive and innovative farmers are recognized

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for their contribution to agricultural development. BAU's Kisan Mela programme specifically includes recognition and awards for innovative/progressive farmers

Future Vision

Shri Shiv Narayan Yadav envisions developing his farm as a model centre for Natural Farming and farmer-to-farmer learning in Jehanabad district. He plans to further strengthen the integration of his 20 indigenous cows with crop production, enabling greater recycling of farm resources and regular preparation of natural farming inputs such as Jeevamrit, Beejamrit and botanical formulations. He aims to expand the area influenced by Natural Farming beyond the approximately 100 acres reached by 2025 and motivate more farmers in neighbouring villages to adopt resource-efficient and sustainable practices.

He also plans to strengthen farmer groups and local networks for collective learning, input preparation and marketing of naturally grown produce. An important part of his vision is to mentor young farmers and rural youth, train them in practical Natural Farming techniques and encourage agriculture-based entrepreneurship. He intends to work closely with KVK scientists, agricultural institutions and farmer organizations to promote scientifically supported, climate-resilient and economically sustainable farming.

Message to Fellow Farmers

I request my fellow farmers to never stop learning and experimenting with better farming practices. Natural Farming is not only about reducing outside inputs; it is about making better use of our own farm resources, especially indigenous cattle, crop residues and locally available materials. I have seen that when farmers learn by doing and share their experience with others, good practices spread quickly. I encourage farmers to adopt scientific methods, attend KVK trainings, prepare natural farming inputs on the farm, reduce unnecessary expenditure and diversify their farm enterprises. Let us learn continuously, support one another and make agriculture more sustainable, profitable and resilient for future generations.





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