

Dr. Jatinder Singh in the farmers fair organised by Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Reasi. He was also appreciated by the Vice Chancellor of SKUAST-Jammu Dr.P.K.Sharma for his efforts for diversified agriculture in the PPV&FRA programme organised by KVK, Reasi. Sh. Shail Singh another farmer from this village was awarded in the farmers fair organised by SKUAST-J in 2015-16 for promoting the spota (Chicku) farming in Reasi district. Efforts of the Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Reasi scientists and progressive farmers of Sirah village have given new shape to the diversification in agriculture and the quantity and quality of agricultural production have been increased. By observing the results of scientific diversified agriculture in Sirah village the other farmers of the adjoining villages are also attracted towards scientific diversification in agriculture. With the increase in the income of the farmers their respect and recognition have also been increased in the society. They have built their Pucca houses and their children education status is improving year after year. They exhibit their organic farm produce in different farmers' fairs organised by SKUAST-J & allied departments and recognised by the different organisations. Their efforts for diversified farming were highly appreciated by Hon'ble ex-DG, ICAR, Dr. S. Ayappan, Hon'ble Union Minister Dr. Jatinder Singh, Hon'ble Governor of J&K Sh. N.N.Vora, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of SKUAST-J Dr.P.K.Sharma and Hon'ble J&K Min. Sh. Ajay Nanda during the farmers' fairs and other extension activities conducted by SKUAST-J. KVK, Reasi is making strenuous efforts for the farmers' welfare through scientific diversified agriculture in the hilly district Reasi of Jammu and Kashmir.



The writers are :

- Dr. Banarsi Lal, I/C, Sr. Scientist-cum-Head, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Reasi -182301
- Dr.R.K.Arora, Associate Director Extension & In-charge of KVKs of SKUAST-J
- Dr. Shahid Ahmad, Deputy Director Research, Directorate of Research, SKUAST-J
- Sh. Jagdish Kumar, Programme Assistant (Computer), Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Reasi, (SKUAST-J)



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## SUCCESS STORY



## DIVERSIFIED AGRICULTURE IN SIRAH VILLAGE OF REASI DISTRICT (Adopted by KVK, Reasi)

Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Reasi  
**DIRECTORATE OF EXTENSION**  
Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology of Jammu

## 1. Situation Analysis/Problem Statement

Agriculture is the major occupation of the people in Jammu & Kashmir where more than 75 per cent of the population is directly associated with agriculture. Thus, agricultural development harbinger the overall growth and development of the State. Jammu and Kashmir is a mountainous state in which about 30 per cent of the area is under cultivation. Agriculture is the mainstay of the people as it provides employment to about 75 per cent of the workforce.

There is dire need to increase the income and employment in agriculture and allied sectors for the farmers of the hilly state. There is possibility to increase the production and productivity of the crops and to enable the farmers to diversify their crop production by adopting the modern technologies in agriculture and establishing the infrastructure for the farm production of hilly areas of J&K. There is need to promote the diversification in agriculture and move towards high value crops like vegetables, aromatic and medicinal plants, saffron, mushroom, beekeeping, silkworms, pulses etc. It is matter of grave concern that the interest of younger generation in the state is dwindling towards agriculture.

Reasi is the hilly district of Jammu and Kashmir. Most of the farmers of this district are small and marginal and crops are mostly cultivated under rain fed (about 94%) conditions. Major crops grown in this area are maize, wheat, paddy, mash and potato. Farmers of this district are having very limited resources and mostly they adopt the traditional system of agriculture. The yield of all the crops is low as compared to the national and state average yields. The adoption percentage of modern agricultural technologies is low resulting in the low socio-economic status of the farmers. There are various insect-pests and disease problems in the district. Boars and monkeys too damage the crops to a large extent in this particular district.



Sirah village is about 13 km away from world famous religious place Katra in Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir. This village is situated near the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi (SMVD) University and Super Speciality Narayani hospital. There are around 150 families in the village. The major occupation of the people is agriculture but there is no source of irrigation and the village is totally rainfed. The village is having vermicompost units, tractors, reaper-cum-binder, disc harrows, ferti-seed drills, rotaveter etc. There are many progressive farmers in the village Sirah. The village is having around 100 hectares of land. Initially the villagers were growing maize, wheat and few local varieties of vegetables as their forefathers were doing. They were using the traditional technologies in their fields and monkeys and boars were the great threats in their fields. All the agricultural produce was consumed by their families with very little surplus to sell. Their farming system was deteriorating and they were unable to mitigate the basic needs of their families.

## 2. Plan, Implementation and Support of KVK

Before the KVK interventions the farmers of Sirah village were doing the unscientific agriculture on a small scale. They were endouering for scientific diversified agriculture to increase their income. They were using the local resources and were growing of maize, wheat, fruits, vegetables, marigold etc. with the traditional methods. Initially they got mediocre results and also got some failures especially in fruits and vegetables. They were lacking the scientific knowledge of diversified agriculture. Then they came in contact with the KVK, Reasi scientists. KVK scientists started regularly visiting their farms and a benchmark study was conducted in the village. The farmers were guided and motivated to use new agricultural technologies at their farms so as to increase their crops production. They were motivated for diversified agriculture in a scientific way. KVK Reasi organised the trainings / awareness programmes / kisan ghosties / field days/exposure visits/farmers fairs etc. on diversified agriculture in Sirah village of Reasi distt. KVK, Reasi scientists laid Front Line Demonstrations (FLDs) and On Farm Trials (OFTs) in the village. The technical guidelines on different crops were provided to the farmers. The farmers were fascinated by observing the results of FLDs and OFTs and they showed keen interest in the adoption of the technologies. The technical literature on diversified agriculture was provided to the farmers of the village. The KVK work was synergised by the Department of Agriculture and other allied departments. Scientific cultivation of cereals, pulses, oil seeds, fruits, organic vegetable, poultry etc. changed their life. KVK, Reasi has also introduced the new varieties of aromatic and medicinal plants and have promoted lemon grass farming and phalsa farming in around 100 Kanals of land of the village in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Integrative Medicines (IIM)- Jammu and Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (CIMAP) - Lucknow to overcome the problem of monkeys menace in the area.

## 3. Output

Before KVK interventions farmers of Sirah village were using their traditional technologies for diversified agriculture and they were lacking the technical skills and knowledge on diversified agriculture. There was heavy infestation of diseases and insects-pests and farmers were earning only Rs. 81,000/ha as their crops productivity was low but with the new scientific technologies of diversified agriculture their crops productivity increased and they raised their annual income up to Rs. 2,67,000/ha in 2014-15 to Rs. 3,56,000/ha in 2015-16. By growing the different crops, the farmers are fetching more prices.

## Before KVK intervention:

S. No.	Enterprise taken	Operational Expenses(Rs./ha)	Total Output(Rs./ha)	Net Profit(Rs./ha)
1.	Traditional methods of diversified agriculture	80,000	1,61,000	81,000

## After KVK intervention:

S. No.	Year	Enterprise taken	Operational Expenses(Rs./ha)	Total Output(Rs./ha)	Net Profit(Rs./ha)
1.	2014-15	Scientific methods of diversified agriculture	1,23,000	3,90,000	2,67,000
2.	2015-16	Scientific methods of diversified agriculture	1,27,000	4,83,000	3,56,000

## 4. Outcome

By observing the successful results of different crops in Sirah village, the other farmers of the adjoining villages such as Sool, Dheerti, Bhakta, Painthal etc. are also showing keen interest for diversified agriculture. With the introduction of scientific technologies of different crops the farmers are able to generate extra income and employment. With the introduction of vermicompost units the farmers are able to fulfil the need of the required soil nutrients in the organic vegetables growing. With the generation of extra income the farmers developed confidence to mitigate their basic problems. A self-reliance and entrepreneurial spirit has been developed among the farmers. Their new attitude towards scientific diversified agriculture has been developed. Sirah farmers' success in diversification in agriculture is inspiring the other farmers of the area in shifting the villagers towards diversification in agriculture in a scientific way for better economic returns. The other farmers of the area take opinion from them about the scientific agricultural practices used in diversified agriculture. With the scientific diversified agriculture the socio-economic status of the farmers have been improved.

## 5. Impact

KVK in the form of farmer's trainings, vocational trainings, front line demonstrations, farmers-scientists interaction, farmers' exposure visit, field days, Kisan Ghosties, campaigns, dissemination of production technologies through radio, TV, extension literature etc. have led to increase in agricultural diversification in the village. Gradually many farmers of the area are becoming interested in scientific diversification in agriculture. They have developed a good rapport with the KVK scientists and always participate in the agricultural extension activities conducted by the Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Reasi. Year-by-year they started to generate more income and employment. Lot of farmers including Sh. Tilak Raj, a progressive farmer in the village was highly impressed with the technical guidelines given by the KVK scientists and presently he is having one reaper-cum-binder, rotaveter, disc harrow, ferti-seed drill, maize sheller, two thrashers, two tractors etc. He possesses 160 mango plants, 80 guava plants, 6 litchi plants, 60 banana plants, 35 citrus plants, 10 papaya plants, 15 aonla plants, 7 pear plants and 164 agro forestry trees. He is also having one gobar gas plants and one vermicompost unit which were established by the Department of Agriculture. There are many other farmers in the village who have become agri-entrepreneurs like Sh. Tilak Raj. They used to sale wheat, maize, fruits, pulses, oilseeds, organic vegetables, marigold, poultry etc. produced. Now the village farmers have developed confidence in themselves and they are having lot of credibility on KVK scientists. The village farmers have become an example of success and motivating factor for other farmers in adjoining areas. KVK scientists too motivated other farmers also for the diversification in agriculture as it can change their socio-economic status. Farmers were facilitated to develop the marketing channels to sale their farm produce in local markets, Katra and even in Jammu. Katra has an immense potential for the marketing of their farm produce especially fruits and vegetables.



Sh. Tilak Raj, a progressive farmer of this village was felicitated by the Governor of J&K State Sh. N.N. Vohra in a farmer fair organised by the Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology, Jammu (SKUAST-J) as a progressive diversified farmer in 2013-14. In 2016-17 he was again honoured by Hon'ble Union Minister