

Turning Low-Lying Land into Gold: The Success Story of Bajinder Singh

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Farmer Profile

Name – Bajinder Singh

Father Name – Devendra Singh

Introduction

Bajinder Singh, a farmer from Nogawan village in Fatehgarh District, Punjab, is well-known for his inspiring shift from traditional wheat-paddy farming to successful fish farming. In 2016, he faced the challenge of low-lying land that wasn't suitable for regular crops. He decided to try fish farming on his own 2.5 acres, plus an additional 4 acres leased from the village panchayat. He reached out to the local fisheries department for technical guidance and completed formal training, learning how to build ponds, stock fish, and manage his farm.

Steps: Improving Production and Innovation

With a Rs 10 lakh investment, Bajinder dug two ponds on his 6.5 acres of land. The government supported his venture with subsidies. Farmers like him receive Rs 60,000 per acre for building ponds, Rs 20,000 per acre for fish feed, and up to Rs 23,000 for pond aerators. They also have access to bank loans, making it easier to start a new business. This help allowed Bajinder to create modern, well-managed ponds where he raised six species of herbivorous fish: Catla, Rohu, Murakh, Silver Carp, Grass Carp, and Common Carp. He achieved yields of up to 32 quintals per acre. With the help of the subsidy and ongoing support, he continuously improved his operation.



Steps : A Comparison of Income Before and After

Prior to (Traditional Wheat-Paddy Farming), Bajinder could make between Rs 2 and Rs 3 lakh a year on the same 6.5 acres of land after subtracting input costs like labor, seeds, fertilizer, and pesticides. Profitability was further diminished by his land's low productivity. Following (6.5 Acres of Fish Farming), Bajinder's yearly gross income increased to roughly Rs 15 lakh thanks to pisciculture. His net profit continuously remained above Rs 10 lakh annually, which is nearly four to five times more than traditional farming, after subtracting input costs of about Rs 3 lakh (for feed, medicines, and water management).

Results

The results were immediate and impressive. In his first year, Bajinder earned more profit than he did from his wheat-paddy rotation. By 2019, his annual gross income from fish sales on

6.5 acres reached Rs 15 lakh. After deducting input costs of about Rs 3 lakh for feed, medicines, and water management, his net profits consistently stayed above Rs 10 lakh per year. His approach turned low-earning land into a profitable venture, making fish farming more rewarding than traditional agriculture. This inspired over 30 other farmers in Nogawan to follow his example. Bajinder's success continues to encourage others, as he shares his knowledge and supports village projects for a more diverse rural income.

Conclusion

Today, Bajinder not only leads his community in profitable fish farming but also includes agroforestry and vegetable growing around his ponds to improve sustainability and income. With support from Punjab's fisheries department and driven by his determination, Bajinder Singh stands as a remarkable example of modern agricultural success through fish farming.

Message From Farmer

जमीन बेकार नहीं होती, सही तरीका अपनाओ तो सोना उगाती है।