



AGRI MAGAZINE

(International E-Magazine for Agricultural Articles)

Volume: 02, Issue: 10 (October, 2025)

Available online at <http://www.agrimagazine.in>

© Agri Magazine, ISSN: 3048-8656

The Story of Gurmeet Singh, a Farmer from Mohali

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On the outskirts of Mohali, in the quiet village of Majri, lives Gurmeet Singh—whose hands have known the soil since childhood. Born into an agricultural family, Gurmeet never imagined anything beyond the rhythm of ploughing, sowing, and harvesting. His earliest memories are of following his father into the fields, trying to match his footsteps while holding a small sickle. Farming was never easy for the Singh family. With just three acres of land, every season was a gamble. Some years were good, but most were just enough to cover the costs. Like many others in Punjab, they grew paddy and wheat year after year—because that's what everyone did. The crops were water-intensive, input costs kept rising, and returns were shrinking. By the time Gurmeet took over the land after his father fell ill, he had dreams—but they were buried under debt and drought. In 2012, two unsuccessful harvests brought him to the brink. He owed more than ₹3.5 lakhs. The soil, once fertile and forgiving, had turned stubborn and dry. Chemicals had sucked the life out of it. Gurmeet started questioning everything—his future, his land, even his identity as a farmer. But defeat was never an option. “I was born on this land,” he often says, “and I will stand with it. But something had to change. I couldn't keep farming the old way and expect different results.”

The First Spark

The spark came at a small agricultural fair in Ludhiana. Hesitant at first, Gurmeet attended a session on organic farming organized by Punjab Agricultural University. He listened, took notes, and watched other farmers talk about composting and selling directly to consumers. Something clicked. “I couldn't understand everything,” he laughs now, “but I understood one thing—if I didn't change, nothing would change.”

Back in Mohali, he started small. A single Kanal of land was set aside for growing organic vegetables—spinach, bottle gourd, coriander, and lady's finger. Instead of chemicals, he used compost made from cow dung, leaves, and kitchen waste. Neem oil became his insecticide, and buttermilk was used as fertilizer.

The results weren't magical overnight. Yields were low, and many villagers mocked him. But Gurmeet noticed something different—the soil had softened, earthworms had returned, and his vegetables smelled like real food again. The taste? Richer, crisper, fresher. From there, he adopted drip irrigation to save water, built a vermicompost unit to enrich the soil, and introduced beekeeping to enhance pollination. Each step was a lesson in patience. With two wooden beehives and a heart full of hope, Gurmeet began producing raw honey, which he packed in glass bottles and sold at local gurudwaras and city markets. “I called it ‘Mohali Madhu’,” he smiles. “It was pure—just like my dream.”

Rising Above

By 2016, Gurmeet's farm had completely transformed. Flowers danced alongside vegetables, bees hummed between mustard blossoms, and compost pits churned silently at the edge of the land. His income had nearly tripled. With no middlemen and reduced input costs, Gurmeet was finally earning a stable profit.

He started selling his organic produce directly to homes in Mohali and Chandigarh—delivering fresh vegetables in cloth bags by scooter. Word spread quickly. Families started placing weekly orders. A local supermarket gave him a dedicated shelf. His phone wouldn't stop ringing.

That same year, Gurmeet was invited to share his journey at a Krishi Vigyan Kendra seminar. For someone who barely spoke in school, standing before 200 farmers was overwhelming. But when he said—honestly and humbly—he received a standing ovation. His farm soon became a model for others. Students, researchers, and curious farmers visited regularly. Gurmeet would walk them through each section of land, explaining what worked and what didn't. He never charged a rupee for advice.

"I didn't want to grow alone," he says. "What's the point of success if your neighbours are still struggling?"

In 2019, Gurmeet received the Krishi Ratna Award. Newspapers featured his story. Doordarshan Kisan aired a documentary about his journey. But Gurmeet remained the same. Every morning, he still woke up before sunrise, tied his turban, and walked barefoot into the fields.

A Living Ecosystem

Today, Gurmeet's three-acre farm looks more like a thriving ecosystem than a piece of agricultural land. Rows of Tulsi and ashwagandha sway gently next to tomatoes and cauliflower. Bees dart between sunflower patches. His polyhouse is filled with exotic herbs, and solar panels power the entire storage shed. He is no longer just a farmer—he is a teacher, an entrepreneur, and a source of inspiration. Gurmeet dreams of opening a farm café in Mohali, where people can enjoy food made from vegetables grown on his land. He is also working on an app that will allow customers to subscribe to weekly organic vegetable baskets. In his free time, he mentors young farmers across Punjab who reach out to him with questions, doubts, and dreams.

Gurmeet Singh's journey—from bankruptcy to national recognition is not built on miracles. It is built on belief. Belief in the land. Belief in learning. Belief that farming is not just about survival—it's about thriving. He often tells young farmers, "Don't just grow crops. Grow your mind. Grow your courage. And grow your faith in the soil." Looking at his farm now, it's hard to believe it was once barren and broken. Today, it's alive—just like the man who refused to give up on it. And that, truly, is the story of a farmer from Mohali who turned mud into magic.