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From Crisis to Courage

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Farmer's details

Name: Rajdeep Kaur

Age: 37

Village: Dholan Majra

Enterprise: Dairy, Crop Cultivation, Pickle/Murabba Sales, Sticking.

Introduction

In Dholan Majra village of Chamkaur Shaib, Rupnagar, Punjab, Rajdeep Kaur, 37-year-old woman lives with her husband Hameer Singh, her elderly in-laws and her son. The family owned 6 acres of land and her husband used to manage all farming activities. However, after serious road accident, Hameer Singh became physical disabled and this sudden situation badly affected the family's financial condition, as there was no one to handle farming properly. After all difficulties and not losing hope, Rajdeep Kaur decided to take responsibility for her family and she planned to start seasonal and diversified work to improve financial stability of her home.

Start of her career

The family already had livestock at home. Earlier, they used to sell milk directly, but the milk price was very less, so Rajdeep decided to make small changes, she started selling buffalo milk directly and she began preparing homemade desi ghee from cow milk. She sold desi ghee locally and at Chandigarh Sec-28, where she received better price and this decision brought visible improvements in their income. At the same time, her father-in-law helped her in managing the fields. Along with their owned 6 acres of land, they leased 7 more acres, making a total of 13 acres under cultivation for more profit. In order to manage both farming and livestock, as she faced difficulty in handling everything; she hired permanent workers for regular support.

Afterwards, Rajdeep along with her mother-in-law, started preparing homemade lemon and green chilli pickles from their own farm produce. They also began making amla murabba by sourcing amla from outside during season. These products were sold in local mandis/market and to the local vendors. This seasonal food processing business became an additional source of income and helped them utilize surplus produce effectively. Apart from farming and dairy, she also does the stitching work, although this income is not always consistent, but it still adds to the household income. Moreover, the stitching was her hobby, which gives her both personal satisfaction and financial support.

Rajdeep Kaur follows a diversified farming model that includes:

- Crop cultivation on 13 acres (6 acres owned + 7 acres leased)
- Dairy farming (milk and ghee production)
- Food processing (pickles and murabba)
- Stitching work

Through the multiple income sources, she managed risk effectively. Even though she faces seasonal challenges and occasional losses but her estimated annual income is around 15 lakh per annum. Today, the financial condition of her family has improved significantly and her journey became the motivation for many other women in village. Rajdeep Kaur plans to expand her pickle and murabba business in coming years. She also aims to increase her diary livestock to enhance milk and ghee production. Her vision is to build a stable and continuously growing family enterprise.

Rajdeep Kaur's journey shows that "Hard times can break you or make you stronger". Since she chooses to stand up for her family, She secured a prosperous future for her family and set an example, that if we use our skills wisely and never lose the hope, the farming can give us multiple opportunities. Her story demonstrates that with the vision, dedication the women also can transform the traditional practices into successful agribusiness-ensuring financial security while positively impacting the environment and society.



Fig.1 Livestock



Fig.2 Crop Cultivation