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From Traditional Farming to Integrated Success: The Progressive Journey of Mr Kuldeep Singh in Karimpur Village

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Farmer's details

Name: Mr. Kuldeep Singh (45 years)

Father's Name: Sh. Amrik Singh

Village: Karimpur District – Fatehgarh Sahib

Education: 10+2 (Senior Secondary)

Family Type: Joint family

Family Members: 7

Farming Experience: 16 years

Landholding: 8 acres (owned)

Primary Occupation: Agriculture & Allied Activities

Background

In the village Karimpur district- Fatehgarh sahib of Punjab, agriculture has traditionally revolved around the wheat-paddy cycle. Like many farmers in this region, **Kuldeep Singh**, a 45-year-old farmer, inherited about 8 acres of land from his father. For many years his family followed the same traditional cropping system, which often resulted in limited income and rising input costs. Around 2017, Kuldeep Singh attended several training programmes organised by the nearby Krishi Vigyan Kendra. These trainings exposed him to modern farming practices such as crop diversification, integrated farming, and value addition.

So, Instead of relying only on wheat and paddy, Kuldeep Singh started growing:

- **Seasonal vegetables** such as capsicum, tomato, and cucumber
- **Mustard and maize** as alternative crops
- **Fodder crops** for dairy animals

Vegetable cultivation provided quicker returns and better market prices compared to traditional crops.

Dairy Farming Venture

To ensure a stable and regular source of income apart from seasonal crop production, Mr. Kuldeep Singh diversified his farm by establishing a small dairy unit. He initially started with four high-yielding dairy animals 2 Cows: Breed-HF(Holstein Friesian), 2 Buffalos: Breed-(Murrah), and gradually improved their productivity through proper feeding, healthcare, and management practices.

The milk produced on the farm is sold to a nearby cooperative society such as Verka, as well as directly to local households in the village. The price of milk varies depending on its fat content, allowing him to earn better returns by maintaining quality. On average, the dairy unit provided him with a steady monthly income, helped him met daily household expenses and reduced dependence on crop income alone.

In addition to financial benefits, the dairy unit played a crucial role in enhancing farm sustainability. The dung produced by the animals is efficiently utilized as organic manure in the fields. Over time, Mr. Kuldeep Singh has significantly reduced his reliance on chemical

fertilizers and increased the use of farmyard manure (FYM). This practice has led to noticeable improvements in soil structure, fertility, and microbial activity, ultimately contributing to better crop yields and long-term soil health.

Beekeeping and Honey Production

Encouraged by the success of his mustard and vegetable crops, Mr. Kuldeep Singh explored another innovative venture—beekeeping. Recognizing the importance of pollinators in agriculture, he began with 10 bee boxes as a small-scale initiative in 2022. With proper training and experience, he gradually expanded his apiary to around 40 bee colonies in 2 year.

Beekeeping has provided dual benefits to the farm. Firstly, the presence of bees has significantly improved pollination in crops like mustard, vegetables, and fruits, leading to higher yields and better quality produce. Secondly, it has opened up an additional income stream through honey production.

The honey harvested is sold in nearby markets and villages under a small local brand, which is gaining popularity due to its purity and natural origin. Apart from honey, Mr Kuldeep Singh also earns from the sale of bee colonies and wax, further contributing to his income.

This integrated approach of combining crop production with beekeeping has enhanced farm productivity and profitability. It also reflects Mr Singh's progressive mind-set and willingness to adopt innovative practices that are both economically rewarding and environmentally sustainable.

He has truly turned out to be an inspiration for the whole village by doing so and we were very inspired by the same.

