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From Uncertain Harvests to Stable Income: The Journey of Manpreet Singh

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Farmer Details

Farmer Name: Manpreet Singh

Age: 62

Background and Early Life

In a traditional farming village, Mr. Manpreet Singh, a 62-year-old farmer, has spent his entire life engaged in agriculture. Managing nearly 16 acres of land, he followed conventional farming practices like most farmers in the region. Wheat remained his primary crop, along with a few seasonal crops cultivated throughout the year. For many years, his income remained uncertain. Rising input costs, fluctuating market prices, and unpredictable weather conditions made farming financially challenging. Despite continuous hard work, the returns were often insufficient to ensure financial stability. These challenges gradually made him realize the limitations of relying solely on crop cultivation.

The Turning Point

In 2015, Manpreet Singh reached a crucial turning point in his farming journey. He realized that crop farming could only provide income once or twice a year, while expenses were continuous. This imbalance created financial pressure and uncertainty.

Determined to find a solution, he decided to start dairy farming on a small scale. Although it required additional effort, investment, and learning, he believed it could provide a more stable and regular source of income.

The Initial Years of Learning

He began his dairy enterprise with a few animals, using crop residues like wheat straw as fodder. During the first two to three years, his primary focus was on learning proper animal management, feeding practices, and maintaining livestock health. In these initial years, the income from dairy was limited but consistent. Daily milk sales provided a steady cash flow, which helped him manage household expenses more effectively. This regular income gradually reduced his financial stress and strengthened his confidence in dairy farming.

Expansion Phase

After the third year, as his experience increased and the benefits of dairy farming became evident, Manpreet Singh began expanding his enterprise. Over the next five to seven years, he steadily increased the number of animals and improved their housing, feeding systems, and overall care. He also started cultivating fodder crops to ensure proper nutrition for the livestock. With improved management and planning, milk production increased significantly. What began as a small experiment gradually transformed into a reliable and profitable source of income.



Fig 1: Dairy Unit

Integration and System Development

By the later years of expansion, he adopted an integrated farming approach. Crop residues from his fields were used as animal feed, while manure from livestock was returned to the fields as organic fertilizer. This not only reduced input costs but also improved soil fertility over time. He allocated around 3 acres of land for crops like potato, which provided additional income. To improve efficiency, he invested in infrastructure such as a tube well for irrigation and farm machinery including a tractor, plough, and harrow. These developments made his farming system more organized and sustainable.

Present Status

Today, dairy farming has become the backbone of his enterprise. He maintains around 55 animals, including 52 cows and 3 buffaloes, and produces nearly 2 quintals of milk daily. The milk is supplied to Verka, ensuring a reliable market and steady income. This daily income has completely transformed his financial condition. Unlike earlier times when he depended only on seasonal crops, he now enjoys a continuous and dependable source of earnings throughout the year.

Conclusion

Manpreet Singh's journey clearly demonstrates how timely decisions and gradual improvements can transform traditional farming into a stable and profitable system. From facing uncertainty in crop income to establishing a successful dairy-based enterprise, his story reflects determination, adaptability, and practical thinking. By integrating crop production with dairy farming and following a step-by-step growth approach, he has created a sustainable model that ensures better resource utilization and long-term stability. His success serves as an inspiration for other farmers, showing that with proper planning, learning, and persistence, agriculture can provide both security and growth.