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Success Story of Shri Lokendra Singh Tomar: A Model of Integrated Fish Farming

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Shri Lokendra Singh Tomar, a progressive farmer from Harsola village in Indore district of Madhya Pradesh has successfully transformed the challenges of drought-prone agriculture into an opportunity through an Integrated Farming System (IFS). His innovative approach to fish farming not only improved farm income but also supported horticultural crop production and efficient water management in the region. Harsola village falls under a drought-affected area where scarcity of water often creates difficulties for farmers. To overcome this problem and ensure sustainable farming, Shri Lokendra Singh Tomar established a fishery-based integrated farming system in the year 2017. He constructed a poly-lined fish pond covering about 33,000 square feet with an initial investment of approximately ₹6.38 lakh. The pond was filled with water sourced from the Choral canal, which helped in maintaining water availability for multiple farming activities.

During the summer months of May and June, when the water level in the area decreases considerably, the fish pond played a crucial role in supporting irrigation requirements under the Integrated Farming System. The stored water helped sustain horticultural crops and improved overall farm productivity. Thus, the fish pond became an important component for water conservation and efficient resource utilization. Shri Lokendra Singh Tomar adopted scientific fish farming practices by stocking around 10,000 fish seeds of one-inch size in the pond. Through proper management and feeding practices, the fish attained an average weight ranging from 300 grams to 1.5 kilograms, while some fishes reached a maximum weight of 3–4 kilograms. An innovative aspect of his farming system was the use of farm waste materials as fish feed, which significantly reduced feed costs and promoted recycling of farm resources.

The fish produced on the farm fetched an average market price of ₹80–100 per kilogram, generating good returns and increasing farm profitability. Along with fisheries, the farmer also received additional profit through the cultivation and sale of horticultural crops such as guava, mango, papaya, aonla, and other fruit crops grown under the integrated farming system. The availability of water from the fish pond ensured better growth and productivity of these horticultural crops, thereby enhancing overall farm income and livelihood security. His integrated approach not only enhanced income but also strengthened sustainability by combining fisheries, horticulture, and water resource management into a single farming model.

Today, Shri Lokendra Singh Tomar is recognized as a successful and innovative farmer in the region. His achievement demonstrates how integrated fish farming can effectively address water scarcity, improve resource efficiency, and provide sustainable livelihood opportunities in drought-prone areas. His success story serves as an inspiration for

other farmers to adopt modern and integrated farming practices for better income and long-term agricultural sustainability.