

DAIRY ENTERPRISE AND FODDER SLIPS BANK OF A TRIBAL FARMER

Nabhapur in Gadag block is a small village inhabited by tribals, locally known as Lambanis. The village has 138 households. Agriculture supported by dairy is the primary occupation of the people. Income from agriculture was irregular due to vagaries of Monsoon and dairy enterprise was not as much flourished till KVK made interventions in 2011-12 through promotion of Grass and Fodder crops under Front Line Demonstrations. Mr. Thavarappa Vasanappa Nayak is one of the farmer participated in FLD programme on fodder and grass. He owns 4 acres of irrigated land. He had one Jersey cow and planted 10 guntas of grasses of Hybrid Napier, Rhodes, Guinea and Signal grass under the guidance of KVK. He has also undergone the training at KVK on scientific dairy management practices. He has also established Azolla unit. Feeding of grass and Azolla to his only cow has increased the milk yield from 6 liters to 10 liters per day. Within a year, he earned an income of Rs. 70,000/-. This has encouraged him and he purchased 2 jersey cows and one buffalo during 2012-13 and also extended his grass and fodder unit to 20 gunta.

When asked him about balanced nutrition in milch animals Mr. Nayak says that, apart from feeding grass he also feed "Dani mixture", feed prepared locally from Ragi, Jowar and Maize grains grown on his farm. Further, he says that balanced feeding has helped him to raise his income as animals attain heat regularly and conception is timely. At present, he is getting an annual income of Rs.2.10 lakhs from the sale of milk, curd and butter. His son and wife assist him in the dairy activities. He says that dairy is profitable when family members work in the enterprise and adopt scientific management practices.

Mr. Nayak has not only improved his income from dairy enterprise but also responsible for spread of grass technology within Nabhapur and surrounding villages. During the period from 2012-2013 to 2015-16, he has provided grass slips to 21 farmers belonging to 17 villages of the district. He has provided the grass slips free of cost. Apart from supplying grass slips, he also shared his experience with other dairy farmers. He says that most of dairy owners in Nabhapur have taken grass slips from him. His farm has become fodder slips bank for other dairy entrepreneurs. When asked about his future plans, he says that water is the limiting factor for further expansion of the unit. However, he is hopeful of good rains that might improve his ground water and would think of expanding of his dairy unit.