

A Success Story:

KVK Khowai: Tripura

Bringing prosperity to Potato growers through cultivation of Potato variety Kufri jyoti

Introduction:

Mr. Hiralal Das, is a farmer from East Ramchandra Ghat, Khowai District of Tripura. He is young and enthusiastic rural youth practicing farming to sustain his family. Mr. Hiralal Das comes from a family of farmers and had been involved in farming from a young age. The situation of the village mostly plain land with little hilly terrain and topography ranges from 23 m mean sea level. The Soil of the village is sandy loam and very much congenial for potato cultivation during Rabi season. In Tripura Potato (*Solanum tuberosum* L.) is one of the most important staple food crop.

Challenges/ Problem identified:

The local farmers don't have the knowledge about scientific cultivation of potato and unavailability of improved quality tubers in time is the main constraint faced by the villagers. Other important problem was high infestation of pest and disease, because of which farmers didn't get good satisfactory return from their crop.

KVKs intervention:

Mr. Hiralal Das, aged 36 years, a marginal farmer of this village was selected as one of the beneficiary under IARI, NEH component, programme during 2022-23 for growing commercial cultivation of potato. Once upon a time Mr. Hiralal Das was a potato grower but he gradually stopped potato cultivation due to high pest and disease infestation.

However, before implementing ICAT IARI-NEH component programme in the village, a training programme was organized by KVK, Khowai centre to disseminate the scientific knowledge related to agronomic as well as management practices of Potato and different Rabi vegetables. Mr. Hiralal Das was one of the farmer who showed his interest and desired to expand his potato land under High Yielding Varieties instead of local varieties and accordingly he prepared a plot of land measuring near about 0.3 ha. Eventually, he was guided and helped in every aspects right from sowing to harvesting by the scientific staffs of KVK and also main critical input *i.e.* seed of potato variety kufri jyoti was provided under ICAR IARI-NEH programme of KVK, Khowai.

Result:

Mr. Hiralal Das could be able to harvest a very good yield of 33.5 t/ha and sold the agricultural produce @ Rs.22.0/kg in nearby market. Due to his perseverance and dedication he proved that the IPM technology and the variety Kufri jyoti being moderately resistant to early and late blight, infestation of blight was very less. Another aspect was observed that this variety found to be resistant to leaf curl disease as the nearby field with local potato was highly infested with leaf curl but the plot of kufri Jyoti was unaffected. The estimated net return earned by the grower on an average was 5,37,000/- and the B:C ratio was 3.68, which was higher than the traditional variety practice.

Impact:

By observing the income and passion of Mr. Hiralal Das other farmer from that locality are also interested in taking up farming like him. He has emerged as a role model for local Farmer and he shared his knowledge with about farmers from her village

