Action Research on Sustainable Agricultural System

Case-lets of Farmers adopting Principles & some Factors of SAS

Supported by
Department of Economic & Agricultural Research
NABARD, Mumbai
Cases of Farmers from

Pliheri GP
Daingbadi Block, Kandhamal District
Case of Jayadev Pradhan

Name of the Farmer: Jayadev Pradhan
At-Pliheri, GP-Pliheri, Block-Daringbadi,
District-Kandhamal
Contact No- 8763623557

Jaydev Pradhan, farmer of Pliheri village of Pliheri GP in Kandhamal district, is undertaking agricultural activities in his 5 acres of agriculture land. In the beginning, he was relying more on conventional farming practices.

He frequently visits the experimental SAS farm located in Sunderdanda village and observes various SAS interventions like water conservation mechanisms, preparation of organic manure & its application processes, use of different local seeds, plantation activities, integration of livestock etc. At the same time, he also compares this farming methodology with that of his own and became able to draw the gaps of his farming system. Accordingly, he jumped over to the organic farming practices and got good results. He collected various information related to sustainable farming by participating in the awareness programme on SAS organized in his village. In addition to it, he increased his knowledgebase on various factors of SAS viz. land preparation, application of organic manure, water management, seed management, cropping pattern, pruning, diversity etc. by availing on-field trainings provided by Mr. Subhash Sharma, Mr. Deepak Suchde, and Mr. Bharat Bhushan Tyagi at experimental SAS farm.

Both comparison and self-assessments have induced him to rely more on SAS practices rather than undertaking conventional farming practices. More particularly, he is concentrating on land preparation, application of organic manure, use of local seeds, integrating livestock, and crop diversification. Now, he is producing a wide range of organic farm products like maize, turmeric, mustard, paddy, black gram, kalika, bean, potato, yam, chickpea (chana), cauliflower and cabbage etc. Pliheri GP falls in the rainfed zone. Farmers are depending upon rain water for agriculture purposes. There are no other irrigation provisions. To meet water demand of his farm, he is planning for an open well that will help him carryout crop rotation throughout the year. Besides, to protect the crops from cattle, he is also planning to fence his entire farm land.
Case of Samuel Pradhan

Name of the Farmer: Samuel Pradhan
At-Kamaeju, GP-Pliheri, Block-Daringbadi,
District-Kandhamal
Contact No-9439688793

Samuel Pradhan belongs to Kamaeju village of Pliheri GP in Kandhamal district. He is involved in agricultural activities in his 5 acres of agriculture land. He had adopted conventional farming practices for his agricultural activities.

In 2018, he visited the experimental SAS farm located at Sunderadanda village of Plieri GP. He observed the farming processes and discussed with Principal Investigator and other project staff about the pros and cons of ongoing organic farming practices. Prior to his visit, he has attended awareness programmes on SAS organized in his village. Then, he started applying SAS principles in his agricultural land. In the meantime, he got scope to participate in on-field trainings on various factors of SAS like land preparation, organic manure preparation and application, water management, seed management, cropping pattern, pruning, diversity etc. provided by Mr. Subhash Sharma, Mr. Deepak Suchde, & Mr. Bharat Bhushan Tyagi. He improved his knowledge further by interacting with this national level farmers on the above key dimensions.

Currently, he has undertaken land preparation, application of organic manure, seed selection, and crop diversification to improve his farming to a more stable condition. These measures have helped him yield different farm produces like paddy, some varieties of oilseeds, pulses, & cereals that are grown organically. Besides, he is encouraging his neighboring farmers on adopting SAS principles and techniques as it is eco-friendly and provides high returns. Furthermore, his future plan is to go for a well for his agriculture land. To this effect, he is coordinating with Pliheri FPO to mobilise government provisions if any for digging an open well on his farm.
Case of Mithun Kumar Pradhan

Name of the Farmer: Mithun Kumar Pradhan
At-Sunderdanda, GP-Pliheri, Block-Daringbadi,
District-Kandhamal, Contact No-

Mithun Pradhan belongs to Sunderdanda village of Pliheri GP in Kandhamal district. He owns 3 acres of agriculture land which he has been used for farming purposes. His farming processes rest on conventional farming practices.

A number of factors like his visits to experimental SAS farm, participation in SAS awareness programme, interaction with project personnel on various measures undertaken at experimental farm, and on-field trainings on SAS have increased his knowledge on land preparation, utilization of organic manure, water management, seed management, cropping pattern, pruning, plantation, and diversity. Besides, the practical results of ongoing experimental SAS farm have pushed him to go for organic farming practices. He is applying some of the SAS principles like application of organic manure, sowing of local seeds, crop diversification, integration of livestock etc. in his farming practices. He is producing organically grown paddy, millets, spices, maize, and pulses in his farm land. As an organic farmer, he is making other farmer friends of his village aware on the returns of SAS farming practices. He also persuade them not rely on using chemical fertilisers and hybrid seeds as that hamper not only land condition and yielding capacity but also cast adverse effect on family members’ health. Furthermore, his future plan is to intensify the application of SAS techniques in his farm and to dig a well on his farm land to meet the growing water demand for irrigation purposes.

Photo of Mithun Kumar Pradhan
Case of Peter Pradhan

Name of the Farmer: Peter Pradhan  
At-Sunderdanda, GP-Pliheri, Block-Daringbadi, 
District-Kandhamal  
Contact No- 8480165564

Peter Pradhan, a farmer of Sunderdanda village of Pliheri GP in Kandhamal district, has been undertaking agricultural activities in his 3 acres of agriculture land. He was doing agriculture in conventional farming practices.

He was observing the results of various SAS interventions like water conservation mechanisms, organic manure preparation & application processes, seed selection, undertaking plantation, and integration of livestock undertaken at the experimental farm as he is the resident of same village. Gradually, he became able notice that chemical fertilisers are not good at all for soil health in long term. Likewise, hybrid seeds are lacking strength for survival under given local climatic conditions unless chemical fertilisers and pesticides are applied to it. Apart from it, he also learnt a lot on SAS farming by participating in the awareness programmes and on-field trainings on SAS. In addition to it, he clarifies his doubts on various factors of SAS farming by deliberating with Mr. Subhash Sharma, Mr. Deepak Suchde, and Mr. Bharat Bhusan Tyagi at experimental SAS farm.

Both comparison and self-assessments have induced him to rely more on SAS practices rather than undertaking conventional practices for farming activities. The major crops, he is yielding organically are paddy, mustard, turmeric, ragi, yam etc. His future plan includes digging a well in his farm land as there is no irrigation facilities, preparation of organic manure and microbial fluids, collection and preservation of own seeds and integration of livestock.

Photo of Peter Pradhan
Cases of Farmers from

Greenbadi GP, Daringbadi Block, Kandhamal District
Case of Madanmohan Pradhan

Name of the Farmer: Madanmohan Pradhan
At-Sangrumaha, GP-Greenbadi,
Block-Daringbadi, District-Kandhamal
Contact No- 9438257147

Madanmohan Pradhan is a progressive farmer of Sagruma village of Greenbadi GP in Kandhamal district. He has been doing agriculture on his 10 acre of land. The agro-climatic condition of the village is rain-fed. As a practitioner of conventional farming, he was relying on external inputs for producing agricultural products.

His enthusiasm towards organic farming was germinated first when he visited the ongoing experimental SAS farm in Pliheri GP. Secondly, SAS awareness programme organized in his village has also influenced him a lot on SAS farming. Being induced by the above novel ideas of SAS farming, he shifted his stand from conventional farming practices to SAS farming practices. Now he is applying organic inputs to develop soil health for better growth of crops and high yielding. Besides, he has adopted both intercropping and crop diversification to increase biomass of his farm land. He has also undertaken crop diversification measures to increase biomass of his agriculture land. Now he is producing paddy, bean, turmeric, sweet potato, maize, yam, black gram, cauliflower, cabbage, potato, onion etc. through organic practices from his 10 acres of farm land. With the passage of time, again his knowledge got transformed more on SAS farming when he learnt various aspects of this farming by attending on-field trainings on SAS that were provided by Mr. Subhash Sharma, Mr, Deepak Suchde, and Mr. Bharat Bhushan Tyagi during their field visits to the experimental SAS farm.

He is confronting with water problem in his village for his farming activities. There is no irrigation facility in his village. On this ground he is ambitious to dig an open well in his farm to meet the water scarcity.

Photo of Madanmohan Pradhan
Case of Rajeev Pradhan

Name of the Farmer: Rajeev Pradhan
At-Saraeju, GP-Greenbadi, Block-Daringbadi, District-Kandhamal
Contact No- 8144180260

As a lead farmer of Saraeju village of Greenbadi GP, Rajeev Pradhan is completely busy with farming activities in his 10 acres of farm land; though his farming activities are based on conventional farming practices.

Later on, he was exposed to the organic farming ideas when he attended the awareness programmes on SAS. Whatever knowledge he had gained from this awareness programme, he went to visit the experimental SAS farm at Pliheri GP to observe its practicality further. A lot of interactions and discussions with project staff and practical observations had strengthened his confidence on practicality of SAS farming. Again, his knowledge became more clearer on various organic farming measures like preparation of organic manure and its application process, water management, land preparation techniques, plantation, intercropping and crop diversification, pruning, etc. when he attended the on-field trainings on SAS provided by Mr. Subhash Sharma, Mr. Deepak Suchde, and Mr. Bharat Bhushan Tyagi at the experimental SAS farm.

With these exposures, his vision has changed; he is applying SAS farming measures viz. application of organic manure, sowing of local seeds in place of hybrid seeds, and adopting intercropping system to make his farm land conducive for SAS farming. There is a market demand for his organically produced pulses, cereals, oilseeds, different vegetables.

His future plan is to resolve water scarcity issues by excavating an open well in his farm land. To this effect, he has planned to mobilise the local government schemes through Greenbadi FPO to dig an open well that will help him undertake crop rotation activities throughout the year. Furthermore, he has planned to diversify his farming activities by integrating livestock and undertaking plantation activities.
Case of Kanira Pardhan

Name of the Farmer: Kanira Pradhan
At-Linepada, GP-Greenbadi,
Block-Daringbadi, District-Kandhamal
Contact No- 8895585012

Kanira Pradhan, a farmer of Linepada village of Greenbadi GP, is undertaking agricultural activities in his 5 acres of agriculture land. He is producing paddy as well as a few varieties of millets, oilseeds, pulses. He was following the conventional farming practices for cultivation purposes.

After getting information on ongoing experimental SAS farm at Pliheri GP from his farmer friends, he visited the above farm and observed the functionality of SAS measures applied in farming practices. Again, he gained knowledge on organic factors by participating in the SAS awareness programme in his village. Again, he refined is understanding on organic farming by attending on-field trainings on various SAS practices provided by Mr. Subhash Sharma, Mr. Deepak Suchde, and Mr. Bharat Bhushan Tyagi at the experimental SAS farm.

After getting convinced on the negative consequences of application of external inputs, he has begun to adopt SAS farming practices. He has applied few principles of SAS farming like application of cow dung and cow urine as organic manure, use of dry leaves for increasing biomass of the soil, and intercropping system to increase biodiversity of his farm. One of the major problem, he is facing, is water. There are no canals/LI points for irrigation purposes. He has to depend upon rain water. From this angle, he has planned to dig a well on his farm so that he could be able to yield agricultural products round the year.

Photo of Kanira Pradhan
Case of Jitu Pradhan

Name of the Farmer: Jitu Pradhan
At-Sagrudimaha, GP-Greenbadi,
Block-Daringbadi, District-Kandhamal
Contact No- 8895122430

Jitu Pradhan, a farmer of Sangrudimaha village of Greenbadi GP, Kandhamal owns 6 acres of farm land. His farming activities are based on conventional farming practices. But he was not using any kind of manure in his farm land.

He became aware on organic farming when he attended the awareness programme on sustainable agricultural systems organized in his village. He also visited ongoing experimental SAS farm at in Pliheri GP to observe the implementation processes of SAS factors. Besides, he has also attended on-field trainings on various SAS provided by Mr. Subhash Sharma, Mr. Deepak Suchde, and Mr. Bharat Bhushan Tyagi.

Having acquired Knowledge through on-field trainings and practical observations at SAS farm level; he was motivated to undertake agricultural activities by applying SAS principles. He has applied a few SAS principles in his farm land viz. land preparation, application of organic manure, use of local seeds, crop diversification, mulching for increasing biomass of the soil etc. he is yielding organically grown paddy, potato, onion, cauliflower, cabbage, turmeric, chickpea (chana) that involves high demand in his own locality.

Lack of sufficient water hampers his agricultural activities to a great extent as there are no irrigation systems. He has to depend upon rain water to carry forward his agricultural activities that is not feasible at all. From this angle, he has intended to dig a well on his farm land so that he will be able to grow various organically grown agricultural produce throughout the year.

Photo of Jitu Pradhan
Cases of Farmers from

Nuagada GP, Mohana Block,
Gajapati District
Case of Rupa Jagaranga

Name of the Farmer: Rupa Jagaranga
Address: At-Pandraguda, GP-Nuagada,
Via-Padmapur, District-Rayagada
Contact No: 8249738140

Rupa Jagaranga, a lead farmer of Pandraguda village in Nuagada GP, Rayagada, has been engaged in agricultural activities in his two acres of agricultural lands. As a farmer he was following the conventional practices like relying on external inputs for doing farming. Besides, he was practicing shifting cultivation.

He used to visit the experimental SAS farm and trying to perceive the methodologies followed being followed on the experimental farm. Sometimes, he discussed with project personnel on specific organic farming processes to clarify his doubts. His interest was doubled when he attended training sessions of Mr. Deepak Suchde and Mr. Subhash Sharma on organic farming at Nuagada GP. Both the awareness programme and on-field trainings on SAS have further strengthened his belief on sustainable farming practices.

Being motivated by the lessons learnt on SAS farming, he shifted his stand from conventional practices to SAS farming practices. He used bullocks for land ploughing, applied organic manure in place of chemical fertilisers and pesticides for improving soil fertility, and used own seeds for better yield. In due course, he found various changes occurring on his agriculture land i.e. soil fertility and microbial activities of the soil started to increase, good growth of farm crops and better yield of crops. Organically, he is producing paddy, some varieties of cereals & pulses and different vegetables from his own agriculture land. Again, from irrigation point of view, he has dug a well on his agriculture land to use his farm’s underground water for irrigation purposes; though the water of the well is not available throughout the year as its depth is low. His future plan is to mobilize government schemes with the help of Nuagada FPO to renovate the existing open well of his agriculture land so that he will be able to undertake farming activities throughout the year.

Photos of Rupa Jagaranga
Case of Mino Majhi

Name of the Farmer: Mino Majhi
Address: At-Dabarkana, GP-Nuagada, Via-Padmapur, District-Rayagada
Contact No: 7735375545

By profession, Mino Majhi is a farmer. He belongs to Dabarkana village of Nuagada GP in Rayagada district. He is carrying out his farming activities in his 4 acres of agriculture lands. Besides, he has also done cashew cultivation; as this NTFP product provides him extra income. All his farming activities were based on conventional farming practices like application of chemical fertilizers and pesticides, using of hybrid seeds etc.

As lead farmer of his GP, he is also a prime member of Nava Jyoti Producer Company that was established in Nuagada GP. He has undergone various trainings on organic farming held in different locations viz. in 2010-11 in Gujurat followed by Mayurbhanj, Rayagada, and XIMB in 2013-14. His interest on organic farming germinated first when he was introduced to Dr. O. P. Rupela, Prof. K. T. Chandy, Mr. Subhash Sharma, and Mr. Deepak Suchde during 2011-13. Besides, he acquired deep knowledge on sustainable agricultural systems by participating various awareness programmes and on-field trainings on SAS farming.

Being inspired by the above exponents on sustainable agricultural systems, he has been applying SAS principles in his agriculture land. He applies organic manure produced from cow dung and extracts of goats to increase soil fertility. Besides, he is using own seeds for better yield. Now he is producing paddy, kandula, maize, vegetables etc. He has added livestock to his farming activities. As a member of the Nava Jyoti PC, he sells his surplus agriculture produces to this PC for better profits. Like other farmers of his GP, he is facing the water problem to irrigate his farm crops. He has planned to dig open one well on his farm so that he can use the water from the well for irrigation purposes.

Photo of Mino Majhi
Case of Barja Majhi

Name of the Farmer: Barja Majhi
Address: At-Dabarkana, GP-Nuagada, Via-Padmapur, District-Rayagada
Contact No: 7735918660

Barja Majhi is the resident of Dabarkana village of Nuagada GP, Rayagada. He is undertaking agricultural activities in his 2 acres of agriculture land. Like other farmers of his GP, he is also cultivating cashew from income generation point of view. Initially, he was applying both organic manure and chemical fertilizers to his farm crops for better growth and higher yield.

He has also visited the experimental SAS farm several times to learn about pure organic farming practices. He has availed various trainings on organic farming held in different venues viz. Sambhav, XIMB, Ekjut at Kenduguda at different points of time. His passion for organic farming became high when he attended various awareness and training programmes on SAS offered by the leading national level farmers like Mr. Subhash Sharma, and Mr. Deepak Suchde. Being inspired by these organic farming exponents, he is applying some of the organic practices in his agriculture land like application of organic manure that has helped him increase soil health. He is cultivating paddy, kandula, vegetables, Black Gram etc. But due to non-availability of local seeds, he has to depend upon hybrid seeds. To protect the crops of agriculture land from damages occurred by cattle, He has planned to undertake fencing around his agriculture land. Furthermore, his future plan is to dig a well in his agriculture land for irrigation purposes.

Photos of Barja Majhi
Cases of Farmers from

Gulguda GP,
Mohana Block, Gajapati District
Case of Sukru Raika

Name of the Farmer: Sukru Raika
Address: At-Surjuguda, GP-Guluguda,
Via-Padmapur, District-Rayagada
Contact no.: 8280482109

Sukru Raika is a progressive farmer of Surjiguda village of Guluguda GP in Rayagada district. His primary occupation is farming. As a farmer, he has been cultivating paddy, black gram and different varieties of vegetables in his 3 acres of agriculture land from the beginning. His farming activities were based on conventional practices using external inputs for crop growth and higher yield. Besides, he is practicing shifting cultivation and cashew cultivation generating extra income. In addition, he also rears goats, cows, and poultry. Around 10 years back, he was applying chemical fertilizers and pesticides for crop growth and higher yields.

In 2011, Sukru Raika was exposed to the ideas of organic farming practices when he came in contact with Dr. O. P. Rupela, scientist in Organic Farming, and Prof. K. T. Chandy when both had visited Nuagada GP of Padmapur block in Rayagada district as part of Nava Jyoti PC action research. Sukru was greatly influenced by the above exponents of organic farming.

Being inspired by the ideas of the above exponents, he started experimenting with organic farming in a piece of his agriculture land. This experimental result encouraged him to apply organic farming practices to his agricultural activities in a full-fledged manner. Again in 2012-13, his thoughts on organic farming was further refined by the inputs given by nationally well-known farmers namely, Mr. Subhash Sharma and Mr. Deepak Suchde. Besides, he improved his understandings on organic farming practices by availing training on sustainable agricultural systems at various locations like at Nava Jyoti, Padmapur block, XIMB, & NISWASS.

He took nearly 7 years to stabilize his farms with organic farming principles. Currently, he has been applying several organic farming practices viz. applying organic manure for improvement of soil health, using of local/indigenous seeds for high yielding, integrating livestock for generating extra income, undertaking crop diversification for promoting biodiversity at his farm level etc. All these measures have helped him reduce agri-input expenses and increase yields, nutritional value, and net income. As a progressive farmer of his GP, he is also providing training to other farmers on organic farming and making the farmers aware on negative consequences of using external inputs and positive aspects practicing organic farming.

All the way, he has been confronted with one major problem that is water scarcity as the agro-climatic conditions of the GP is rainfed one and there is no alternative mechanism for irrigation.
To sort out this water scarcity problem; based on the SAS techniques, he has planned to dig a well on his farm land by mobilizing government schemes with the help of Guluguda Farmer Producer Organisation so that it will enable him to undertake farming activities round the year.

Photos of Sukru Raika
Case of Subha Raika

Name of the Farmer: Subha Raika
Address: At-Surjiguda, GP-Guluguda, Via-Padmapur, District-Rayagada
Contact No: 8144061894

Subha Raika is a lead farmer of Surijiguda village of Gulugada GP in Rayagada District. From the beginning of his farming career, he has been practicing organic farming though he had little conceptual understanding of it. Initially, he used to collect cow dungs and throw it all over his paddy fields and then plough the land.

Subsequently, his organic farming practices got transformed when he got more clarity on sustainable agricultural system from eminent organic exponents like Dr. O. P. Rupela, Prof. K. T. Chand, Mr. Subhash Sharma, Mr. Deepak Suchde etc. These champions have greatly influenced his thoughts and line of actions from organic farming point of view. Now, he is applying a few SAS principles like land preparation, soil treatment, cropping pattern, sowing of own seed. This has enabled him to produce multiple farm products like paddy, black gram, Kandula, long bean, banana and other vegetables. To meet water problem, he has planned to dig an open well with the support of government resources.
Case of Elias Raika

Name of the Farmer: Elias Raika
Address: At-Surjuguda, GP-Guluguda,
Via-Padmapur, District-Rayagada
Contact no.: 8144060264

Elias Raika is a resident of Surjiguda village of Guluguda GP in Rayagada district. His primary occupation is farming. He owns 2 acres of farm land. As a part of his agricultural activities, he has also been doing both shifting cultivation and cashew cultivation. From the beginning of his career that is near about 15 years back, he was applying organic manure for cultivation purposes. But, being influenced by his farmer friends, he started using of external inputs for his farming activities. In the beginning, he observed good growth of crops and higher yields but he marked that the crop growth and productivity started reducing subsequently.

In the meantime, he got information on the ongoing experimental on organic farming and sustainable farming at the SAS farm at Nuagada GP and started visiting the farm to observe the application of sustainable agricultural principles. Besides, awareness programmes on SAS and various trainings on organic farming reshaped his thoughts and ideas on organic farming. Added to this, his interactions with the champions of natural and ecological farming, Mr. Subhash Sharma and Mr. Deepak Suchde at the experimental SAS farm in Nuagada GP further polished his outlook on organic farming processes.

After becoming aware of the negative consequences of chemical fertilizers, pesticides and hybrid/GM seeds, he went back again to his old organic farming practices with refined ideas and techniques. With the help of new insight on organic farming, he is producing a wide range of agri produces like paddy, black gram, Kandula and different vegetables in his two acres of farm land. Being the pioneer of organic farmer of his GP, he is making other farmer friends of his village aware on positive aspects of organic farming using the SAS principles.

He is planning to sort out water problem by setting up of a well in his agriculture land with the support of local government’s scheme and provisions. This will enable him to undertake various farming activities throughout the year.
Photos of Elias Raika
Cases of Farmers from

Liligada GP
Mohana Block, Gajapati District
Name of the Farmer: Subhash Chandra Nayak
At-Ostapada, GP-Liligada,
Block-Mohana, District-Gajapati
Contact No- 9861628475

Subhash Nayak is the leading progressive farmer of Ostapada village of Liligada GP in Gajapati District. Earlier he was harvesting paddy, maize, and vegetables from his 10 acres of farm land by applying external inputs. Mostly, he was following conventional farming practices. His farming practices has witnessed sea change when he came in contact with Mr. Subhash Sharma in 2016 in NISWASS Bhubaneswar where the first experiment on SAS was tried out.

He learnt on various aspects of natural farming like, line sowing, space management, water management, proper use of cow dung and cow urine as organic manure. His interest became doubled when he maximized his returns from brinjal cultivation to which he applied line sowing and space management techniques on experimental basis.

Later, he came in contact with Mr. Deepak Suchde in 2017 from whom he learnt on pruning technique- one of vital aspect of organic farming. He also applied this pruning practices to his Arhar farming and became delighted seeing the fine growth of Arhar plants and the yield was also on higher side. Then, he never looked back.

Besides, he undertakes visits to the experimental SAS farm for observing implementation processes of SAS measures that refines his organic farming practices further. He also increased his skill on other dimensions of organic farming viz. soil management, weed management, biodiversity, and processing & marketing by attending on-field trainings on SAS provided by Mr. Subhash Sharma, Mr. Deepak Suchde, and Mr. Bharat Bhushan Tyagi during 2018-19 at experimental SAS farm of Liligada GP.

Now, he has mastered the SAS practices by applying them himself on his farms. As a successful SAS farmer, he is yielding organically grown various types of crops like paddy, pulses, cereals and different vegetables in his 10 acres of land. The most important aspect of his SAS farming is his seed collection and seed preservation. He preserved his own seed for the next cycle. This practice has completely eliminates his dependency syndrome on market seeds. All his organic farm products have high market demand that has increased his net income. As a progressive farmer, he is also providing training on SAS farming practices to other farmers not only in his GP but also in nearby GPs.
He could have been intensified his SAS farming if there were perennial water sources for irrigation purposes. The Liligada GP has been part of rain-fed region and there are no irrigation facilities here. Hence, water has become a major issue for him. On this ground, he is scheduling to dig an open well on his farm land by mobilizing government schemes with the help of Liligada GP Farmer Producer Organisation that has been formed recently.

Photo of Subhash Nayak
Case of Lingaraj Nayak

Name of the Farmer: Lingaraj Mallik
At-Nijepur, GP-Liligada,
Block-Mohana, District-Gajapati
Contact No- 9337014380

Lingaraj Nayak is one of the lead farmers of Liligada GP in Gajapati District. As a native of Nijepur village of Liligada GP, he is practicing agriculture in 15 acres of farm land. He was relying on external inputs for his farming activities for cultivating wide range of farm crops. His farming practices got transformed when he got knowledge on cropping pattern, utility of organic manure, and water management from eminent organic exponent, Mr. Subhash Sharma in 2017. Gradually, he acquired knowledge on seed treatment, root treatment, and pruning skill through the trainings on the SAS Farm in Liligada GP as the action research site is close to his village.

His acquired knowledge on organic farming got refined further when he practically visualized the post implementation effects of SAS measures at the experimental SAS farm. He also sharpened his knowledge on weed management, nutrition, co-existence, & biodiversity by attending on-filed trainings provided by Mr. Subhash Sharma, Mr. Deepak Suchde, and Mr. Bharat Bhushan Tyagi during 2018-19 at experimental SAS farm of Liligada GP.

Accordingly, he has made a paradigm shift from traditional farming system to SAS farming practices. He is applying most of the above SAS practices in his agricultural activities that resulted in good harvest of various farm crops with higher nutritional values and taste. As a successful SAS farmer, he has sensitized other farmers of nearby villages of his GP on the positive aspects of SAS farming practices. Some of the farmers who he has helped learn SAS farming techniques and adopt them include Kamal Lochan Mallik of Titimeri village, Gudu Mallik of Dengamba village, and Kuna Mallik of Kutunikua village.

One of the major challenges, he is confronting, is water. The Liligada GP falls under the rain-fed zone and there are no irrigation facilities here. To meet this water problem, he is planning for an open well for his farm land by mobilizing government schemes with the help of Liligada GP Farmer Producer Organisation.
Case of Sanjukta Nayak

Name of the Farmer: Sanjukta Nayak
At-Ostapada, GP-Liligada,
Block-Mohana, District-Gajapati
Contact No- 8917513834

Sanjukta Nayak is practicing agriculture in 1 acre agriculture land at Ostapada village of Liligada GP. She was applying external inputs for her farming activities for cultivating farm crops. Mr. Subhash Sharma’s natural farming systems had greatly influenced her farming practices. Besides the demonstration SAS farm at Liligada GP had increased her enthusiasm on organic farming further. All these incidents pushed her to take a U-turn from conventional farming systems to SAS farming practices.

Now, she has accrued a lot of benefits by applying various organic measures like line sowing, space management between plants and lines, application of cow dungs and cow urine as manure, planting fruit plants etc. in her farm and got good yields out of it. She also adopted the SAS techniques on weed management, nutrition, co-existence, & biodiversity provided by Mr. Subhash Sharma, Mr. Deepak Suchde, and Mr. Bharat Bhushan Tyagi during the SAS training sessions in 2018-19 at the experimental SAS farm of Liligada GP. As a successful SAS farmer, she has influenced Bikrant Nayak and Nageswar Nayak, farmers of Dhepapadar village of Liligada GP, on SAS farming.

To her, water and free grazing are major issues. For crop rotation and crop safety, her future attention is to undertake fencing around the farm and to dig a well for her farm to meet the water deficiency.

Photo of Sanjukta Nayak
**Case of Kandhiadeb Malik**

Name of the Farmer: Kandhiadeb Malik  
At-Nandruguda, GP-Liligada,  
Block-Mohana, District-Gajapati  
Contact No- 6372610411

Kandhiadeb Malik, a farmer of Nandruguda village of Liligada GP, is doing agriculture in his 5 acres farm land. From the beginning of his farming career, he was applying external inputs like chemical fertilisers and market seeds in his agriculture. Gradually his farming practices got reformed when he attended meetings and the on-SAS Farm trainings by Mr. Subhash Shama, Mr. Deepak Suchde, and Mr. Bharat Bhushan Tyagi on Sustainable Agricultural Systems.

Furthermore, his exposure to experimental SAS farm has strengthened his belief on practicality of doing sustainable farming. Thus, being guided by the above notions, he has applied different SAS farming measures viz. following cropping pattern, undertaking de-weeding at regular intervals, applying organic manure and using local seeds in his agricultural activities. He experienced high yields of farm crops with greater nutritional values through these methods.

Application of organic manure has also protected his farm crops from pest attack. He experienced the growth soil fertility due to application of organic manure. As a practitioner of SAS farming, he has motivated Santosh Malik of his village for practicing organic farming.

His future plan is to intensify SAS farming on a large scale and to make enduring provision for water in order to irrigate the farm crops throughout the year.

Photos of Kandhiadeb Mailk
Case of Jugal Kishore Nayak

Name of the Farmer: Jugal Kishore Nayak
At-Nandruguda, GP-Liligada,
Block-Mohana, District-Gajapati
Contact No- 6372610411

Jugal Nayak is a farmer of Liligada village of Liligada GP. He is practicing agriculture in his 1 acre agriculture land. Initially, he was applying chemical fertilisers and market seeds for his farming purposes.

He was greatly influenced by Mr. Subhash Shama, Mr. Deepak Suchde, and Mr. Bharat Bhushan Tyagi during the SAS training at the SAS Farm in Liligada GP. Furthermore, his exposure to experimental SAS farm has strengthened his belief on feasibility of practicing sustainable farming.

Currently, he is producing organically grown paddy, vegetables, and maize from agriculture land. He has experienced the increase of soil fertility due to application organic manure, growth of biomass because of undertaking de-weeding and mulching on regular basis, increase in yield due to use of local seeds etc. He has also observed that application of organic manure has also protected his farm crops from pest attack. As a practitioner of SAS farming, he has influenced his farmer friend, Praharaj Nayak on practicing SAS farming.

Photos of Jugal Kishore Nayak
Case of Sunaram Karji

Name of the Farmer: Sunaram Karji
At-Kamiliguda, GP-Liligada,
Block-Mohana, District-Gajapati
Contact No- 9078059732

Sunaram Karji, a farmer of Kamiliguda village of Liligada GP, is practicing agriculture in his 5 acre agriculture land. Earlier, he was relying on chemical fertilisers and market seeds for his farming purposes. The awareness programme on sustainable agriculture organized at his village has changed his outlook on conventional farming practices and he became aware of the negative consequences of application of chemical fertilisers and excessively depending upon market seeds. His interest was further strengthened when he attended meetings SAS Farming by Mr. Subhash Sharma SAS farming practices at Liligada GP in 2016.

After availing basics of organic farming practices, he started practicing farming organically in his 5 acres farm land. Initially he was limited to the application of cow organic manure and line sowing with space management techniques in his farming activities. During the same period, Mr. Deepak Suchde influenced his ideas on key aspects of SAS farming practices like de-weeding, nutrition management, crop diversification, & pruning at the training and awareness program on SAS farming at Liligada GP. In addition, he has been learning on the implementation processes of sustainable agricultural practices by visiting the experimental SAs farm of Liligada GP.

Now he is producing paddy, ragi, black gram, horse gram, maize etc. by applying most of the SAS principles and practices. He increased his knowledge on SAS farming further by attending on-field trainings on sustainable agricultural systems provided by Mr. Subhash Sharma, Mr. Deepak Suchde, and Mr. Bharat Bhushan Tyagi in 2018-19. As a practitioner of SAS farming, he has motivated his farmer friends; viz., Rama Malik of Marchima village of Liligada GP and Praharaj Nayak on SAS farming.

But the major issue that he is facing to undertake his farming activities forward, is water. There is also no option for irrigation as the GP has been on rainfed zone. H has planned for digging a well for his farm and fencing the boundary of his farm land to protect his crops from animals.
Cases of Farmers from

Merapali GP

Mohana Block, Gajapati District
Case of Simi Malik

Name of the Farmer: Simi Malik
At-Bhaliasahi, GP-Merapali,
Block-Mohana, District-Gajapati
Contact No- 9439033151

Simi Malik, a lady farmer of Bhaliasahi village of Merapali GP in Mohana block of Gajapati district, has been undertaking agricultural activities in her 10 acres agriculture land. For higher yields, like other farmers, she was using chemical fertilisers and hybrid seeds for farming purposes. But, Mr. Subhash Sharm’s awareness programme on natural farming brought changes in her farming practices. She clearly understood how external input led farming system is ruining her agriculture land and hampering its productive capacity.

Driven by the prospects of sustainable farming, she started applying cow dung and cow urine as organic manure to increase the fertility of the soil and observed the changing conditions of soil in favourable direction. In the meanwhile, she captured new ideas on sustainable agricultural systems by attending the awareness programme on SAS that was organized in her village. She has also undertaken visits to the Liligada SAS farm to observe the operationalizations of SAS principles. These practical observations had guided her further to intensify the application of SAS practices in her own agriculture land.

Major crops grown by Simi Malik include different vegetables, maize, and paddy. This SAS practice has not only increased her crop yields; but also has increased her income by saving money that was otherwise spend on purchasing eternal inputs. Further, her understandings on SAS farming became more concrete when she attended on-field trainings on sustainable agricultural systems provided by Mr. Subhash Sharma, Mr. Deepak Suchde, and Mr. Bharat Bhushan Tyagi in 2018-19. She also persuaded Rabindra Malik of Bandhaguda village of his GP to practice SAS farming by explaining to him the pros and cons of both conventional farming system and sustainable farming system.

Like it is for all farmers in her GP, water has the major challenger for her. There are no irrigation facilities in the GP. She has intended to dig an open well on her agriculture land by mobilizing government schemes with the help of Merapali Farmer Producer Organization so that she would be able to produce crops in her farm throughout the year.
Photo of Simi Malik

Simi Malik, c/o Bibekananda Malik, Bhaliasahi, Ludru, Merap ali
Case of Harekrushna Sahu

Name of the Farmer: Harekrushna Sahu
At-Merapali, GP-Merapali,
Block-Mohana, District-Gajapati
Contact No- 9265177474

Harekrushna Sahu, a young farmer of Merapali village of Merapali GP, has been involved with farming activities in 10 acres agriculture land. He was using external inputs for higher yields. Driven by ideas gained from Subhash Sharma on natural and SAS farming, he started applying organic manure to increase the fertility of the soil. At the same time he started using his local seeds for better yields in his circumstances. Besides, his visits to the experimental SAS farm in the adjacent Liligada GP have also refined his ideas on operations of sustainable agricultural practices.

Now, Harekrushna grows vegetables, oilseeds, pulses, cereals etc., using some SAS methods. This sustainable practice has stopped extra expenses used for applying external inputs. Further, his vision on organic farming became more sharpened when he attended on-field trainings on sustainable agricultural systems provided by Mr. Subhash Sharma, Mr. Deepak Suchde, and Mr. Bharat Bhushan Tyagi in 2018-19. Harekrushna has also become able to motivate his farmer friends of his village namely Kasinath Nayak and Santosh Nayak for undertaking SAS farming practices.

Like other farmers of his GP, Harekrushna is facing water problem to irrigate his farm. He has intended to dig an open well on his agriculture land by mobilizing government schemes with the help of Merapali Farmer Producer Organization so that he could produce more varieties of crops in his farm throughout the year.
Case of Rabindra Malik

Name of the Farmer: Rabindra Malik
At-Bandhaguda, GP-Merapali,
Block-Mohana, District-Gajapati
Contact No- 7854003721

Rabindra Malik has been involved in farming activities in his 2 acres agriculture land in Bandhaguda village of Merapali GP, Gajapati. From the beginning, he was applying chemical fertilisers to improve soil health and hybrid seeds for more yields. But his farming concepts had been greatly influenced by the SAS farming techniques as explained Mr. Subhash Sharma and others during their visits to the SAS farm in Liligada GP.

He started experimenting by applying organic manure in small cultivable patch of his farm land. He observed that the soil conditions of this experimental patch are healthier than that of rest of the patches of his farm. He also marked the growth of microorganisms in the soil of the experimental patch. All these observations had changed his farming practices. Then he applied sustainable agricultural principles like application of organic manure, line sowing and space management, and intercropping etc in his farming practices.

Besides, he has also been applying his learning in his farming practices gained at the experimental SAS farm in Liligada GP. Now, he grows various field crops viz. paddy, black gram, ragi, maize, and different vegetables using the SAS principles. His ideas on SAS farming practices like water management, soil management, de-weeding, nutrition management, diversity, pruning, and marketing became refined further through on-field trainings on sustainable agricultural systems provided by Mr. Subhash Sharma, Mr. Deepak Suchde, and Mr. Bharat Bhushan Tyagi in 2018-19. Inspired by Rabindra’s motivational ideas on SAS farming, his farmer friends-Bibekananda Malik of Valiasahi village and Bibhuti Nayak & Chaitanya Malik of Bandhaguda village- have adopted SAS farming practices in their respective farms.

Like other farmers of his GP, Rabindra is facing water problem for irrigating his farm. From water scarcity point of view, he has intended to dig a open well on his agriculture land by mobilizing government schemes with the help of Merapali Farmer Producer Organization so that he could produce more varieties of crops in his farm throughout the year.
Case of Kamadeb Malik

Name of the Farmer: Kamadeb Malik  
At-Tuaguda, GP-Merapali, 
Block-Mohana, District-Gajapati 
Contact No- 9437873088

Kamadeb Malik is practicing farming in his 2 acres agriculture land in Tuaguda village of Merapali GP, Gajapati. From the beginning of his farming career, he was heavily dependent on external inputs for higher yield of crops. But subsequently, he came in contact with Mr. Deepak Suchde and Mr. Subhash Sharma during 2018-19 through the SAS deliberations and training sessions. He was greatly influenced by them and was also able to see the impact of SAS farming on a barren land in Liligada GP.

The implementation of sustainable agricultural practices viz. in-stu water conservation, soil treatment, seed selection, crop rotation, diversity and local ecology at experimental SAS farm in Liligada enhanced Kamadeb’s knowledge on sustainable farming. Then Kamadeb applied SAS farming practices in a full swing and became successful in getting higher yields of paddy, black gram, ragi, maize, and different vegetables. His understandings on SAS farming practices like water management, soil management, de-weeding, nutrition management, diversity, pruning, and marketing became refined further through on-field trainings on sustainable agricultural systems provided by Mr. Subhash Sharma, Mr. Deepak Suchde, and Mr. Bharat Bhushan Tyagi in 2018-19.

Being inspired by Kamadeb, his farmer friends, viz., Bijay Malik, Prasanta Nayak, and Surya Malik of Tuaguda village have adopted SAS farming practices in their respective farms.

Like other farmers of his GP, Kamadeb is also facing water problem. From water scarcity point of view, he has intended to dig a well on his agriculture land by mobilizing government schemes with the help of Merapali Farmer Producer Organization so that he could produce more varieties of crops in his farm throughout the year.