

Black Rice Cultivation: Implementation and Actualization

Odisha PVTG Empowerment & Livelihoods Improvement Programme started working with the people of Balabhadrapur village during July, 2017 when local community relied desperately on income from off-season migration, seasonal farming and sporadic vegetable, normal paddy cultivation along the stream bank. The land use pattern and land holding size was inadequate to address the food security and improved livelihood options for the community in general and the poor vulnerable households in particular.

As firmly believed on participatory and partnership approach, KutiaKandha Development Agency (KKDA), Lanjigarh held several rounds of interaction with the people formally and informally and shared the idea and concept of OPELIP way of community development through various targeted interventions. With initial support from OPELIP under IFAD, thirteen (13) selected

farmers (both men and women) from the community got the training on cereal crops –line transplanting, system of rice intensification (SRI) at Paddy & millet apart from an exposure to a nearby OPELIP area Tangankana village to see and believe the process of cultivation and impact of interventions on Black rice cultivation within the OPELIP operational area. The motivated and mobilized people then endorsed in one voice the concept of Black rice cultivation as a road map to be adopted for implementation and actualization. The plan document was then prepared through participatory method involving all members of the village. Now the implementation of Black rice covering 3 Ha and 20 HHs is in progress with the wholehearted involvement of the farmers. The following farmers have selected & cultivated the Black rice cultivation & got benefited.

Sl. No	Name of farmer	Area Cultivated (acre)	Yield (Qtl)	Sale Amount
1	Gorekha Mali	0.25	3	7620.00
2	Manahara Mali	1	9	24810.00
3	Budu Mali	0.50	6	17880.00
4	Dana Mali	1.25	13	37320.00
5	SankaraChandi	0.50	6	16800.00
6	Mahindra Patel	0.25	3	7740.00
7	DasarathaGiri	0.25	1	1890.00
8	Benudhara Mali	0.50	4	11550.00
9	Dinabandhu Mali	0.50	5	13815.00
10	Dayanidhi Mali	1.25	14	39300.00
11	Giri Mali	0.25	2	4080.00
12	Kamala Harijan	0.25	2	5205.00
13	DhanaMajhi	0.25	1	1500.00
		7	69	189510.00

Out of above Sri Dayanidhi Mali, S/o Mohan Mali Balabhadrapur village cultivated Black rice in one acre of land. He got support from Balabhadrapur Village Development Committee of 12 kg of Paddy (Black rice) seed of Kalabati variety with other agri. input support as 100 kg of organic manure and followed up the process guidance and support provided by field experts. After 150 days when the crop was ready to harvest, crop cutting experiment has been done at his field in presence of AAO, Agriculture Department. It was found that average 12 quintal of seeds was harvested in one acre of land. Sri Dayanidhi sold his harvested paddy to Pathway India Rs. 30/- kg got Rs.39300/- only.



The success of Black rice cultivation enhances the double income and indicative the understanding and commitment level of the community to own the activity as collective responsibility. During implementation of various activities both in private and community land, members of eligible



households have contributed their share indiscriminately. Women members of households are mobilized and brought into SHG fold for main streaming them in the developmental process. The few best practices followed in the Black rice cultivation at Balabhadrapur village as follows

1. Farmers are entrusted with line transplanting of black rice paddy having spacing of 25 cm row to row and plant to plant the care & maintenance of the cluster area.
2. Farmers have taken vermin composting as microenterprise on pilot basis to promote green manure.
3. Benefit sharing through sharing of responsibility as decided by VDC among farmer.
4. Arrangement of buyer for selling of harvested product through whatApp group & social media.
5. Follow up package of practice (PoP) at the time of cultivation.

Sri Dayanidhi Mali along with other farmers is happy with their achievement and give thanks to the OPELIP for this support.