



Prabhasini – barefoot community women Seed Breeder

“Prabhasini Mallick”, grassroots women farmer leader of Gadapadar village one of the few women taking up the task of producing good quality seeds and multiplying it for other farmers. Considering the promises of the market offering long grain high yield seeds, her fellow women farmers from Tarini women Self-Help Group of the village, sourced a local long grain/thin seed namely ‘Haladi Chudi’ which in local terms in English means Turmeric Bangles. In other words the meaning of the seed name carries its character of low pest attack (compared with Turmeric characters) and bangles for its sharp, long grains. As small quantity of the seed procured in exchange of other local seeds the women farmers wanted someone from their group take the lead to multiply this seeds for the entire village.

Prabhasini volunteered to take on the task for entire village as her family owns 2.5 acres of medium land, as most other families have less than this volume. Additionally, her husband too supported the idea and agreed to help her on this initiative. The village women group agreed to exchange the yield with other local varieties as they would grow this variety in the next crop season. The women farmers opt this variety for its characters and wish this would enable them to offer a better yield in comparison with the other market seeds (long grain)

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As a paddy seed breeder, in the first step she has prepared her land with summer ploughing to increase porous inside the soil by making it light and mulch the farm residuals which are left in the land on previous agricultural season. She followed seed treatment process by using of cow urine and termite soil and dried the same before she applied it for germination. After drying of seeds she raised a bed to germinate the seeds and sowed Dhanicha Seed (Green Manure) which was provided by the project. Out of 100 seeds 98 seeds are germinated which bring happiness to her as she never saw this type of germination in her life. After grow up of seedlings up to 20 days she adopted line transplanting method by using of rope and stick and planted the seedlings with the help of her family members and relatives. Her husband also very happy and helped her in this work. Considering the absence of irrigation sources near the seed plot, Prabhasini and her husband were motivated to create 5% model to conserve the rainwater water. This is helping to retain soil moisture of the plot and would be used for emergency irrigation to retain the flowering and fruiting during long dry spells. She also prepared Agneyastra (an organic pest repellent) along with fellow women farmers and used the same in her paddy field to save the crop from pest.

Additionally, she also using pheromone trap to save the crop from flying insects, Considering the new self-help methods she is now encouraging her fellow women farmers to adapt to these principles in their regular crop as it saves money and ensure crop health. Her each paddy bush tilling was found 40 to 45 plants which shown a big hope of high yield. In addition to her seed production She also planted tuber crops in the boundary of the model. The other methods like tagging of healthy panicles, collection of seeds in right time, harvesting process of seeds and storing of seeds by using local methods will be done as per the crop cycle.



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