

It's been a fruitful Venture



SOURCE: E-BOOK ON SUCCESS STORIES RELEASED BY THE PRIME MINISTER
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Precision farming, drip irrigation, micro-irrigation – these terms would have fazed any eighth pass farmer. But not Lot Ram, who lives in Bhunter village in Kullu district, Himachal Pradesh and that is thanks to the **Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana** (PMKSY).



Lot Ram was cultivating tomato and cauliflower through the conventional *Kuhal* method, in which surface channels divert water from natural flowing streams. But his income was measly.

Things changed when PMKSY was launched. *"I was able to construct a 49,000-litre water tank under PMKSY. While the construction was going on, I planted high-grade varieties of pomegranate plants such as Kabuli-Kandhari and Sindhuri, because our land and climate are well suited for the production of pomegranate,"* he says.

He was given assistance for installation of a drip irrigation system which ensured 100% survival of plants. He could irrigate his orchard during stress periods and also during flowering, fruit setting, fruit development and the peak period of May and June.



Not only was there a lot of water wastage through the *kuhal* method, but also water was not available during the peak period. Now this problem was solved. When he had tried

growing pomegranate earlier, the yield was very low and he would earn INR 50,000-60,000 per annum.

Now the yield has improved dramatically, and his income has gone up by 4 to 5 times. No wonder, he is all praise for the Scheme,” *Our hard work is seeing these results all thanks to the Sinchayee Yojana*“. he says.

Courtesy: <http://darpq.gov.in>

Kullu, Himachal Pradesh

In Kullu, Agriculture, Horticulture, Irrigation, Public Health and Rural Development Departments are involved in the implementation of the Scheme.

BACKGROUND/ INITIATIVES UNDERTAKEN

903 farmers were provided HDPE pipes for irrigation, covering an area of 122 ha.

2 community water storage tanks were repaired and 16 farmers were benefitted by 2 ha. of land under irrigation

12 numbers of Kuhals (FIS) have been completed, and 325 ha of CCA (Culturable Command Area) has been created, though no special budget was available for the schemes

Sprinkler and Drip irrigation systems have been installed in the fields

69 Water User Associations/ Krishak Vikas Sangh and 18 watershed committees have been formed

Farmers are trained on irrigation and information on latest technology to be adopted

Initiatives for convergence with Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, National Food Security Mission, National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture and MGNREGA have been undertaken

The increased irrigation potential was added to existing 6,760 Culturable Command Area (CCA) in district

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS/ IMPACT

Irrigation potential increased by 519 Ha., with an increase in coverage under micro-irrigation by 1,108 Ha.

240 water harvesting structures were created in the district, which includes farm ponds, irrigation kuhals, irrigation tanks, check dams, percolation tanks, etc.

This resulted in crop diversification by way of shift to cash crops from traditional cereal crops and introduction of high-density varieties (e.g. Spur varieties in apples)

Shift from flood irrigation to micro irrigation assured better irrigation (More Crop Per Drop)

Increased production of Rs. 15 Cr. in vegetables and Rs. 35 Cr. in fruits observed from the year 2014-15 to 2015-16 in the district