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## The Focus

### IFS is replicating slowly but steadily - A case story

This is story of a small marginal farmer who lives at Indraprastha village in Patharpratima block of



**Gouri Mondal**

South 24 Parganas, West Bengal. **Gouri Mondal** is now proud to call herself a successful integrated farmer. She has overcome the risk of crop failure. She has a family of four. Her husband is a carpenter and two sons are involved in studies. From the beginning she was involved in farming but, after DRCSC's intervention she came to know about the concept of integrated farming system. She thereafter had gone through various trainings on IFS. She started to do farming in a much more organised manner and intensive way. She came

to know about optimum utilization of space & natural resources & their inter-relationship. It was 2005 when a group was formed in her village, named "Suryakiran Mahila Dal". She was then selected the group of that newly formed group. At present there are 13 members & the group's current savings is Rs. 60,000/- which is very significant. As her village is situated near the Sunderban delta region the soil is saline. She owns total 4



bighas of land out of which 1.5 bighas is little far from her home. She also has a small homestead garden. She cultivates different types of vegetables throughout the year. She is able to consume fresh, poison free vegetables and able to sell the excess at the local market but at local price. She uses to go to

the local market two days per week to sell her vegetables. There are some trees like subabul, coconut, guava, bamboo etc. around her farm. She cultivate paddy in kharif & rabi season. After consuming she sell paddy (roughly 4 bags of paddy in one season) and earn profit out of it. It's a good example of generating marketplace surplus busting the myth of negative productivity of sustainable agriculture.

She is now not at all dependent on external market for her production. She learnt the techniques of organic farming and applying those techniques successfully. Her expense on chemical fertilizer & pesticides has reduced. She keeps vegetable seeds of local variety. Seeing at her success many farmers in her village shifted to organic farming. She introduces mixed cropping in her farm. As she is an integrated farmer so not only crop but also various types of plants, aquatic flora, fauna, animals, insects, worms are being utilized

**IMPACTS:**

*Environmental impact: Less/no use of chemical fertilizers & pesticides helps to retain soil's natural fertility*

*Social impact: People are getting interest & gradually shifting to organic farming. IFS is replicating slowly but surely*

Animals, insects, worms are being utilized for production. She is now able to reduce her risk of farming. This is an all-round development of agriculture, animal husbandry & fisheries in a sustainable manner.

In the year 2008-09 by taking support from DRCSC she built up a vermi-compost pit at her homestead garden. Presently she is getting 5-6 quintals of



Gouri Mondal selling her products in a local market

vermi-compost per year. She gives vermi compost to other for the purpose of applying it on their field and to make them aware of its benefit. She used biogas for her cooking. It is subsidized by WBREDA.

The purposes of this model (IFS) are to increase the diversity through a farming system & to develop such a system which can withstand risk of climate change. Gauri Mondal, the integrated farmer cultivates at least 3 varieties of paddy in 2 seasons, 12-14 types of vegetables throughout the year. She has livestock (4 cows & a duck) & she rears fish in her pond. Besides, she has trees from which she gets food, fuel, fodder. By adopting this system she is now getting multiple benefit out of

it, which she has never imagined or thought of before 2005-06.

From the beginning she was involved in farming but at that time she used to apply chemical fertilizer & pesticides which in terms increased her cost of production. The input cost gradually became higher & higher. To maintain the yield she had to use more & more chemicals. Thereafter from 2005 she learnt various methods of organic farming & gradually shifted to organic fertilizer. In 2007 by taking support from DRCSC she shaped her land & there after started land shaping activities. Small pond was dug out at two corner of her land and soil from that was used to raise the level of her plot. There is also a trench along the inner boundary of her plot. There she planted strategy crops like elephant yam, yam, taro etc. and also applied the techniques like multi-storied cultivation in trellis, Jute bags etc. The small pond which was excavated was connected to a big pond which helps her in fish cultivation. Trench helps as irrigation channels to paddy fields. Nevertheless her food security has increased & vulnerability to hazard has reduced.

**IMPACT-** Environmental impact: Less/no use of chemical fertilizers & pesticides helps to retain soil's natural fertility. Helps to get fresh poison free crops & vegetables & thus reduce health hazards. Less emission of carbon from kitchen for using biogas.

Social impact: People are getting interest & gradually shifting to organic farming. IFS is replicating slowly but surely.

Economic Status:

By a cost-benefit analysis it is observed that the monthly income of a farmer from a farm including daily labour is approx 5,000/- which is more than a conventional farmer.

The average monthly income is approx Rs.2,000/-



Gouri Mondal in her garden

for conventional farmer which is very less than a integrated farmer.

**Hon'ble Agriculture minister Sri Purnendu Basu's visit to DRCS Office, Kolkata and in Purulia project area**

The Agriculture Minister of West Bengal Sri Purnendu Bose visited DRCS office at Bosepukur, Kasba, Kolkata on 14<sup>th</sup> August, 2014. Sri Ardhendu S Chatterjee of behalf of DRCS presented the Organisation's objective and overall activities across the districts of the State.

Sri Basu appreciated DRCS's efforts to come-up with the issues of small and marginal farmers. The presentation also attended by Mr. Mondal of BCKV, and Dr. Paritosh Bhattacharjee Ex-Director NCOF , Govt. of India.



Subsequently the minister along with the Sri Pradip Majumder, agriculture advisor to the chief minister, Sri Subrata Biswas, Secy Dept of Agriculture, Dr. Paritosh Bhattacharjee director of agriculture, Dr. M K Koley vice chancellor of BCKV and officials of the agriculture department of Purulia and Bankura visited some fields of DRCS at village Brotor at Kasipur Block of Purulia district. .

*Hon'ble Agriculture Minister visited DRCS's field area in Purulia district*



The Minister told the agricultural officers Of the state and districts to take note of the model s practice by DRCS and induct DRCS in the agricultural planning process of the districts to be completed by September 2014.

A meeting was organized by Dept. of Agriculture at Community Hall of Sonathuli Panchayat. The Vice Chancellor of BCKV, Director of Agriculture and the Secy. Dept of Agriculture appreciated DRCS's efforts.

**Glimpses of minister visit**



Seed Festival— A Brief



DRCS has organised a day-long festival on seed preservation at Sahid Surya Sen Bhavan, Jodhpur Park, Kolkata on August 30, 2014. It's to create awareness, share knowledge on conservation practice of crop genetic resources and exchange traditional seeds to a wider audience. Events were, seminar and exposition. The seminar took place on sustainable agriculture, Seed Bill, GM crop menace and so on. There was a farmers' 'open floor' too. The exposition comprising showcase on seed varieties, organic produce and delicacy, relevant literature and the rest.

SNAPS



**Education Team Activities:**

**Community Sensitization Programme:**

A programme was conducted to sensitize community people through different attractive methods on the aspects of Child Rights. To make this more effective we have used this media like puppetry , drama etc. Around 300 people we have reached through this programme. →



Through **CHILD LINE** awareness there was an effort to dish out ideas on subjects like Child in Need, Care and Protection and Juvenile in Conflict vis-a-vis juridical issues by video screening.

**CHILD LINE  
Awareness  
Programme**

classroom shades & colours



Students drawings in one corner of a classroom. Students illustrated different objects, contextual to their syllabi. It's a part of developing child-friendly environ in schools.

psycho-social workshop & basic first aid



The main objective of the workshop was to discuss psychological problems common to school children. The workshop dealt with how teacher will identify those students and what will be the way-out to overcome the problem. The Basic First Aid training imparted in Project Field Facilitation Centers. The training to the Children's Group and Community Action Group members.





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Ensuring food and livelihood security of  
the rural poor through sustainable  
management of natural resources...

## Upcoming Events STS Project

Workshop on mental health with community support group members on 18 & 25 Sept'14 at Tangra, Kolkata.

Community sensitization programme on Child Rights on 14 Sept'14 at Shuarmari, Tangra, Kolkata and on 21 Sept'14 at Rajabazar, Kolkata.



## Current titles

