

Gala of Manjula Konwar - trailblazer for fellow rural women

Perseverance and staying focussed – the two power that has led Manjula Konwar, women farmer in Sivasagar district to come out of their routine household to such an income generating activity that has become an example to other fellow rural women. Resident of Bengmuria Konwar Gaon and a mother of two college going boys she is a regular visitor to the Krishi Vigyan Kendra,



Sivasagar. She was a participant in the training programme on Vermicompost production in 04.12.2011. That was the turning point of her life as an entrepreneur. Starting vermicompost production in a disposable thermocol enclosure, she now has a concrete production unit of 20 q capacity. “Initially, my husband did not support me in plunging into entrepreneurship activity. But I was adamant and thought of utilizing my spare time into some productivity

which will also help me in earning some money” she said, when asked about how she turned into an entrepreneur. Triggered by the success from this enterprise, she started participating in a number of capacity building programmes for rural entrepreneurs including scientific flower production, oyster mushroom cultivation, dual purpose backyard poultry, fodder nursery and preparation of traditional Assamese confectionery etc. During 2013-14 she was given a frontline demonstration on gerbera var. Red Gem and Summer marigold var. Seracole. In addition she was also included in the beneficiary list of FLD on



dual purpose poultry Vanaraja. Thereafter, she is maintaining a gerbera plot (var. Red Gem) of 0.2 ha which is helping her earning revenue from the sale of cut flowers in addition to sucker which is in great demand. She also has the planting material of summer marigold Seracole. From this enterprise alone, she could earn an amount of Rs. 15,000.00 per annum. She also has 20 nos. of poultry var. Vanaraja and Khaki Campbell. Furthermore from the year 2014, she has started oyster mushroom cultivation in her household. Encouraged by the increasing demand of fresh oyster mushroom and the revenue earned therefrom, she plunged

into oyster mushroom cultivation in the year 2015. Under the guidance of Trishnalee Saikia and Rupjyoti Borah, SMS, KVK, Sivasagar she started this activity in a newly constructed bamboo lathe room of 8 feet by 8 feet. The spawn and polythene bag was provided from the Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Sivasagar under the FLD on Participatory Video Making on Scientific Oyster Mushroom Production Technology. Through the FLD she gained expertise in every step of mushroom production right from preparation of mushroom beds to marketing of the produce. Regular guidance was provided from the two scientists of the KVK resulting in production from 100 beds and obtained



a harvest of 150 kg with a gross return of Rs. 30,000.00. She also actively participated in the video making of scientific cultivation of oyster mushroom. "I was not interested in this enterprise fearing the chance of growth of poisonous mushroom. At the very outset, I tried this with twenty bags, but now keeping in view the increased demand of fresh mushroom the idea came into my mind to do it in a large scale", she said. She is hopeful of enlarging the production of mushroom production next year with about 500 beds. Her success has led the fellow women SHG members to take up this enterprise in the time to come.