

Case Story: Transformation of Suklal Mara Kunjami's Agricultural Practices

Farmer's Name: Suklal Mara Kunjami

Age: 64

Education: Illiterate

Occupation: Agriculture

Village: Palli, Post Tadgaon, Block Bhamragad, District Gadchiroli

Palli, a remote village located 25 kilometers from Bhamragad, is disconnected from basic transportation and infrastructure. Villagers, including women, often walk long distances to access the nearest market or government services. The village is home to around 50–60 farmers, who traditionally relied on subsistence farming.



In October 2023, the High Impact Mega Watershed Project (HIMWP), supported by the Bharat Rural Livelihood Foundation (BRLF) and implemented by Yuva Rural Association (YRA), organized an agricultural workshop in the nearby village of Irakdumme. Suklal Mara Kunjami, a farmer from Palli, attended the workshop. Intrigued by the concepts presented, he invited the project team to conduct a village meeting in Palli, where farmers were introduced to the project's interventions and livelihood enhancement strategies.

Following a detailed survey of the village, Suklal, who previously engaged in small-scale vegetable farming, was identified as a key beneficiary. The project team demonstrated innovative techniques like raised-bed farming and organic practices using Dasparni extract, neem-based solutions, and compost. Suklal was encouraged to procure diverse vegetable seeds, which included brinjal, chili, tomato, okra, spinach, fenugreek, cabbage, amaranth, gourd varieties, and more.

Guided by the project team, Suklal implemented these practices and expanded his vegetable cultivation. Alongside vegetables, he also cultivated paddy, producing 40 bags of rice. Additionally, Suklal ventured into aquaculture by stocking 3 kilograms of fingerlings in a pond on his farm, yielding an additional income of ₹20,000.

Despite his age, Suklal's determination and adaptability have been commendable. He



now cycles from Palli to Bhamragad to sell his fresh produce, earning ₹200–₹300 daily. For Suklal, his farm has become both a source of livelihood and pride. He even spends nights on the farm to safeguard his crops and enjoys the satisfaction of witnessing the fruits of his hard work.

Before Intervention:

- Limited farming techniques and subsistence-level income.
- Small-scale vegetable farming without diversification.
- Lack of access to advanced agricultural knowledge.

After Intervention:

- Adoption of diversified farming, including vegetables, paddy, and aquaculture.
- Implementation of organic farming practices, enhancing soil health and crop yield.
- Increased daily earnings of ₹200–₹300 from vegetable sales.
- Improved livelihood and self-sufficiency.

Today, Suklal Mara Kunjami stands as a symbol of resilience and success, inspiring other farmers in Palli to adopt modern and sustainable agricultural practices. His journey underscores the transformative impact of the HIMWP in empowering rural communities to achieve economic stability and sustainability.