

Dignity in Agriculture-Story of Akshya Pradhan

Akshya Pradhan of village Lamsingha left the village for Chennai in the year 1998 in search of a job when his village was affected by a severe drought. That time Akshya Pradhan was hardly sixteen years old. Many other persons from the village went to cities in Chhattisgarh and the Hirakud command area to work as a seasonal labourer. During that period, almost every year many people from Lamsingha used to make seasonal migration for want of work. Since Akshya wanted a salaried job he was advised by one Telecom Engineer from Burla to go towards Chennai where he could get a regular job with some Company.



That is how Akshya worked in Chennai for about ten years and later on he also worked with some other Companies in Kerala and Karnataka. While leaving his village Akshya had thought that there is no more hope in agriculture in his village. However, towards 2005-06 when he found that Lamsingha was developing into a prosperous village because of development in agriculture, he was changing his mind and finally he came back to the village in the year 2010-11. After returning home he developed a two acres barren land into a productive vegetable garden and now he is growing tomato, brinjal and few other vegetables in that plot. During the year 2012-13 just from selling tomato and brinjal he could make a net income of 90,000 rupees in just four months! While working in South India he was getting at best nine to ten thousand rupees per month which is nothing compared to this.

While asking about his experience in agriculture Akshya says that now he feels as if he is emancipated from the “life of a bonded labour” after a long twelve years! Akshya is confident that very soon he will be able to earn at least Rs. 2 lakhs a year. Many young and educated people from nearby villages are now taking lesson from him to work in agriculture with dignity.