

Case Study

Tuber plantation (widow)

Janabai Goma Sambari is a widow of about 62 years from village Anandwadi of Karjt Taluka in Raigad district. She stays with her son, daughter-in-law and one grandson. Her husband passed away some 10 years back and since then she has been living with her son. Her son works at nearby hotel to support his family.

Janabai came in contact with Anubhav Pratishthan Trust (APT) in 2019, when the



organisation initiated the process of organising the women of village Anandwadi in to self-help groups. She became the member of self-help group. She attended various meetings conducted by APT for the SHGs. Her interest gradually developed and started participating regularly the awareness meetings. In one of such meetings Janabai got the information about the tuber root farming. She learnt this technic

and decided to do the tuber root farming.. APT staff provided her guidance in tuber farming and visited regularly for supervision and monitoring. Janabai started Tuber cultivation on 10 Gunthas of land. The support for the tuber was given to Janabai through Volkart Foundation grant.

Janabai cultivates different types of tubers on the 10 Guntha land. From the tuber cultivation, She gets around 115 to 120 kg of tuber roots that she uses at home and also sells at local Market. Janabai is able to save about Rs. 1200/- per month, which she used to spend for purchasing the vegetables from the market.



Also from the sale of the excess roots cultivated, Janabai is able to earn around Rupees twenty five to thirty thousand which she can save and also spend to fulfil her other requirements.

Learning:

Encouraged by the results of tuber cultivation on 10 Gunthas of land, Janabai wants to expand the tuber cultivation by taking the land on lease and with the help of SHG members she wanted to take this activity as a source of income for her and for the group. It is a classic example of woman empowerment if she gets the support for fulfilling her economic requirements. The economic stability has boosted her confidence and now she is ready to move on for the development of her fellow members and her village.

The Challenges:

To convince the beneficiary to adopt this activity as a livelihood option was a real challenge, as there are lot of myths and misunderstandings about agriculture. The stereo type of agriculture means the big size of land, lot of water and big investment. But APT is promoting vertical agriculture as low external input sustainable agriculture technic.

The scarcity of the water in the area is another big challenge. But this challenge can be overcome by adopting LEISA technique as proved by Janabai.