

Poverty to Prosperity: ICAR-RCER,KVK Ramgarh Transforming Farmers' Livelihood in Udлу Village

Udлу village in Ramgarh district, Jharkhand has emerged as a promising example of rural transformation through scientific farming and livelihood interventions led by the ICAR-RCER-KVK, Ramgarh. The transformation was supported by ICAR-ATARI, Patna and IIAB, Ranchi. The village was adopted in 2023 under the Scheduled Caste Sub Plan (SCSP) to enhance income, employment, and livelihood security of marginal farmers. The village has around 600 families, nearly 60% belonging to Scheduled Caste communities. Most of the households have small landholdings and depended on traditional farming, monoculture and seasonal labour; resulting in low household income (about Rs. 40,000– Rs. 60,000 annually) and limited livelihood opportunities. KVK, Ramgarh undertook detailed survey, identified major issues and provided need based skill training and input supports in an integrated approach comprising improved piggery, goatry, backyard poultry and duck farming. Capacity building and technological supports were provided for improved crops production including vegetables, nutri-garden and fruit production through quality seed and planting materials. Need based farm mechanization, tools and implement like rotavator, power sprayers, electric pumps, weeders etc. were made available for reducing drudgery and enhancing efficiency. Regular capacity building by KVK, Ramgarh as well as exchange program, demonstrations, farmer's-scientist interaction, exposure visits, and advisory services were provided to encourage farmers to adopt scientific and diversified enterprises. Within a short span of three years, Udлу village has shown remarkable progress in terms of adopting scientific farming and quantum jump in their household income. **Farm incomes have increased by 3–5 times, and the household income has enhanced to about Rs. 1,50,000– Rs. 3,00,000.** Women and rural youths were encouraged to take up secondary income-generating activities such as mushroom cultivation, tailoring, service providing through digital knowledge centre etc. These interventions have helped diversify income sources, improve household nutrition, and created year-round employment opportunities within the village, generating an additional income of about Rs. **5,000– Rs.10,000 per month.** Village Digital Knowledge Centre established by the KVK to help farmers access online government schemes such as Bharat-VISTAAR, VB G RAM G, PM-Kisan, PMKSY, PM-KUSUM etc and generate income as service provider.

The Udlu has now become a model village for agri-transformation involving science led technology interventions through community participation. Many youths in the village are now earning handsome income and inspiring others within and outside the village. To mention a few are, Sh. Basant Kumar Ravi, who left his tailoring profession in Mumbai where he was earning Rs. 20,000 per-month and returned to village during COVID 19. With support from KVK Ramgarh, he started scientific pig farming with three Jharsukh pigs. Today he manages more than 30 pigs and piglets along with vegetable farming and earning around ₹ 6 lakh annually and he has set his target of earning Rs. 20 lakh through this profession in coming days. He was honoured with the Innovative Farmer Award by BAU, Ranchi. Another youth, Sh. Pankaj Kumar Ravi who was a daily wage labour and was practicing traditional farming on his 2.5 acres of rainfed land. Through the support from KVK Ramgarh he undertook to diversified pig Farming. Due to adoption of scientific approaches, pig survival rate as well as productivity substantially improved. His annual income rose from less than Rs. 50,000 in 2023 to over Rs. 3 lakh, ensuring a fairly well livelihood to his family. Smt Sanju Devi adopted diversified Livelihood Model mainly oyster mushroom, vegetable production along with tailoring. Her family was mainly dependent on seasonal paddy cultivation from her one-acre farm. Her annual income has reached about Rs. 2 lakh, with additional tailoring income of Rs.7,000– Rs.12,000 per month, significantly improving household nutrition and financial stability. Another women farmer Smt. Rubi Kumari a graduate from a marginal farming family, started a home-based tailoring enterprise with support from KVK. She now stitches garments such as salwar suits, blouses, petticoats, and children's dresses for customers in her village and nearby areas. She is also established linkage with a city garment shop “Aman Sticking Centre” for supplying stitched clothes, which has helped her receive regular work and expand her enterprise. She now earns about Rs.10,000– Rs.12,000 per month (Rs.1.2–1.5 lakh annually) from tailoring. Her success is inspiring other rural women to take up skill-based self-employment. There are many more similar success stories in the village. The most striking point of success was involvement of youths, large participation of women, positive mind set, continuous backstopping by KVK and zeal to improve their livelihood through improved farming in a community approach.

To celebrate the success of farmers and rural entrepreneurs, ICAR-RCER – KVK Ramgarh organized a Kisan Safalta Mahotsav (Celebrating farmers' success) on theme “*Khet Mein Vigyan, Sashakt Kisan*” at Udlu village on 28 February 2026. The programme was inaugurated by Honorable MLA, Mandu Shri Nirmal Mahto as the Chief Guest. In his

address, he appreciated the efforts of ICAR-Research Complex for Eastern Region and KVK Ramgarh in their efforts for strengthening rural livelihoods and encouraging farmers to adopt scientific farming in remote and inaccessible Udlu village. This is a very unique programme where we are celebrating the farmers success, chief guest remarked. He also inaugurated a Digital Knowledge Centre, Poultry & Goatry Unit in the village. Dr. Anup Das, Director, ICAR-RCER, Patna, in his address congratulated the villagers and KVK Ramgarh for their participatory and community approach in transforming the scenario of Udlu village from Poverty to prosperity through integrated scientific farming. He asked KVKs and extension personnel to adopt such models in other areas to enhance farmers income and provide multiple livelihood opportunities to move towards Viksit Bharat 2047. Dr. Sudhanshu Shekhar, Head KVK Ramgarh emphasized that continuous capacity building, demonstrations, and technical support provided by KVK Ramgarh are helping farmers and rural women adopt new livelihood opportunities. Dr. Vishal Nath, OSD, IARI, Hazaribag congratulated the KVK team and offered the support of IARI in providing capacity building to further upscale this model to other areas. Dr. Awani Kr Singh, Head, FSRCHPR, Ranchi also appreciated the efforts of the KVK, Ramgarh and asked for further strengthening horticulture component for improving income and nutrition. The programme was also addressed by Dr. Abhay Kumar, Principal Scientist, ICAR-RCER, Patna, Dr. Somen Naskar, Principal Scientist, ICAR-IIAB, Ranchi, Dr. A. K. Jha, Pr. Scientist FSRCHPR, Ranchi and others. A visit to the farmers' fields was under taken by the experts and dignitaries during the mahotsav. The programme witnessed a farmers-scientist interaction on issues and strategies for upscaling successful intervention in other areas. Ten exhibition stalls and sharing of success stories by farmers especially woman farmers and large participation of youths were the major focus of the mahotsav. Traditional folk dance by the villagers added flavor to the mahotsav. The programme was attended by more than 400 farmers including KVK personnel, state government officials, students, NGOs and others. Dr. Indra Jeet, SMS, KVK Ramgarh offered vote of thanks to conclude the event.





