

Naubise farmer intensified her land with climate smart practices, CSV Kavre

Ms. Sita Neupane is one of the members of Janajagriti IPM group in Naubise, Mahadevstan-7 of Kavre district. She has been active member in her group and practicing various climate smart practices. Climate smart practices are the technologies for adapting with the climate change and building resilient agriculture system. Ms. Neupane's effort on intensification of her land with no-pesticides had been talk of the town this summer. She earned NRs. 70,000 from cucumber production in about 375 square meter land. The crop was grown without use of any chemical pesticides but with the bio-pesticides called "Jholmal".

Naubise is one of the villages in Mahadevstan with high pesticides use. Farmers are normally small holders and have limited knowledge about pest management with no chemical pesticide. During a consultation workshop organized by CEAPRED in 2014 September farmers had demanded for the alternative to chemical pesticides. With objective to develop adaptive practices for Climate Smart Village project, ICIMOD with its partner organization CEAPRED started to demonstrate technologies in participation with the farmers. Since the beginning Ms. Sita Neupane started demonstrating various practices, among which mulching practices with Jholmal application she admired most.

This summer she continued her demonstration of cucumber production with mulching practice and application of Jholmal. The year had prolonged drought condition that ever had happened she knew. However, her straw mulching practice around the canopy of cucumber plant had saved the cucumber vine even in the water scarce condition. She managed to grow cucumber in 375 square meter land with the available water collected as waste water in plastic pond. With mulching the water evaporation was checked and the soil demanded fewer water than would no mulch demand in that hot days. The season has higher demand of cucumber in the area and the market in Kathmandu and Banepa. Because of no rain since September, the area had high water scarcity. The situation of higher demand, favoured her crop for getting good price that ranged NRs. 70-50 per Kg. She grew 1400 Kg out of the small land, the part she consumed, gifted to neighbours and served her guests.

She says, she had sprayed only Jholmal as any agriculture input which she did 5 times in crop duration of three months. The most demanded Bhaktapur Local allured many vendors and could fetch double price than last year. With her smiling note on her face Ms. Sita Neupane says, "Name in Society, Income in Pocket, farming gives us satisfaction when done with smart practices."