

# Success stories under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA

**State : Tripura**

# Dragon fruit Plantation: A New Initiative under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS

**Introduction:** A venture in Dragon fruit, an exotic variety in Tripura has expanded the horizon of **Mahatma Gandhi NREGS** in the State targeting 1500 vulnerable families (Job Card holders) for ensuring their livelihood and self reliance through cultivation, production and market linkages with the technical support of Horticulture Department. Dragon Fruit has high demand in the state but cultivation was not in common practice. The economy says the income from the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of the cultivation may be approximately Rs. 8.80 lakh per Ha per annum for a tenure of 25 years (maximum shelf life). So, It was decided to take up Dragon Fruit cultivation under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS in the state and accordingly approval was obtained from MoRD, GoI on 11.05.2020. As Mahatma Gandhi NREGS is a demand driven scheme, awareness has been created among beneficiaries to generate demands for taking up Dragon fruit Plantation in their waste lands.



# Dragon fruit Plantation: A New Initiative under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS

## Major Objective:

- To create opportunity of growing new fruit spices in the state as per high demand.
- To ensure sustainable income generation of beneficiaries (Job Card holders)
- To ensure availability of Dragon fruit in the local market which has very high demand in the state and currently imports from West Bengal, Delhi etc and also to reduce the cost of Dragon fruit in local market (current price is Rs.400 per Kg)

**State Plan:** During **FY 2020-21**, 26.53 hectare Dragon fruit plantation has been sanctioned under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS targeting 180 beneficiaries (1 Ha plantation in Sepahijala District, 10.53 Ha Dragon fruit cultivation in West Tripura District and 15 Ha plantation in South Tripura District). The proposed target for next 5 years is as follows:

<b>FY</b>	<b>2021-22</b>	<b>2022-23</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>	<b>2025-26</b>	<b>Total</b>
Target (area in Ha)	30	40	50	50	50	220
Target of individual beneficiaries in number	180	240	300	300	300	1320

# Success story of Dragon fruit Plantation in Sepahijala District

- **Name of Work:** Raising of 1.0 Ha Dragon fruit Plantation in East Gokulnagar GP under Bishalgarh RD Block of Sepahijala District
- **Cost & Financial Year:-** Rs.11,86,255/-, FY-2020-21
- **Implementing Agency:-** Horticulture Department
- **Name of Beneficiaries & land areas:-**
  1. Puspa Rani Biswas-0.32 Ha
  2. Keshab Deb Roy-0.36Ha
  3. Uma Deb Roy-0.32Ha
- **Overall Success:** The project has been successfully Completed in last year. This year Dragon fruits are growing in some of the plants which will enhance the income of the beneficiaries . The ownership and responsibility have been built up among the beneficiaries for taking care of Plantation.



# Success story of Dragon fruit Plantation in Sepahijala District

- **Impact:** As per the estimates, the cost of 1 Ha Dragon fruit Plantation (1<sup>st</sup> year of plantation) is Rs. 11.86 lakh and subsequently Rs. 1.80 lakh per hectare is required for maintenance purpose during next four years. The gross income from the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of the cultivation will be Rs. 8.80 lakh per hectare.
- Cost of production of Dragon Fruit per Ha in five years = Rs. 13.60 lakh
- Total yield in 5(five) years per Ha. = 20.10 MT
- Gross value in five years= Rs. 40.20 lakh per Ha  
(if minimum wholesale price is Rs.200 per kg)

**Net Profit = Rs. 26.60 lakh per Ha**

**Therefore, it is expected that 3 beneficiaries of Bishalgarh RD Block will earn (net profit) approximately Rs.8.86 lakh each in 5 years**



# Success story of Dragon fruit Plantation in Sepahijala District (Photographs during implementation of project)



# Success story of Dragon fruit Plantation in Sepahijala District (Photographs after implementation of project)



**Areca nut Plantation along with intercropping under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS in financial convergence mode with 118 RoFR beneficiaries in Dumburnagar Block of Dhalai District.**







- **Introduction:-** The state is having huge demand of Areca nut Plantation particularly in the tribal areas. The selling of areca nut is very much profitable business which can ensure sustainable income and livelihood for long run. Plantation for individual category under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS is usually done by utilizing the entire fund from the scheme. But in this Plantation success story, Mahatma Gandhi NREGS fund was sanctioned only for mandays i.e. for wage component only and **the material component has been borne by beneficiary themselves**. By doing this method, beneficiaries have been directly involved and the ownership trait has grown among themselves and they felt that the projects are of their own and maintenance of plantation is their responsibility.

## **Target:**

**50** plantation projects in 2018-19 FY and **68** Plantation projects in 2019-20 FY .

Beneficiaries were derived from SHGs under NRLM having RoFR land.

## **Status:**

**118** projects implemented successfully. Areca nut plantation along with intercropping pineapple, mixed vegetables.

**Beneficiaries contributed the cost of planting materials** and lands have been developed using Mahatma Gandhi NREGA fund.



- Technical guidance received from SeSTA associated with TRLM and PO took major role to motivate beneficiaries for their contributions.
- Total 118 beneficiaries of 19 VCs under Block have benefitted.
- Lands have been developed by terracing suitable for areca nut, plantation.
- As Areca nut gives return after 7 years, intercropping with pineapple and seasonal vegetables was done to get early incomes.



## Impact:

- The development of ownership lead to successful implementation of the project.
- Earlier also PO had taken similar initiatives with seedlings from PDF and wage component from MGNREGS, but the projects failed due to lack of monitoring and ownership.
- But in these projects, survival rate of Plants is above **95%** due to financial convergence from beneficiary's end. Beneficiaries are taking care of plantation works very effectively and they have already started earning from the projects.
- PO has received many applications from others Job Card holders for adopting this kind of plantation model in their lands in planting season only.
- PO initiated such plantation activities to wean tribal beneficiaries away from *Jhum* cultivation (Shifting) and provide them with a stable means of income.



## **Impact:**

- The first project was implemented in the land of Archana Chakma- a member of Ujjei SHG of Laxmipur Village committee.
- She met the cost of 1,400 Areca nut seedlings through loan from SHG fund.
- Her success encouraged other beneficiaries like Manika Chakma, Monu Mog, Trinijay Reang etc.
- Smt.Monu Mog of Chendamani SHG purchased 600 Areca nut seedlings and 3,000 Pineapple saplings with a cost of Rs.10,800/-
- She has already earned Rs.35,000 by selling intercropped vegetables. She will earn Rs.15,000/- per annum for next 3 years from Pineapple and Rs.1.20 lakh per annum from 7<sup>th</sup> year onwards through Areca nut.

## **Outcome:**

The outcome of the initiative is tremendous as due to own investment or contribution of beneficiaries of themselves, they are maintaining their own plantation project very nicely and it is expected that within 5 years they will be deriving benefit/income from that source permanently. This is creating sustainable and durable assets which is the main focus of MGNREGS.



# Replication:

- **Unakoti district** has replicated the successful model of financial convergence with beneficiary in **Gournagar Block** where **56 Areca nut plantation projects** have been taken up on individual land in 9 GPs of the Block along with intercropping like banana and lemon.







# Mahatma Gandhi NREGA supports 1700 Ha Rubber Plantation under Chief Minister's Rubber Mission during FY 2021-22 in Tripura

**Introduction:** Tripura is the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest producer of natural rubber in the Country with plantation area 85,454Ha in the State. Rubber plantation is having a huge demand particularly in the tribal areas for sustainable income generation and livelihood. Rubber usually starts producing latex after 7 years of plantation and continues up to 30 years of age. Rubber ensured livelihood to thousands of Jhumia tribal families raising their income from Rs.300-400 per month to Rs.10000-30000 per month. It generates direct employment @1000+mandays per Ha during immature phase and in mature phase, year round job ensured for 70 persons per 100Ha. Besides latex rubber Plantations are source of ancillary income like wood, honey, seeds etc.



# Mahatma Gandhi NREGA supports 1700 Ha Rubber Plantation under Chief Minister's Rubber Mission during FY 2021-22 in Tripura

**State Initiatives:** Under Chief Minister's Rubber Mission in Tripura, it was decided to give individual benefits to vulnerable Tribal families (Job Card Holders) by taking up 30,000 Ha of Rubber Plantations in next 5 years in convergence with ATMA. The Tribal Welfare Department, Govt. of Tripura is the nodal agency. As Mahatma Gandhi NREGS is a demand driven programme, only 1700 Ha Rubber Plantations target for FY 2021-22 has been taken up with a sanctioned amount of Rs.19.66crore on pilot basis. All 8 DPCs were asked to fix the target as per actual demand in following manner.

District	North Tripura	Unakoti	Dhalai	Khowai	West Tripura	Sepahijala	Gomati	South Tripura
Target	205 Ha	205 Ha	319 Ha	201 Ha	135 Ha	185 Ha	265 Ha	185 Ha
Fund from MGNREGA	23709890	23709890	36894902	23247258	15613830	21396730	30649370	21396730

# Mahatma Gandhi NREGA supports 1700 Ha Rubber Plantation under Chief Minister's Rubber Mission during FY 2021-22 in Tripura

**Implementation:** Rubber Plantation projects for individual benefits under CMRM created huge demands in all 8 districts particularly in tribal areas among Mahatma Gandhi NREGA Job Card holders having RoFR lands. The unit cost of 1Ha Rubber Plantation for 1<sup>st</sup> year is Rs.115658/-which is approved by the State Level Technical Committee. The Plantation projects are implementing by line departments like TTAADC, TRPC, TRP &PTG in all 8 districts. Till date 1002.49 Ha area planted in 108 clusters and 1214 beneficiaries already benefited.

**Expected Outcomes:** Rubber is contributing majorly to boost up the rural economy of the state. It is expected nearly 2000 vulnerable tribal families will be benefited to achieve self reliance with this venture and financial supports from Mahatma Gandhi NREGA.

