



**Acharya Narendra Deva University of
Agriculture and Technology, Kumarganj,
Ayodhya-224229**



Best Practice 1: “Socio-economic upliftment of Tharu community”

The Tharu tribe is an ethnic group of indigenous people living in the Terai plain on the Indo-Nepal border of Uttar Pradesh (UP). Tharu as a tribe closely connected with Land (*Jamin*), Water (*Jaal*) and Forest (*Jungle*) for their habitat and livelihood. The total population of Tharu in UP is 105,291 (53,687 males and 51,604 females) and mostly engaged in agriculture, raise cattle, hunt, fish, and collect forest products. The university conducted the Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) surveys to assess the socioeconomic condition of Tharu community in Balrampur and Bahraich districts covered under university jurisdiction and observations revealed that the socio-economic status of the Tharu community in both areas was characterized by significant deprivation.

Most of the people of the community were unaware about technical agricultural and animal husbandry practices. In order to ensure the sustainable livelihood of the Tharu community, it is imperative to equip them with technical expertise in agricultural and animal husbandry operations, as well as offer them with financial assistance. Following the identification of a significant need, the Narendra 97 rice variety has been disseminated to farmers through a front line demonstration. A tribal support initiative has been implemented with financial support from the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) to enhance the socio-economic status of the Tharu community. Tharu communities have embraced the practice of fishing subsequent to the introduction of the Frontline demonstration of fish seed and fingerlings. The adoption of animal husbandry and fishing, along with agricultural practices, has led to an enhancement in the livelihood of the Tharu population. The university has also supported them by educating their children for basic as well as higher education including support of computer labs for imparting the basic computer knowledge as well as internet facilities to interact regionally and globally.

The university conducted the survey in Tharu dominated areas in Balrampur and Bahraich districts and after identifying the gaps, demonstration with multi-disciplinary approaches on oil seed (147), pulses (149), cereals (4036), vegetables (11), poultry (3), fisheries

(44) dairy (48) and goateries (12) has been carried out since inception of TSP in 2016-17 as per their requirements and needs of the area. The university has also organized 63 agronomical practices training with 2140 beneficiaries and 60 Vocational Trainings with 1362 beneficiaries. The training and demonstration has directly transformed the farmers into income-generation activities in different enterprises.

Through its Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Pachpedwa, district Balrampur (U.P.), the university distributed free Kadaknath poultries, Barbari, and Sirohi goats to Tharu people in Balrampur. Each selected family received goats (five females and one male) and poultry (twenty-five), as well as a kit containing a feeder and waterer, basic feed additives, five kilograms of poultry feed, and a training manual. Four hundred goats and fifty thousand backyard poultry have been distributed.

Through field demonstrations, trainings, goshties, and awareness programs, the university is helping the Tharu population in the areas where they are the majority in the Uttar Pradesh districts of Balrampur and Bahraich. On the 18th of February, 2020, the Tharu community in the hamlet of Pachpedwa, District Balrampur, participated in a goshti focused on the cultivation of high-quality grains and the Front-Line Demonstration (FLD) of an improved variety of wheat. From September 14-18, 2021, a five-day training session focused on mushroom production techniques, and from May 9-13, 2022, women from the Tharu community in the village of Pachpedwa, District Balrampur, received training in the cultivation of medicinal and aromatic plants. Free fish fingerlings and training sessions on fish farming were provided to the Tharu people on September 21, 2021. Seeds, PVC pipes, a battery-powered Napsek Sprayer, a steel tank for storing grain, the university's own "NDR-2065" paddy seed variety, fruit and vegetable saplings, and fish fingerlings are all being distributed for free by the university. A Five Days Rural Youth Training was organized at a Village "Vishanapur", Block Mihipurva, Bahraich (U.P.) During 22-26 June, 2019 in which training of tailoring was given to the Tharu women for their socioeconomic upliftment. Dr. Seema Jaggi, ADG (HRD), ICAR, as an Expert counseled the Tharu women and distributed the free of cost Sewing Machine to them on 9 June, 2022. Under DBT Kisan Biotech Hub Project (2019-2022), 153 demonstrations on different agronomical practices (90 on paddy, 16 on wheat, 13 on Mustered and 34 on Marigold crop) and 15th trainings were conducted to boost the productivity of crops.

During the Rural rapid appraisal (RRA) Survey conducted in September 2020 to understand the relationship between the socioeconomic status of the Tharu, it was identified that the Tharu Community lacks the computer knowledge necessary to disseminate the latest

development via the internet and other communication systems. The problem was brought to the attention of the Hon'ble Chancellor by the Hon'ble Vice chancellor, and it was resolved by the Hon'ble Chancellor/Governor of Uttar Pradesh through the establishment by financial assistance of Rs 800,000 only and inauguration of a computer lab with 15 computers on March 18, 2021 at Maharana Pratap Gramoday Inter College, Emiliya Koder, Pachperawa, Balrampur. Since the establishment of the lab, 360 students have benefited, and 60 students are presently enrolled. The university always creates awareness among students in the Tharu dominated areas to take admission in our university and other higher institutions. Total 8 Tharu students have taken admission in our university. A Ph.D. student (Ms. Akanksha Yadav, Id. No. C-13013/22) of our university is also conducting research on "Prevalence of anaemia among antenatal women in tribal, urban and rural area of U.P."

The socioeconomic upliftment of the Tharu Community was pursued through the establishment of Women Self-Help Groups (WSHG), namely Puja Women Self-Help Group, Ekla Women Self-Help Group, Shanti Women Self-Help Group, Suraj Women Self-Help Group, and the Farmer Producer Organization (FPO) known as "Balrampur Spices Farmers Producers Company Ltd., Kohargaddi, Pachperwa, Balrampur".

Socioeconomic condition of the community plays a significant role in the physical, social and mental health of individuals, education, enterprise etc. In this regard, the university contributed significantly in enhancing the livelihood and socioeconomic upliftment of Tharu community by providing technical knowledge and need based input through field demonstrations, trainings, goshties, and awareness programmes regarding technical agricultural, animal husbandry, fisheries and other practices, and free of cost distribution of improved varieties of seeds, fertilizers, Napsek sprayer, PVC pipes, goats, backyard poultries and kits. The evidence of success was reported as Tharu community initially engaged in traditional farming practices and they have improved their household income by adopting improved agronomical scientific practices. The implementation of diversified agricultural practices led to an increase in the average annual income derived from agriculture, amounting to INR 1,12,007. This income was comprised of INR 57,537 from crop production and INR 54,470 from livestock & fish production. The gross return of livestock production was found to be higher than that of agriculture. In a nutshell, it was found that livestock production was more beneficial than crop production. A sustained endeavor led to approximately 35% of the Tharu farmers being involved in commercial-scale agricultural practices, while the remaining 65% were engaged in subsistence farming. The farmers regularly contact to the experts

for problem diagnosis through WhatsApp or ask for diagnostic visits to their farms in order to gain scientific solution of their problems.

The university has made a significant contribution to the socioeconomic upliftment and sustainable livelihood of Tharu people through the distribution of free sewing machines to Tharu women during rural youth training. This has resulted in direct employment for the women, as they are now performing tailoring and selling beautiful dresses that they have made themselves as an entrepreneur. This initiative by the university has made a noteworthy contribution to the socioeconomic advancement and long-term sustenance of the Tharu community.

Through the initiatives undertaken by the university, the children belonging to the Tharu community are being provided with educational opportunities to acquire theoretical and practical knowledge in the field of computer science. In addition, they are acquiring up-to-date knowledge on agricultural technology, including weather forecasting, in order to ensure that their family may reap the benefits of computer labs. Since the establishment of the computer lab, a total of 360 students have received training of computer skill and presently, 60 students have been enrolled. Tharu farmers are also getting information regarding scientific animal husbandry and agricultural practices from their wards. Technical support has been given to women Self-Help Group in the districts Balrampur and Bahraich, Uttar Pradesh and they are working efficiently to enhance their livelihood and socioeconomic upliftment.

Success Story-I



Farmers's Name	Shri Dharmendra Kumar
Father's Name	Shri Panch Ram
Age	34 years
Address	Village- Ram Purva, Block- Mihipurva, Bahraich
Contact no.	7376277994
Aadhar no	96038862999
Specialization	Vegetables and Vegetables Nursery

Details	Total income (Rs/ha)	Net income (Rs/ha)
Crops	1,36,125	81,375
Cauliflower	80,000	62,000
Vegetable nursery	2,70,000	2,20,000
Total	4,86,125	3,63,375

- **Qualification – Graduation**
- **Producers of all seasonal vegetables and vegetable plants (nurseries) of Kharif, Rabi, Zayed season in the district**
- **Awarded at district level for outstanding work in vegetable production**
- **Cow-based natural farming (Subhash Palekar) has started from 1 bigha**

Crops/ Unit- Paddy, wheat, lahi, maize, mustard leaf cabbage, cauliflower, chilli, tomato, lobster, okra, bitter gourd, gourd, pumpkin etc.



क्षमता परियोजना के अंतर्गत प्रक्षेत्र प्रशिक्षण आयोजित

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Success Story-II



Farmers's Name	Shri Ram Bachan
Father's Name	Shri Sagiram
Age	32 years
Address	Village- Ram Purva, Block- Mihipurva, Bahraich
Contact no.	7839431569
Aadhar no	212718790296
Specialization	Excellent Tomato Production

Details	Total income (Rs/ha)	Net income (Rs/ha)
Crops	77,500	45,700
Tomato	2,54,000	2,00,000
Other vegetables	56,000	39,200
Total	3,87,500	2,84,900

- **Qualification- Higschool**
- **Maximum tomato production achieved at district level in the year 2021 and 2022**
- **Awarded at district level for outstanding work in tomato production**
- **Producers of all seasonal vegetables and vegetable plants (nurseries)**
- **Cow-based natural farming (Subhash Palekar) has started from 1 bigha**

Crops/ Unit- Paddy, wheat, maize, cabbage, chilli, tomato, bitter gourd, gourd, pumpkin and other seasonal vegetables



मिहींपुरवा में हो रही टमाटर की बहुतायत खेती

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बैज्ञानिक तकनीकी अपनानेकर आमदनी बढ़ा रहे किसान

के सी के, गानपपुर, बहराइच।।

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