

BIHAR AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY, SABOUR (BHAGALPUR)

SUCCESS STORY OF PROGRESSIVE FARMER

1. Basic Information

- **Name of Farmer:** Poonam Devi
- **Father's/Husband's Name:** Sri Dinesh Paswan
- **Village:** Khand Bihari (Barikoriyan)
- **Block:** Haveli Kharagpur (Asarganj)
- **District:** Munger, Bihar
- **Mobile Number:** 852065212778
- **Educational Qualification:** 8th Pass
- **Age:** 35 Years
- **Farmer Category (Marginal/Small/Big):** Marginal Farmer (1.25 hectares on lease)
- **Major Farming System:** Integrated Farming System (Crop Cultivation + Mushroom Cultivation + Animal Husbandry & Goat Rearing)



2. Background of the Farmer

Mrs. Poonam Devi is a dedicated and progressive woman farmer residing in Khand Bihari village, Haveli Kharagpur block, Munger district. Cultivating 1.25 hectares of leased land, her initial income from traditional farming methods was limited. Despite facing resource constraints and modest formal education, she demonstrated strong determination to improve her family's livelihood and transform farming into a profitable enterprise.

3. Association with Krishi Vigyan Kendra

To bring innovation and scientific methods into her farming practices, Poonam Devi connected with **Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Munger**. She regularly sought technical guidance, training, and expert advice from KVK scientists. Through KVK's regular support and consultations, she successfully implemented modern agricultural techniques, improved crop management practices, and adopted mushroom cultivation and livestock rearing.

4. Innovative Technology/Practice Adopted or Developed

Under the guidance of KVK Munger, she adopted several modern technologies and integrated farming practices:

- **Direct Seeded Rice (DSR) & Zero Tillage:** Adopted DSR (2.25 hectares) for paddy cultivation and zero-tillage technology for wheat sowing.
- **Crop Residue and Nutrient Management:** Utilized straw to make chaff for mushroom cultivation and incorporated bio-fertilizers and organic compost (vermi-compost).

- **Mushroom Cultivation:** Started mushroom production at home by efficiently utilizing crop residues.
- **Scientific Animal Husbandry & Goat Rearing:** Initiated scientific rearing of 2 milch cows and 12 goats with improved breed management.
- **Modern Agricultural Equipment:** Utilized modern machinery to reduce labor and operational costs.

5. Economic Impact

Productivity Comparison:

Particular	Before Intervention (2020–21)	After Intervention (2023–24)
Paddy Yield	35 Quintals / Hectare	42 Quintals / Hectare
Wheat Yield	38 Quintals / Hectare	45 Quintals / Hectare
Vegetable Yield	76 Quintals / Hectare	93 Quintals / Hectare
Milk Production (Cow)	15 Liters / Day	21 Liters / Day
Goat Population	06	21

Income Comparison (in INR):

Component	Before Intervention (2022–23)	After Intervention (2024–25)
Crop Cultivation	₹ 40,000	₹ 65,000
Animal Husbandry (Cows & Goats)	₹ 1,24,000	₹ 1,43,500
Agricultural Implements & Flour Mill	₹ 12,000	₹ 31,000
Other Enterprises (Mushroom, etc.)	₹ 37,000	₹ 49,000
Total Annual Income	₹ 2,13,000	₹ 2,88,500

Note: The source document does not provide a separate Benefit-Cost Ratio. Therefore, no B:C ratio has been independently added.

6. Social Impact and Farmer-to-Farmer Extension

Poonam Devi's success has inspired an entire community. Motivated by her innovative approach and guidance, **around 25 women in her village have started commercial mushroom production.** Furthermore, encouraged by her model, **nearly every household in the village has adopted goat rearing,** transforming her into a role model for women's self-reliance.

7. Entrepreneurship and Employment Generation

By diversifying into multi-dimensional enterprises—including crop cultivation, mushroom production, dairy, goat rearing, and flour milling/agricultural equipment usage—Poonam Devi

has established herself as a successful rural woman entrepreneur. This venture provides regular year-round household income and generates local motivation and seasonal employment opportunities.

8. Awards, Recognition and Media Coverage

Recommended by Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Munger, she was nominated and honored as a progressive farmer at the **Kisan Mela 2026** organized by Bihar Agricultural University, Sabour (Bhagalpur). Her mushroom and scientific goat-rearing models have received wide appreciation at the block and district levels.

9. Future Vision

Poonam Devi aims to scale up her mushroom production and vermicomposting enterprises to a commercial level. She envisions forming a women's self-help group or a Farmer Producer Organization (FPO) to further expand into mushroom and milk processing.

10. Message to Fellow Farmers

"By combining traditional farming with livestock rearing, mushroom production, and modern scientific techniques (such as zero tillage and direct seeded rice), we can achieve higher profits with lower input costs. With hard work and proper guidance from institutions like KVK, women can make farming a profitable venture and attain financial independence.

Photographs

