

Organic Farming: Case study from North-Eastern of Bangladesh

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At Chitnagul Union of Jaintapur upazila of Sylhet district (North-east of Bangladesh) and beside the highway of Jaflong Sylhet there lies a village named Uttar Ghater Choti. Alecha Begum resides in that village. Total number of her family is 8 of which 2 are sons, 2 daughters, her husband, father & mother in laws.

Beside homestead she has no cultivable land. A little amount of vegetables she would grow in winter season. With those she could not meet the demand & need of her family. She could not afford three times meal a day. She could not get better yield from her leased in land because of its sandy nature. She would loose rather from growing crops. Gradually she lost interest in cultivating crops. Finding out no other ways she again tried to grow crops. But for lack of knowledge in modern agriculture & technical knowhow she could not grow good crops.

Under this situation, in 2010 she became connected with the Community Learning Center (CLC) of Friends In Village Development Bangladesh (FIVDB) and received 2 days training on homestead vegetable gardening. From there she could learn about the organic manure & organic pesticides and importance organic farming. After this she started to grow vegetables in the homestead systematically and could grow crop organically successfully without buying fertilizer & pesticide from the market.

Then Alecha desired to grow vegetables on commercial scale & for this purpose she took commercial vegetable training for 5 days from FIVDB. Her self confidence became developed after taking practical hand training on modern organic method in agriculture.

She could think that only through agriculture she can attain success economically. Then she leased in 3 bigha (7.47 bigha = 1 hectare) land where she grew vegetable commercially through organic method. But she had no necessary materials for making organic manure in her house. She started to make compost with the help of cowdung, water hyacinth, banana plants from others home & whatever she could collect and all kinds of rubbishes suitable for rotting. With all these compost she cultivated vegetables.

Alecha was astonished & started think that with the use of other compost her yield became good which she could not even conceive of. By growing vegetables in 6 decimal land (33 decimal = 1 bigha) she sold the produce with Tk. 8000/- (US\$1 = 78 Taka). In 6 decimal land she had grown snake gourd & sold the crop with Tk.7500/-, in 15 decimal land she cultivated Arum & sold the crop with Tk 24000/-, in 4 decimal land she grew bottle gourd & sold the crop with tk. 4000/-, in 6 decimal land she raised red amaranth & sold the crop with tk. 3500/-. Along with these she had also raised different vegetables seedlings (brinjal, tomato, turnip & chilli) & sold them.



She does not use chemical fertilizer & insecticide to produce vegetables for which these became tasty & as such the local people came to her house to buy them. Beside this the vegetables traders come to her house to buy vegetables for selling in the market. Vegetables thus produced look beautiful. As a result of this, local people buy them with high price from the market. The people encircle her from all around whenever she takes vegetables to the market. Because of selling vegetables, she can make satisfactory earning, this helped Alecha to get rid of short fall and became self dependent.

Alecha bought 4 cows by selling vegetables. Now she does not go to the field to collect cowdung, with her cattles she makes vermin compost, pile compost, ditch compost in 4 rings with cowdung & rotten waste materials. She uses the vermin compost mostly in her vegetable land, and earned some cash by selling earthworm to the neighboring farmers.



At present in 3 bigha land she grows vegetables & in 8 bigha land paddy totally in organic method. For paddy cultivation she uses the integrated method of paddy cum duck. Due to the use of integrated method of paddy cum duck she does not need to apply inorganic fertilizer & herbicide; as a result she did not spend anything for this. Consequently the yield of paddy is much better than before. After observing the cultivation of paddy & vegetables many farmers of her locality come to her for advice. She gives suggestion as to how to do organic farming for growing crops.

After some days, Alecha thought what to do in the next stage. She took decision to set up hatchery after discussing with the FIVDB about hatching of duck eggs. Then she with the help of FIVDB established 1 hatchery. She also became successful with the setting up of hatchery & in every month she used 500 eggs for hatching out ducklings.

Alecha in 8 months earned 120000 tk from hatchery. In all activities her husband, children & mother & father in laws rendered help.



Alecha is now an ideal lady to all people of her locality. Everybody wants to follow her. Seeing her many of the farmers of her locality started to grow vegetables in new method. Alecha now grows vegetables all the year round.

The members of her family take vegetables more than before. For this reason, the family members do not need to go to doctor. Medical problems have become reduced than before. Alecha wants to increase land area for vegetable cultivation & she desires to advice all farmers to grow crops organically. She aspires to get more number of ducklings from the hatchery.

She encourages the unemployed youth to work in this land. She likes to see the smiling face of all the people of her locality. Alecha wants to live as an ideal lady among all people.