Case Story
Marching Toward Self-Reliance through Traditional Seed Conservation
Sohan Mansing Ninama, Village – Dholikhali
Tehsil Petlawad, Dist. – Jhabua M.P.

Sohan Mansing Ninama resides in **Dholikhali village**, which is home to about 250–300 tribal families. Approximately **40–50% of the village land is cultivable**, while the rest remains fallow. Farmers primarily use **ponds and streams for irrigation**. Sohan lives with his family of four, including two children who are pursuing their education. He grows **maize, soybean, and cotton** in the **kharif** season and **wheat** in the **rabi** season.

Decline of Traditional Seeds and Rising Costs

A decade ago, Sohan, like many traditional farmers, used to **conserve and sow his own seeds**—particularly pulses, oilseeds, and grains like **moong, urad, tur, maize, and sesame**. However, with the increasing dominance of commercial crops such as **cotton and soybean**, traditional crops began to **disappear** from his fields. This forced Sohan to depend on the **market for expensive seeds**, increasing input costs and reducing his autonomy.

Sampark's Intervention: Reviving Traditional Knowledge

Under the **Livelihood Project by Sampark**, Dholikhali was selected for a series of agricultural innovations aimed at reducing costs and improving productivity. One of the core interventions was **traditional seed conservation**.

Sohan attended **community meetings** and joined the **village farmers' committee**. He participated in a **seed conservation workshop** organized by the project, where the significance and utility of **traditional, climate-resilient seeds** were explained. Encouraged by this, Sohan sowed seeds of **soybean, maize, tur, sesame, moong, groundnut, and urad** in different plots of his land.

Impact and Results

Within **two years**, Sohan achieved impressive yields:

- **Soybean**: 400 kg
- **Maize**: 600 kg
- **Moong**: 15 kg
- **Urad**: 12 kg
- **Groundnut**: 20 kg
- **Tur**: 18 kg

He **retained seeds for future sowing**, including:

- 100 kg Soybean
- 20 kg Maize
- 10 kg Groundnut

He **sold the surplus** and earned **₹10,000**, while also saving approximately **₹6,000**, which he would have otherwise spent on buying seeds from the market.

Further Innovations and Cost Savings

- **Drip Irrigation**: With Sampark's assistance, Sohan installed drip irrigation, saving water and increasing crop yield.
- **Organic Pesticides**: He learned to prepare natural pesticides such as **Jeevamrit**, **Panchpatti**, **Swaraj Kanda Water**, and **Chaach-based sprays**.
- **Reduced Chemical Dependency**: These techniques helped him save **₹10,000–12,000 annually**, previously spent on chemical pesticides.

A Vision for the Future

Sohan is now committed to **organic farming and seed conservation**. By reducing his input costs, improving yields, and reviving local biodiversity, he has moved significantly towards **sustainable and self-reliant agriculture**.

Grateful to **Sampark**, Sohan continues to **inspire other farmers** in his village to preserve traditional seeds and adopt eco-friendly agricultural methods. His story serves as a powerful example of how **indigenous knowledge** paired with **modern techniques** can restore autonomy, resilience, and prosperity in tribal farming communities.

Case Story
Marching Towards Self-Reliance through Traditional Seed Conservation
Tejudi Bai Kalu Gundiya , Village – Kachrakhadan
Tehsil Petlawad, Dist. – Jhabua M.P.

Tejudi Bai resides in **Kachrakhadan village**, part of the Kachrakhadan Gram Panchayat. The village houses around **400–500 tribal households**, and agriculture is the **primary source of livelihood**. Around **60–70% of the land is cultivable**, while **30% remains fallow**. Irrigation is done through **rivers, wells, and tube wells**, and most families own **4–5 livestock**. The land is classified as **semi-irrigated**.

The Shift Away from Traditional Seeds

Tejudi lives with her husband, while her son and daughter-in-law have migrated for work. She cultivates **maize, soybean, and cotton** in the **kharif** season, and **wheat and gram** in **rabi**.

A decade ago, Tejudi conserved and used her **own traditional seeds**—pulses, oilseeds, and grains—on her farm. However, due to the rise in monoculture crops like **cotton and soybean**, traditional crops like **moong, urad, tur, maize, and sesame** gradually vanished from her fields. This increased her **dependence on market seeds**, which were often costly and added financial strain.

Sampark's Livelihood Project: Reintroducing Traditional Seed Practices

With the intervention of **Sampark NGO** through its **Livelihood Project**, Kachrakhadan was selected for multiple **development activities** aimed at reducing input costs and improving yields. One of the most effective initiatives was **reviving traditional seed conservation**, under the banner of **"Ghar ka Beej Ghar Mein"** (Our Seed, in Our Home).

Tejudi enrolled in the **village farmer committee** and participated in meetings conducted by Sampark. The organization explained the **importance of preserving traditional seeds** and how it can reduce market dependency.

She then attended a **seed enhancement workshop** at the Sampark campus, where she received a deeper understanding of traditional seed use. She brought back seeds of **soybean, maize, tur, sesame, groundnut, urad, and moong**, which she planted in different plots.

Harvest and Impact

From this initiative, Tejudi produced:

- **Soybean**: 90 kg
- **Moong**: 5 kg
- **Urad**: 3 kg
- **Groundnut**: 10 kg
- **Tur**: 10 kg
- **Maize**: 200 kg

For future cultivation, she preserved:

- 12 kg Soybean
- 1 kg Moong
- 0.5 kg Urad
- 5 kg Groundnut
- 0.5 kg Tur
- 1 kg Maize

She sold the remaining produce, earning **₹6,000**, and saved an additional **₹5,000**, which she would have spent on buying seeds from the market.

A Step Toward Sustainable Farming

Tejudi says this initiative **freed her from market dependency**, and she achieved good yields with **minimal costs**. She has now made it a habit to **preserve seeds at home**, and is committed to **traditional seed conservation** for the future.

Grateful to **Sampark**, she expresses that their support helped her move toward **organic and sustainable agriculture**. Tejudi now **motivates fellow farmers** in her village to adopt traditional seed preservation, setting an example of self-reliance and ecological responsibility.

Tejudi Bai's story proves that reviving forgotten practices with the right support can empower even small farmers to reclaim control over their land, crops, and income.

Case Story
The Success Story of Babu Hurji Vasuniya
Babu Hurji Vasuniya, Village: Dalpura,
Tehsil : Petlawad, Dist. – Jhabua M.P.
Activity - Rabi Seeds

Babu Hurji Vasuniya is a resident of Dalpura village and belongs to a tribal farming family. Dalpura village has around 80-90 households, most of whose livelihoods depend on agriculture. Approximately 60-70% of the land is cultivable, while 30% is barren. The village has one pond and a few wells for irrigation, making the land semi-irrigated. Each family owns 5 to 7 animals, and Babu Hurji's family consists of 6 members.

In 2022-23, the social service organization Sampark selected Dalpura village under its livelihood project and started various developmental activities there. The organization worked on several innovations to reduce farming costs and increase production. One important step was to promote and conserve traditional indigenous seeds. Babu Hurji took advantage of this opportunity and registered himself in the farmer committee. Through wealth ranking, he was selected as a beneficiary under the poor category. Subsequently, he was provided with seeds under the Rabi Seed Scheme: 25 kg wheat, 5 kg chickpea (chana), and 100 grams sunflower seeds.

Earlier, Babu Hurji's wheat yield used to be between 300 to 400 kilograms, but with the organization's support, his yield increased to 500 to 650 kilograms. Without this assistance, he would have had to borrow from moneylenders for farming expenses, which would have worsened his financial condition. Now, Babu is able to support his family and has strengthened his position by improving his farming.

Additionally, Babu Hurji started using drip irrigation in his fields, which helped save water and improve crop production. He also created a nutrition garden growing vegetables like bottle gourd, ridge gourd, tomatoes, and spinach. As a result, he saves around ₹3,000 to ₹4,000 on vegetable purchases, which benefits his family consumption.

Seed saving has also been a significant step for Babu. He has saved 50 kilograms of wheat, 5 kilograms of chickpea, and sunflower seeds from his harvest. This has eliminated the need to buy new seeds from the market, saving him approximately ₹4,000 to ₹5,000. This has been a major financial relief for him.

Babu Hurji Vasuniya continues to express his gratitude to the organization, as their support helped him improve his farming and become economically stable for his family. His journey from struggle to success has become an inspiration for other farmers, proving that with proper guidance, optimal use of resources, and hard work, good results can be achieved in agriculture. Babu's success demonstrates that if new agricultural technologies are adopted in villages, farmers can improve their economic conditions and move towards prosperity.