

## Case Story: Transition to Organic Farming – A Case of Kapadiyali (2023)

Farmer's Name:	Janakbhai Velabhai
Village:	Kapadiyali
Taluka:	Barwala,
District:	Botad
Total Landholding:	2.02 hectares
Area Under Organic Cultivation:	1.21 hectares
Current Crop:	Cotton

### Farming Practices Before Adopting Organic Methods

Janakbhai Velabhai, a smallholder farmer from Kapadiyali village, faced multiple challenges with conventional farming methods. Inputs such as fertilizers and pesticides were applied haphazardly, often without proper composting or processing. This not only led to soil degradation but also reduced the overall yield and quality of crops. In one season, despite high input costs, he harvested only 160 kg of cotton, resulting in financial strain and a growing sense of discouragement towards farming. The lack of awareness about sustainable practices and the use of non-decomposed waste like plastic further worsened soil health and productivity. With declining returns and increasing costs, Janakbhai interest in farming began to wane.

### Positive Shift Through Organic Farming



Everything changed when Janakbhai joined Mahiti Trust's organic farming initiative, which supports farmers in adopting eco-friendly and sustainable agricultural practices. Through the program, he learned to prepare compost and natural fertilizers well in advance—at least seven months before use—ensuring proper decomposition and nutrient value. He now uses organic solutions like Jivamrut and Dashparni Ark, made using traditional knowledge to maintain crop health and manage pests. He has also experimented with improved cotton seed varieties such as GADC-2 alongside his usual G-COT 21, and is optimistic about better yields. With

consistent training and exposure to demonstrations, Janakbhai has seen significant improvement in soil health, crop quality, and overall productivity. Inspired by these results, he now plans to convert his entire farm to organic cultivation, motivated not just by higher income but also by the vision of passing on healthier land and food to future generations.



### Key Improvements After Transition

Earlier Farming Practices	Current Organic Farming Practices
Low crop yield	Increased crop productivity
Declining soil fertility	Enhanced soil health
Limited seed choices	Introduction of improved varieties
Poor market prices	Access to better market value
Substandard crop quality	Improved crop quality
No financial tracking	Maintains expense records
Lack of knowledge on natural inputs	Makes his own bio-fertilizers and pesticides