

Transforming Farming Practices through Organic Cotton Training

The Journey of Mr. Dipaksinh Palaniya of Sundariyana, Ranpur, Botad District.



Mr. Dipaksinh Danubha Palaniya, a 27-year-old farmer from Sundariyana village under the Sundariyana Internal Control System (ICS), has emerged as a committed practitioner and advocate of organic agriculture. He cultivates the indigenous **G-COT 21** variety of **Desi cotton** and is one of the active participants in **Mahiti Trust's Organic Cotton Farmers Training Program**.

Before joining the program, Mr. Palaniya followed traditional methods such as the use of cow dung as fertilizer when needed. However, he lacked awareness and technical knowledge related to pest and disease management, as well as the preparation and application of bio-fertilizers and bio-pesticides.

The implementation of the training program marked a significant turning point in his farming journey. Through regular participation in meetings and training sessions facilitated by Mahiti Trust's agricultural experts, he gained comprehensive insights into organic pre-sowing practices, integrated pest and disease management, and environmentally responsible farming techniques.

With renewed enthusiasm and growing confidence, Mr. Palaniya began preparing and applying natural formulations such as **Amrut Pani and Dashparni Ark**, and initiated composting on his farm. In 2022, he successfully adopted these inputs along with ecological pest control methods including **yellow sticky traps** for whiteflies, trap crops for sucking pests, and **pheromone traps** to manage Heliothis and pink bollworm infestations.

This transition to organic practices has not only improved the sustainability and productivity of his farm but has also deepened his understanding of the interconnectedness between soil health, human well-being, and environmental protection. Motivated by these positive outcomes, Mr. Palaniya has taken on the role of a peer educator, encouraging fellow farmers to adopt organic methods and sharing his learnings with the broader farming community.

His story is a testament to how capacity-building and grassroots support can empower young farmers to become change agents in sustainable agriculture.

Case Study - Year 2015-16