



# IMPACT STORY

## IMPACT OF DRIP IRRIGATION ON SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS OF FARMERS

### STORY HIGHLIGHTS

- ➔ **TRANSFORMED CULTIVATION METHOD**
- ➔ **ECONOMIZED FARM OPERATIONS**
- ➔ **BETTER QUALITY PRODUCE**
- ➔ **IMPROVED LIVING STANDARD**



Mr. Kamran, Tehsil Gojra,  
District Toba Tek Singh



**V**egetables growing for the kitchen or on commercial scale is very important part of our agricultural farms. Growing vegetables conventionally has several challenges including flood irrigation causing unequal application of irrigation water resulting in water stress and over irrigation in the same field, wastage of large quantity of water, fertilizers and other inputs as well as environmental pollution. Flooding also results in low crop yields due to more pest attack in the high humid environment and resulted in thus low profits to the farmers.

Mr. Kamran is an educated and well-known progressive farmer of tehsil Gojra, district Toba Tek Singh. His village is located in water scarce area where canal water is the only source of water and is not sufficient to irrigate even two acres. He had to spend a lot of money to pump brackish groundwater which gradually deteriorated soil health. Under flood irrigation, the plants would not uptake nutrients from salt-affected soil properly leading to deficiency of nutrients and poor quality produce. He is associated with farming since last



10 years, having five acres land and has been growing wheat crop. During 2010-11, he adopted tunnel farming but soon he disappointed as his net profit was very less.

The farmer contacted OFWM staff during 2012 and shifted on drip irrigation for successful tunnel farming. Accordingly, the farmer get installed drip irrigation in tunnel for cultivation of off-season vegetables. Drip irrigation along with plastic mulch created high impact on quality and yield of vegetables. It also reduced flower/fruit drop, improved fruit size & color and brought early maturity/harvesting to fetch good price in the market. He reported that during 2014-15, he installed drip irrigation on another 5 acres leased land. Drip irrigation enabled him to get higher

**Income from cultivation through drip irrigation greatly helped me to purchase a new car.**

production with 52% less fertilizer use. His cost of production has been considerably reduced and available canal water is sufficient to grow vegetables successfully without

pumping brackish groundwater. The farmer indicated that he has purchased new Toyota Corolla Car from the income of the vegetables production.

Kamran shared his experience that “the slow application of water as drop by drop does not compact the soil and reduces crop stress by ensuring proper moisture and air to the roots. It also limits the



spread of diseases and pests leading to less use of pesticides. Once the seedlings are transplanted, the farmers should apply fertilizers deep into the soil near the roots. The slow application of water dissolves the nutrients slowly without washing them away. Drip irrigation and liquid fertigation in the root zone doubles the Capsicum yields. **It facilitates us to earn more money to improve our quality of life and send our children to school besides saving of time for other activities”.**

While sharing his experience, he indicated that the savings in labor cost with drip irrigation has provided significant benefits. “Labor expenses were much higher with flood irrigation which have now curtailed and yields have gone up.”

He added that “expenditure on weedicides has also been reduced as the irrigation water is delivered to plant roots only and accordingly, less weeds grow resulting in little expenses on weedicides. Now he is able to irrigate and harvest capsicum and cucumber crops at the same time resulting in flexibilities to harvest desired size of fruit and feasible time for offering fresh produce in the market”.

**Drip irrigation improved quality of life and helped sending our children to high standard schools.**

Kamran excitedly told that **“I am following all the guidelines regarding drip irrigation being provided by On Farm Water Management staff to grow healthy crops and I have recorded 50% and 62% higher yields for capsicums and cucumber, respectively grown with drip irrigation as compared to traditional method”.**

