

SRISTI SAMMAN

5

Pioneer of Pomegranate Farming Genabhai Patel



A physically handicapped farmer has defied the odds by succeeding in promoting pomegranate farming in Deesa taluka of Banaskantha district in Gujarat and created a niche for himself and his region. Born in 1964 and educated till 12 standard, Genabhai has so far received 14 awards from the Central Government and Rajasthan State Government including seven from Gujarat State Government. He has received the award for “best farmer” from the Gujarat State Government.

In his region, the soil is such that not much can be cultivated and farmers were struggling under the clutches of landlords. Dropping levels of ground water apart from extreme weather conditions were posing a big threat for the farmers in the area. Genabhai travelled to Nasik in Maharashtra and learnt all about the Sinduri variety of pomegranates. He started pomegranate farming on an experimental basis in 2005 with the aim of solving all these problems. The tree takes two years to bear fruit so in the meanwhile the other parts of the field were used for cultivating vegetables.

Finally Genabhai succeeded in pomegranate farming and in the year 2006-07 he had a whopping production of 13,500 kgs. Needless to say he earned a profit of Rs 3,25,000 too. Since then there was no looking back and in the next three years, Genabhai had earned around Rs 2 crores.

Genabhai decided to diffuse the knowledge to others. As a result today Banaskantha district ranks first in pomegranate farming. All the farmers have benefitted. He also used many modern technologies of farming for this purpose.

At.Po. Sarkari Goliya
(Agathala)
Tal. Deesa,
Dist. Banaskantha
Pin 385541
(M) 9925557177
Education: To 12th STD
Farmer
patelgenabhai@yahoo.co.in

One of them is the use of the drip irrigation facility. He also started using organic fertilizers such as cow urine and techniques like mulching. Genabhai uses bird nets to protect the fruits from birds. Paper sheets are used around the trees to prevent squirrels from attacking the fruits.



Due to Genabhai's techniques, today 150 farmers in Genabhai's village i.e Sarkari Goliya, are leading a life of prosperity after starting pomegranate farming. The village is now well known as the pomegranate village. The pomegranates are exported to Dubai, Europe and Africa. Genabhai has disseminated this knowhow not only in his village and state but also in neighbouring states including Rajasthan. Genabhai is always eager to share any farming techniques and all the knowhow regarding pomegranate farming. He claims at least 15000 farmers from all over Gujarat and Rajasthan have visited his farm till date. He also claims that around 3000 farmers in his region have started pomegranate farming.

