**Life Transformed Through Farming**

My name is Harinath Singh, a resident of Budhibil village, Berakunduda Panchayat, Anandpur, West Singhbhum district, Jharkhand. I am 22 years old and have studied up to matriculation. Currently, I am engaged in farming.

There are five members in my family—my parents, my younger brother, my sister, and me. A few years ago, I was very shy and avoided crowded places. My parents were uneducated, but they ensured that I went to school. However, I could not pass my matriculation exam, which left me restless and uncertain about my future. In search of work, I went to Kerala with a friend, but due to unfamiliar surroundings and difficult living conditions, I returned home within a month.

I was confused about what to do next. Around this time, I met Jageshwar Singh, a field worker from Catholic Charities. During our conversation, he told me that farming is like a factory— the more effort we put in, the greater the earnings. Encouraged by this, I attended agricultural training in Tata three times. Gradually, I began to understand the benefits of farming.

After returning home, I discussed with my family and decided to start vegetable farming. In October 2021, I cultivated potatoes, radishes, and tomatoes on 10 decimals of land. The yield was good, providing enough vegetables for household consumption, and I was able to sell tomatoes in the market for ₹15 per kg.

In 2022, I attended a meeting of the Uday Kisan Club and became a member. That year, I expanded my farming to 15–20 decimals of land and earned around ₹10,000. Through club meetings, farmers' forums, and training sessions, I learned to prepare organic fertilizers, vitamins, and pest repellents using locally available resources. I also started composting by filling a pit with grass and organic matter, made pest repellents, and prepared Matka Khad (a traditional organic fertilizer).

In 2023, with the support of the organization, I received seeds for maize, pigeon pea (arhar), and cowpea (barbatti). Following their guidance, I planted them in a systematic row method—two rows of maize and one row of pigeon pea. From maize, I earned ₹3,000, and from cowpea, ₹1,200. The pigeon pea plants are growing well, and I hope for a good harvest.

This year, I have planted 1 kg of peas, 1 kg of beans, 50 kg of potatoes, and tomatoes on 10 decimals of land. For irrigation, I have arranged a pump set.

Organization workers frequently visit my farm to provide guidance, and I am very happy with my progress. My younger siblings are both studying in intermediate classes and travel to Manoharpur for their education. They also help with farming activities. Our entire family is now involved in paddy cultivation, vegetable farming, and the production of pulses and oilseeds.

Farming has not only provided financial stability but also boosted my confidence. Today, I proudly consider myself a progressive farmer, and I am determined to continue growing and improving my agricultural practices.