**Life Transformed by Integrated Farming**

I am Umbalan Jojo, son of Dubia Jojo, a permanent resident of Kakurda village, Bera Kenduda Panchayat, Anandpur Block, West Singhbhum district, Jharkhand. Our family consists of six members. I completed my graduation in Arts. Due to financial difficulties, I struggled to complete my education. After finishing my studies, I started farming with my father, as agriculture is the primary source of livelihood for our family. However, farming only provided us with food, and there were no additional savings.

In 2018, I met Jageswar Singh, a staff from the **Catholic Charities** organization. He encouraged me to take up farming as a business and motivated me to participate in the agricultural training programs organized by the organization.

Earlier, I used to cultivate vegetables on 15-20 decimals of land. After receiving training, I gradually expanded my farming area, as detailed below:

| **Year** | **Land (Decimals)** | **Investment (₹)** | **Sales (₹)** | **Profit (₹)** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 2018 | 20 | 6,000 | 22,000 | 16,000 |
| 2019 | 30 | 8,000 | 34,000 | 24,000 |
| 2020 | 50 | 11,000 | 67,000 | 56,000 |
| 2021 | 80 | 22,000 | 1,01,000 | 79,000 |
| 2022 | 100 | 27,000 | 1,10,000 | 83,000 |
| 2023 | 100 | 31,000 | 1,35,000 | 1,04,000 |

I cultivate vegetables like tomatoes, chilies, peas, onions, eggplants, long beans, okra, bottle gourd, etc., according to the season. The organization also provided me with 3 kg of yam. I make my own pest repellents and use them in my fields.

Apart from farming, I also practice animal husbandry. Currently, I have:

* **Cows/Bulls:** 7
* **Goats:** 14
* **Chickens:** 35

In addition to farming and animal husbandry, I also work as a mason, earning ₹450 per day.

With the help of the ATMA department, I received a **pump set machine** with a 50% subsidy for irrigation. The income from farming and livestock allowed me to buy a **scooter** and renovate my house into a **six-room home**.

I am extremely happy to be associated with the organization and hope to continue working hard in the future. The support from the organization and my dedication have brought the following positive changes in my life:

* Improved farming techniques
* Increase in family income along with food security
* Better nutrition and living standards
* Growth in livestock

This journey has truly transformed my life.

