

Transforming Wasteland into a Productive Asset

Pilid village, which is located in the Ichagarh block of Seraikela-Kharsawan district, faced significant challenges due to a large expanse of wasteland spanning 56 hectares. This barren land with limited agricultural potential, contributed little to the livelihoods of the local farmers, many of whom struggled with economic hardships. The community primarily depended on subsistence farming and seasonal labour, which provided meagre returns.

Recognizing the untapped potential of the wasteland, a collaborative effort was initiated by TRCSC, along with the local authorities, agricultural experts, and community members. The goal was to transform the barren land into a productive asset through the plantation of cashew trees, a crop well-suited to the region's soil and climatic conditions. This initiative received technical and financial support from government by means of linkage with appropriate schemes.



This initiative of cashew plantation began yielding fruits within three years, providing a steady source of income to the farmers by selling raw cashew nuts to processing units, fetching competitive market prices. It also

created jobs for local labourers in planting, weeding, harvesting activities. This initiative fostered a sense of ownership and cooperation among the villagers, besides enabling them in investing in education, healthcare, and infrastructure improvements. The plantation improved soil fertility and reduced erosion, and enhanced green cover and biodiversity.

Farmers like Sibeswar Mahato, Panchanan Patar, Mangal Mahato and other farmers who were once struggling to make their family ends meet, now earn a stable income from their cashew orchards. Even, Sibeswar Mahato has expanded his plantation for additional benefits from his cashew orchard. The transformation of 56 hectares of wasteland into a thriving cashew plantation sector exemplifies the potential of sustainable agricultural practices to drive economic and social development.