

## Towards Prosperity - Conversion of Barren Land into Cultivable Land

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### Farmer's Profile :

Name : Mohammad Ahsan Dar  
Father's Name: Mohammad Shaban Dar  
Residence : Sitaharan, Budgam, Kashmir  
Age : 61 years  
Educational qualification : Matric  
Land holdings (Total) : 1 hectare  
–Irrigated : Nil  
– Un-irrigated : 1 ha  
Major Activities:  
i. Horticulture : 0.4 ha, Crop: Apple  
ii. Vegetables : 0.6 ha, Crop: Potato, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Tomato and Peas

### Other allied activities:

#### Sericulture :

- Backyard poultry
- Dairy
- Sheep farming
- Waste recycling
- Water harvesting

### Steps of progress :

- Fencing of land and subsequent guidance from KVK Budgam and line departments.
- Construction of low cost rainwater harvesting tank (10' x 12' x 6') for life saving irrigation.
- Selection of activity-laying of Apple orchard.
- Raising of vegetables during 6-8 of Orchard gestation period .
- Rearing of cow and sheep.
- Waste recycling and its management. Composting and vermicomposting.
- Backyard poultry and at present there are 100

birds in his farm.

Planting Mulberry trees on the borders of his field and promoted silkworm rearing. Today capacity of producing about 150 kg of green cocoons which has added to his income.

### Impact Analysis Of Innovation :

*Horizontal expansion:* Today about 10 ha of land of the Sitharan Village have been transformed into green fields bringing economic prosperity to the village.

*Employment Generation:* Direct and indirect employment to about 15 farm families.

*Recognition/Award:* – Best farmer's Award by Govt. of J&K.

– Best Innovative Farmer's Award by GOI, at New Delhi.

*Social recognition:*

– Annual earnings of about 6.0 lakhs and a net profit of 3.15 lacs.

– The farmer is widely recognized for his contributions made towards conversion of poor "timber smugglers" into organized farmer.



**Fig. 1: Barren land at Sitharan Budgam**



Water Harvesting Structure



Apple + Vegetables



Sheep Husbandry MOS



Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare GOI Giving, Award to M. Ahsan Bhat at IARI-Pusa New Delhi (INDIA)

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