

MGNREGS helps Khede GP earns extraordinary income on waste land

An exemplary initiative of planting Kesar mangoes in Khede Gram Panchayat of Niphad block in Nashik

It's a story of the work which started with the intention of preventing GP owned land from illegal mining and encroachment, which today brings in good income to the Gram Panchayat through selling Kesar mangoes. The Khede grampanchayat of Nifad block in Nashik district has been owing of 11 hectares of waste land. This land had been lying fallow for many years and illegal mining was done by local gangs. To protect the land and to overcome this serious issue Gram panchayat decided to do tree plantation in that fallow area under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA scheme.

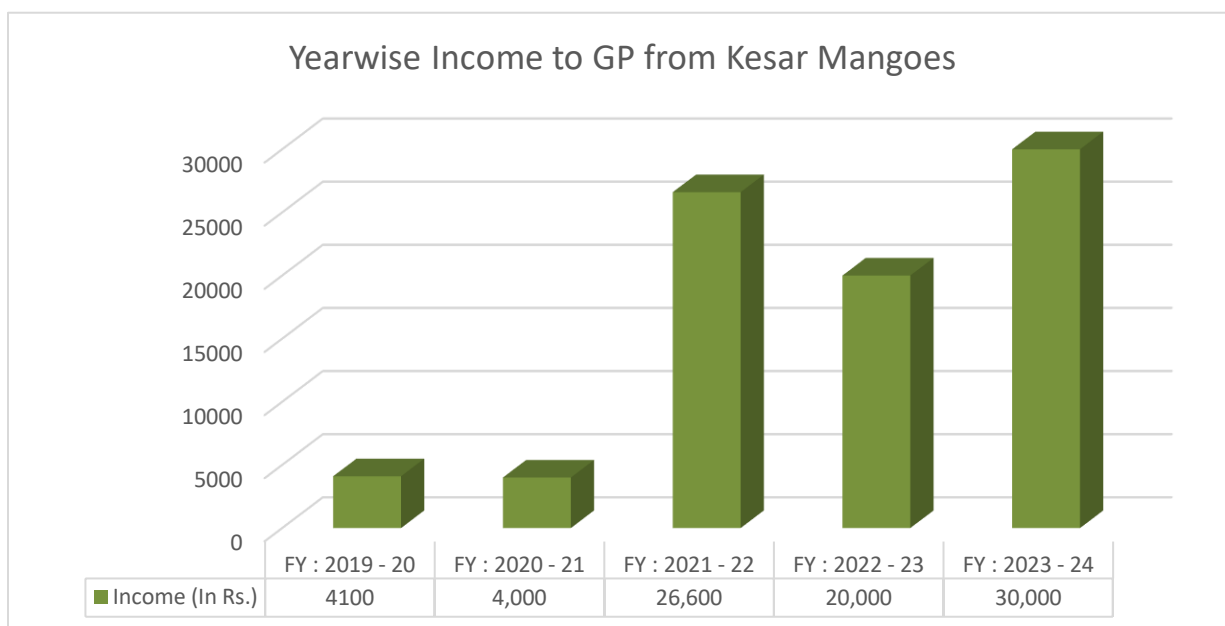
Accordingly, the Khede village panchayat, which has a population of 3500 people decided to take tree plantation work under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme in financial year 2014 – 15 and initially 500 plants of various breed were planted with the technical guidance of agriculture department. Under the supervision and guidance of Agricultural Officer, Nifad Panchayt Saminti Mr. Balasaheb Khedkar and Agricultural Extension Officer Mr. Sunil Hire the work was executed and employment was provided to needy villagers for taking care of these plants. Through this work 654 mandays were generated and expenditure of Rs. 117412/- was done on unskilled. After successful execution of this work gram panchayat decided to plant more tree under the MGNREGS. The villagers also realized the beauty of nature as there were many kinds of blooming trees and flowers. Apart from this people were getting employment under MGNREGS for taking care of plants and GP land also could be protected from illegal activities.



As the gram panchayat had decided to plant trees for the benefit of mankind, 1000 plants were planted to make it green land in financial year 2016-17. Custard-apple, bamboo and other trees were also planted in stages over the decade. For getting additional income from plantation, gram panchayat determine to plant Kasar Mangoes trees in the financial year 2019-20 and 1000 more plants including 500 Kesar mangoes sapling were planted. For this plantation work, expenditure of Rs. 4,90,989/- on unskilled work and Rs. 47,500/- on skill portion was done. Total 2443 mandays were also generated under MGNREGS. With an active participation of Sarpanch Mr. Nivrutti Kolhe the proper guidance and support of Mr. Sandip Karad, BDO Nifad, Mr. Dyneshwar Dharrao, Assistant Programme Officer and other MGNREGS functionaries more 1100 Kesar mangoes trees were planted on the same land under the scheme in the financial year 2024-25 for getting more income in future.



From this plantation, the Gram Panchayat has been receiving good income and has set an example that Gram panchayat can get good income by using the waste land of the village.



Through this plantation work people of Khede gram panchayat were not only getting good income from selling Kesar mangoes but also got employment for taking care of these trees under the MGNREGS. The total expenditure of Rs. 6,79,726/- was done on unskilled work and 2903 mandays were generated under the scheme through this work in the period of three years.

The gram panchayat played a pivotal role in this plantation work and ensuring ownership of this work. The Sarpanch of Khede gram panchayat Mr. Nivritti Kolhe actively focused to this work and had prepared to increase the Kesar mango crop by studying new technologies simultaneously. According to the new technology, three times pruning in a year of the tree was done, organic fertilizer was used for better growth and to shape the tree well.



Identifying the huge demand of Mahogany as it is being used for shipbuilding as well as for making solid bamboo and considered hardwood gram panchayat additionally, had planted 500 Mahogany trees around plantation by adapting intercropping pattern. In about 8 to 10 years, the height of the Mahogany tree will increase. Through this, the gram panchayat can get additional income of 10 to 12 lakhs in future. The income generated through this plantation work is being used entirely for the development of the village. Now the Khede gram panchayat has succeeded in stopping the illegal sand mining in the said place and also the has started generating income. This work has set an example that the proper utilization of waste land of the village can earn more income for the betterment of the villagers.

Plantation programme should be undertaken in the villages having waste lands in this way. It's our duty to conserve the environment. Plantation of fruit crops in such type of land not only protect the nature, but also open up income avenues for the villagers.

- Mr. Nivrutti Kolhe, Sarpanch Khede GP