

## **Banana Cultivation under MGNREGS opens Door for Earning more Income**

There is one of the famous quotes that “The Sky has no limit”. Hardwork and efforts brings success, only the right way and proper guidance is needed. This has been proven by one of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme’s individual work beneficiaries Mr. Pandurang Dinaji Dhavan residence of grampanchayat Kawalgaon, Purna block of Parbhani district by taking benefit of horticulture work under the Mahatma Gandhi NREGA scheme and cultivated banana in his farm land in the financial year 2023-24.



Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme focuses on developing permanent rural infrastructure and sustainable development of farmers for the betterment of their life. The main objective of the MGNREGS is to provide 100 days of guaranteed wage employment to the needy in the rural areas and to create assets for the village development through the various types of permissible works. The scheme is being implemented for the upliftment of poor farmers by providing permanent individual assets to them under MGNREGS. The farmer Mr. Pandurang Dinaji Dhavan is owing nine acres of land where he used to take seasonal crops like soyabean, cotton etc. Once in the gram sabha of his village he came to know that he could get horticulture plantation under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA scheme.





As there were high demand of good quality banana and also had market linkage through private companies to export banana to other countries. He was encouraged to take banana crop in his field. By seeking good opportunities and market linkages for selling banana crop, he decided to take banana cultivation under MGNREGS.

Accordingly, Mr. Pandurang Dinaji Dhavan cultivated bananas in 1 hector of land and planted 4500 banana saplings in July 2023. As the plantation work was taken under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA scheme he himself along with his family worked there and they got wage employment. The estimated cost of this work is Rs. 238000/-. Total 583 mandays were generated through this work and Rs. 1,77,671/- expenditure was done on unskilled payment. The work was taken place under the supervision of block agriculture officer Mr. Santosh Bhalerao and technical guidance was provided by the Mr. D. S. Tidke, Technical Assistant, MGNREGA for successfully execution of the work.

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme is not only being implemented for providing work to the needy adult people in the rural areas as per their demand for work but also to create sustainable livelihood assets for the individual beneficiaries. Mr. Pandurang Dhavan decided to cultivate banana for getting good income from this crop pattern to produce quality fruit was one of the major challenges faced by him. He also had to face challenges such as proper guidance, proper selection of fertilizers, selection of planting variety etc. As per the appropriate guidance received from the Department of Agriculture, he took all efforts to plant high-quality crops and cultivated banana in well manner. Steps were taken aiming to get a boost in employment generation from the cultivation of bananas and also to increase income on large scale.



Within a span of 11 to 12 months the bananas were ready to harvest. Proper care was taken from sowing a banana bulb to harvesting the fruit by the beneficiary. Wage employment was also provided to the beneficiary for planting, watering and other related works under MGNREGS. Through this banana cultivation Mr. Pandurang Dhavan got 80 tons of production of high-quality bananas. With the help and cooperation of private agro industry firms he exported 80% of bananas to Iran and Gulf countries and 20% of bananas were sent to Indian markets in Delhi, Mumbai and Kerala cities. He earned around Rs. 13 lakhs by selling bananas in Indian markets as well as exporting to foreign countries. An average net income of Rs. 9 lakhs have been obtained by the beneficiary from banana cultivation in one year after deducting packing, marketing, transporting cost etc. expenses. With the help of MGNREGS Mr. Pandurang Dhavan got an opportunity to earn more income which bring prosperity to his family, as both employment and financial benefits were obtained from this scheme. This cultivation will be fruitful in the future too.



For successful implementation of this work, the employees of the Agriculture Department had played a very important role, the agricultural officers, agricultural assistants, agricultural supervisors as well as the employees and senior officials of Mahama Gandhi NREGA section have contributed with their cooperation for this banana cultivation. This work has been set an excellent example for earning good income from banana cultivation under the Mahama Gandhi NREGA scheme. Many other farmers of nearby areas are visiting the works and appreciated Mr. Pandurang Dhavan for his countless efforts and success.

