

Rameshwar Dayal- Role model farmer for horticulture in water Scarce Areas!!!

Triggered by adverse effects of climate change and depleting water resources, the Government of India's agenda is oriented towards- "MORE CROP PER DROP." S M Sehgal Foundation's water management and agricultural development programs also aim to promote crop productivity along with water use efficiency. One of the ways to achieve this is crop diversification that can sustain good revenue generation. According to Shailesh Pant Asst. Program Leader, Agriculture Development at Sehgal Foundation "model orchard" development can go a long way in saving water as well as ensuring good revenue to farmers."



low rainfall and has been grappling with problems of high water salinity level and depleting groundwater levels. S M Sehgal Foundation has been working in Alwar since 2014 to address issues of water security and agricultural productivity. Promotion of orchards can help farmers save water and also earn sustained income.

For orchard development

irrigation systems like drip irrigation and fertigation and also fence the orchards to prevent animals from trespassing and causing damage. In addition, while the plants are small farmers are encouraged to grow crops such as beetroots and carrots which requires less water in the orchards and fetch better income to the farmer. We also organise regular

build capacities of farmers.

Rameshwar Dayal, one of the farmers in Alwar district has adopted the model orchard. He says "I have developed an orchard as I understand the importance of water management and also because it is remunerative. Against an initial investment of Rs 1.50,000 - 2,00,000 that is required for setting up a model orchard, the savings are bigger in terms of irrigation costs and the revenues generated. This has encouraged me to think bigger. I now plan to allot more land under model orchard".

The concept of model orchards encompasses the essentials of cost-effectiveness, sustainability and ease of replication which