

Kavre farmers branding Jholmal

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Jholmal – initially used for the vegetable and crop production, by the farmers of Kavre, has now become the source of income for them. It all started 2 years before, when CEAPRED’s senior agriculture technician Ramdev Sah explained the benefit of Jholmal made out of homely accessible products like cowdung and cow urine says Ganga Nepal, President of Sayapatri farmers group. She says, at the time when farmers had used every type of chemical fertilizers to improve their vegetable and crop production, but could still see no improvements; they didn’t quite believe in the benefits claimed by Jholmal. But after witnessing drastic improvements in their crops after its use, they not only used it in their farms but also sold them by branding it as Jhomal 1, 2 and 3 in the market.

Living their earnings by following the traditional practices of farming in the past, the women of Kavre were introduced to the techniques of Jholmal with the help and support from (CEAPRED) funded by ICIMOD. And at present, CEAPRED is trying to change 4 VDC and 1 Municipality of Kavre into Climate Friendly Village which is often referred as Resilient Mountain Village. To turn it into Climate Friendly village, the first thing to be considered is that everything needed for the change to happen should be locally present says Roshan Subedi from CEAPRED. With the increasing awareness of the harmful effects of chemical fertilizers, that not only degraded the quality of the soil but also affected human health, farmers slowly started opting Jholmal as their manual fertilizers which was safe for usage without any threat.

Today, every household has a plastic drum where different types of Jholmal are being prepared for their crops and also for selling in the market.

40 farmers groups from the selected area of the project have been involved in preparing Jholmal today. Till date, 900 women and 189 men have already been provided with the Jholmal training. A total of 2,400 farmers have been informed about the benefits of Jholmal in the course of 14 trainings given till now. Due to this, farmers have also managed their cowshed properly and have made a separate urine collection post in order to prepare Jholmal. Jholmal has been very effective in controlling ‘Laahi Kira’ and moreover, study has shown that Jholmal has been successful in stopping the use of an extremely



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harmful (Red) chemical fertilizer. On one hand it increases the production of the vegetables and crops and in the other hand the farmers don't have to spend money to buy it as they can prepare it from their household materials. Along with maintaining the PH level of the soil, the lab test of Jholmal has also shown positive results due to which farmers have incorporated it into one of their major components in farming today says Roshan Subedi.

President of the Sayapatri farmers group, Ganga Nepal while explaining the participants of the training (organized by DADO) about the countless benefits of Jholmal said, she along with her group members have recently also started selling Jholmal branding it as Jholmal 1, 2 and 3. The response from the buyers has been very encouraging due to which they plan to sell it more in far-reaching places. Direction of use has been clearly mentioned in the bottle itself which has helped the first time users for its appropriate use. Sayapatri Group farmers have been selling Jholmal 2 at Rs. 50 per bottle and Jholmal 3 at Rs. 60 per bottle. They have expressed their happiness and gratitude regarding how CEAPRED's support has overturned their farming experience for good.