



## Cultivation of Turmeric in Mango Orchard: Uplift Farmer's Income

**Suddhasuchi Das,  
Paramita Bhowmik and  
Rakesh Roy**

Malda Krishi Vigyan Kendra,  
Uttar Banga Krishi  
Viswavidyalay, Ratua, Malda,  
West Bengal, 732205, India



\*Corresponding Author  
**Suddhasuchi Das\***

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### INTRODUCTION

#### A brief description of the enterprise:

Malda district in West Bengal is popular for good quality mango and litchi orchard. Maximum orchard is old orchard and farmers maintain the mango as a sole crop in their orchard. The 25-30 years old mango trees planted at 9 x 9 – 12 x 12 meter distance, so due to this long spacing huge area is unutilized in the Mango orchard. Sri. Sunil Sarkar is a progressive farmer aged 58 years with middle level of education having 3 ha. of land and was mainly engaged in traditional method cropping farming. Presently he was usually cultivating field crops and seasonal vegetables crops. The income he was having was not meeting the family needs. So, he was thinking of some intercropping which can improve the productivity from unit area of his farm land. He was not sure about the combination of crop to be used for intercropping. To get some updated knowledge about the farming system, he contacted Malda KVK, Ratua.

#### Intervention by Malda KVK:

Sri Sarkar has attended and successfully completed a three-days training programme on cultivation of turmeric in mango orchard for proper utilization of vacant space conducted at Malda Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Ratua. The knowledge he has gained has motivated him for cultivation of Turmeric in mango orchard and have proved to be a turning point in the life of Sri. Sarkar. "After attending various sessions and knowing the benefits of turmeric cultivation in mango orchard, he decided to have a go for turmeric cultivation in his 2 ha. mango orchard. This is a very important technology for proper utilization of vacant space in mango orchard and have an extra income from the unit area of land along with mango.

#### Detailed information of the training provided by the KVK

He participated in the 3 days skill development and awareness training programme on "Cultivation of turmeric in mango orchard for proper utilization of vacant space" conducted by Malda KVK, Ratua in the year 2018-19. The programme was designed to enrich the farmers with updated knowledge and hands on training and demonstration in the technology.

**Coverage/ impact of training:-**

After getting knowledge from training he cultivated the turmeric in mango orchard. The objective of the training is planting of turmeric as an intercrop under mango trees and to have some profit without affecting the main crop.

He has collected good quality turmeric rhizome (variety: Suranjana) from KVK so that the production can be better. Initially he cultivated turmeric in small area but after the training he has increase the land area to 1 ha. in mango orchard with the proper observation and guidance from KVK. The most important fact of this crop is that it is not affected by stray cattle and or goat. The orchard was also found to be free from termite attack after planting turmeric as intercrop in mango. Turmeric root exudates or curcumin in rhizomes present in soil probably assisted in disease suppression by reducing the activity and population of trunk borer larvae and soil-borne fungus.

**Income:-**

Before cultivation of turmeric in mango orchard the farmer sold the good quality mangos in market at ₹40-45/kg and he earned ₹400000.00/- from mango as a sole crop. From that 1 ha of

land in mango orchard the farmer harvested around 20-25 tones of fresh turmeric during last three years. He sold the turmeric in market in two different way, raw turmeric and dried turmeric powder at ₹30 and ₹200 respectively. He earned extra ₹150000.00/- from turmeric from mango orchard.

**Horizontal spread:**

He is now a source of inspiration for other farmers of the locality who are learning scientific practices for improving their livelihood. More than 100 no. of farmers have visited his farm and have adopted this technology in their own orchard.

**Concluding assessment:**

Training and demonstrations and further motivation and experience sharing from KVK scientists have inspired many people in the district to come forward and take up such venture for improving their production and productivity from mango orchard. In such a situation, farmers can get a lot of economic benefits from the cultivation of turmeric among mango orchards. Mr. Sarkar further added that proper knowledge and application of suitable technology leads has enhanced my income.

