

Restrain Water Wastage by adopting Water Efficient Practices

Introduction

Shri Gurpreet Singh, a 26-year-old farmer from Sekukheda village in the Rania block of Sirsa district, Haryana, belongs from an area classified as a dark zone due to its critically low groundwater levels and high extraction rates. After completing his B.Sc. (Hons.) in Agriculture from Haryana Agricultural University in Hisar, he chose to pursue a career in farming, aspiring to become a progressive young farmer. Initially, community-led water security plans were prepared, and various demand and supply side interventions were proposed with the participation of the community in his Gram Panchayat. He became associated with the Atal Bhujal Yojana during a Gram Panchayat meeting in 2020-21. To raise awareness among the farmers about water-saving practices, Atal Jal team demonstrated innovative water-efficient techniques on his 20 acres of land. These practices included Direct Seeded Rice (DSR), Laser Land Leveling (LLL), Micro Irrigation Systems, Zero Tillage, and Crop Diversification etc.

Key Insight

Shri Gurpreet Singh has implemented Laser Land Leveling (LLL) techniques across his entire 20 acres of land. He cultivates paddy using the Direct Seeded Rice (DSR) technique and grows high-value crops like capsicum and broccoli with a drip irrigation system during the kharif season. In the Rabi season, he cultivates wheat and mustard using the Zero Tillage (ZT) technique. He also inspires fellow farmers by promoting these techniques within his



Gram Panchayat and neighboring ones. By adopting the drip irrigation system, he has achieved about 23% higher yields in vegetable crops compared to conventional methods. Additionally, he performs intercultural operations in his vegetable fields to ensure better yields and reduce pest attacks.