

## **Diversification of agriculture by a marginal farmer at remote area of Chamba district**

**INTRODUCTION:** Sh Kuldeep Kumar s/o Sh Surender Kumar Village Bagoli, PO Palhuin, Tehsil and District Chamba is a young progressive farmer of the area. He lives in joint family and playing an important role in the family. Each member of the family collectively performing all agricultural practices right from field preparation, sowing, irrigation, weeding, harvesting and finally sale of produce. Sh Kuldeep is very hard working and sincere. He did his agriculture related works with great zeal and dedication. He could not continue his further studies after his ten plus two examination due to lack of resources (money and non availability of higher educational institution) and decided to agriculture to earn his livelihood. Although, he has limited land resource (only 2 ha), he decided to take 7 bighas of land on lease basis. He started cultivating off season vegetable under protective cultivation and raising plant nursery. He is earning handsome money from agriculture as well as from Nursery.

**KVK INTERVENTION:** Sh Kuldeep Kumar approached KVK Chamba time to time for scientific inputs. He was advised by KVK Scientists for maximizing profit through protected cultivation, training and pruning of apple, how to raise nursery on scientific line and how to increase output per unit area per unit time. His farm was visited by Scientists from KVK Chamba when required. Nursery of fodder plants was inspected by Dr. K. S. Thakur, Assistant Scientist (Forestry) in the month of March, 2015. Nursery area is situated at an elevation of 1642 m above mean sea level having latitude 32 °C 36.63'N and longitude 76 °C 08.75'E at Bagoli village under Gram Panchayat Palhuin, established in the year 2013-14. The location of nursery is ideal for raising different seedlings and is near natural source of water but away from road. Eight bigha areas is undertaken for this purpose. Different plant species like Kachnar, Reetha, Deodar, Robinia, Bamboo, Ban oak, Harad, Baheda, Aonla, Khirak, Dhaman, Kainth, local willow, popular, Peacan nut and wild apricot are grown in this nursery. Culture practices like preparation of site, digging of soil, levelling of soil and preparation of beds is done properly.

**OUTPUT:** Getting more return from vegetable and nursery seedlings. Survival percentage of most of species raised in nursery is more than 80 except Harad and Baheda having 40-45 percent.

**OUTCOME:** Growing maize, wheat, tomatoes, cabbage, cauliflower, coriander, carrot, cucumber and also raising nursery of citrus and fodder trees.

**IMPACT:** Earning rupees 6.50 lakhs per annum from this diversified agriculture venture.

### **ECONOMICS OF THE FARM:**

<b>Sr. No.</b>	<b>Farm component</b>	<b>Area/Number</b>	<b>Input cost (Rupees/year)</b>	<b>Net income (Rupees/year)</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Polyhouse</b>	500 m <sup>2</sup>	75,000	2,00,000
<b>2</b>	<b>Nursery</b>	8 bighas	50,000	3,50,000
<b>3</b>	<b>Open crops</b>	1 ha	20,000	1,00,000
<b>Total</b>			1,45,000	6,50,000