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Innovative state farmer gets ICAR award

Madhuri Kumar | TNN

Patna: He has honours in history but agriculture was his passion.

So it wasn't surprising, when the simple but ingenious man, Sudhanshu Kumar gave up a job in the tea gardens of Karnataka to take up agriculture as a profession in his native village of Nayanagar.

He has no formal education in agriculture but Sudhanshu has used technology and devised innovative ways to maximise farming yields.

He has devised many innovative techniques in crop production, specially maize and wheat.

He along with his brother,



Sudhanshu Kumar

who have followed them in taking up farming as a profession.

Sudhanshu has evolved a new technique of mango farming. The growing and ripening of the king of fruits gives handsome yields in all conditions.

In a nine acre plot of mango farming, Sudhanshu began using

who's also a graduate like him has launched themselves into farming in their village. Both have been an inspiration to other youths

simple and innovative techniques like pruning trees and dismantling diseased branches.

He used rejuvenation technique, manured trees twice a year and adopted proper irrigation facilities and an annual spray schedule. He also used match sticks to dab a little "ethrel" on fresh stalks of mango to ripen the fruit.

The result helped him to increase his income, from mango sale, from Rs 10,000 to Rs 6,00,000 in a span of eight years.

For his good work in the field of agriculture, The Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR) awarded him the Jagjivan Ram Kisan Puraskar 2009. The award was bestowed on him for

his innovative scientific techniques and methods of farm management and farming.

Sudhanshu is a graduate in history from Delhi University and a product of St Paul's School, Darjeeling. His brother Himanshu is also a graduate from the same university. Sudhanshu, who is also the mukhiya of Nayanagar panchayat, regularly documents his innovations to let the society know that technological ingenuity is not the preserve of modern scientists.

The brother duo have inspired many youths who after completing their higher education have come back to their native village only to take up farming as a profession.

And how could the brothers carry on their business in a power-starved district of Bihar, which barely gets two to three hours of power supply a day and which may at times elude for weeks together?

"We have developed our own system and power is not an issue for us. We have solar energy fed lights, gen sets to run pumps and inverters to fulfill our need," said Sudhanshu.

His innovative techniques in production of maize and wheat has drawn the attention of the government.

The government has appointed him an active member of the Maize Task Force.