

New variety of Zinc fortified paddy

I have 0.20 acre of medium land where I grow paddy. I also work as an agriculture labourer in other fields to meet my family's requirements. Sometime in March 2017, staff from M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation under the LANSa project told me about a farmer growing a new paddy variety in Balia village and arranged an exposure visit to his field. I could not go, but in the evening some of my fellow farmers who were part of the group shared information that the paddy variety has high zinc content with growth duration of 110-115 days, and is being cultivated in Odisha for the first time. As I have medium land and

usually face problems of water scarcity when growing long duration variety paddy, I thought it a good idea to grow the medium-duration paddy DRR Dhan 45 in my field.

As suggested by the project staff, I raised a nursery and used line transplanting in the main field in kharif 2017. Weeding was easier due to line transplanting. I also used fertilizer and water management technique. The crop was affected by brown plant hopper and I used practices suggested by the project staff to control the problem. Compared to paddy variety 1001 (which I cultivated in 2016), plants of DRR-45 variety were taller; grains were longer and slender. This year, I had 5 quintals of grain yield compared to 2.5 quintals last year. The staff gave me information about zinc content of the variety, the importance of zinc for our health and advised me to keep the produce for home consumption. I sold only 50 kg to purchase household grocery, and have kept 10 kg as seed for next year. Rest of the produce (440 kg) will be used for household consumption.



Name : Ghana Mundagadia

Village : Rauliguda,

Block: Boipariguda, District: Koraput

Age : 28 years

Caste : Gadaba (ST)

Occupation : Farmer (0.6 acres)

Family size : 3 (2 adults, 1 child)

Written by **Naresh Chandra Patra**,
Technical Assistant, FSN study under LANSa.