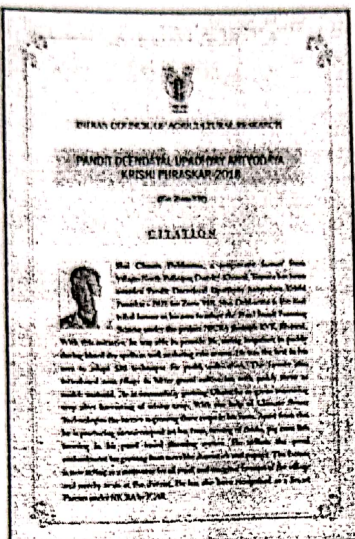


A dream journey from *Cannabis sativa* grower to prestigious ICAR Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay Antyodaya Award Winner, 2018

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Introduction: Shri Charan Debarma a Progressive tribal farmer of North Pulinpur ADC Village has adopted the Pond Based Farming System under the Project National Innovations on Climate Resilient Agriculture. North Pulinpur is one of the draught prone tribal inhabited ADC village of the district Khowai under the state Tripura.



There were no perennial streams, rivers, ponds and other irrigation facilities in the village. Prevailing temperature ranges from 16°C to 37°C. Annual rainfall ranges from 2050 to 2550 mm, but almost whole amount goes out to neighbouring lower elevated village. Before initiation of NICRA Shri Charan Debbarma was growing only *Kharif* rice. In his remaining land he was growing *Cannabis sativa*, the of flowers (called marijuana) and leaves and preparations derived from resinous extract (e.g., hashish)

are consumed by smoking, vaporising and oral ingestion. Because of this type of use it is banned to grow the crop in India.

Under the National Innovations in Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA) Project KVK, Khowai has given training to the farmer about the climate smart agriculture and has constructed a farm pond in his farm, harvested Water from the farm pond provided life saving irrigation for paddy during *Kharif* dry spell as well as during *Rabi* season. A Nano pump was installed nearby to his Farm Pond which was utilized for providing easy irrigation at a rate of 60 lit of water/hour. The Pond is also used for composite fish culture with average yield of 30 q/farmer/year/ha during 2017-18. His *Cannabis sativa* crops were demolished and sweet orange plants were planted in that plot

Adaptation of SRI in paddy as first crop by Mr. Charan Debbarma could minimize the losses due to water shortage in *Kharif* paddy cultivation. Shri Charan Debarma has introduced zero tillage in bitter gourd cultivation with paddy straw as mulch material at North Pulinpur ADC, with critical input support of KVK, Khowai. Similarly, after *Kharif* paddy fallow land is now successfully utilized by introduction of second crops like maize var. HQPM with furrow irrigation method, lentil var. WBL 77 as relatively

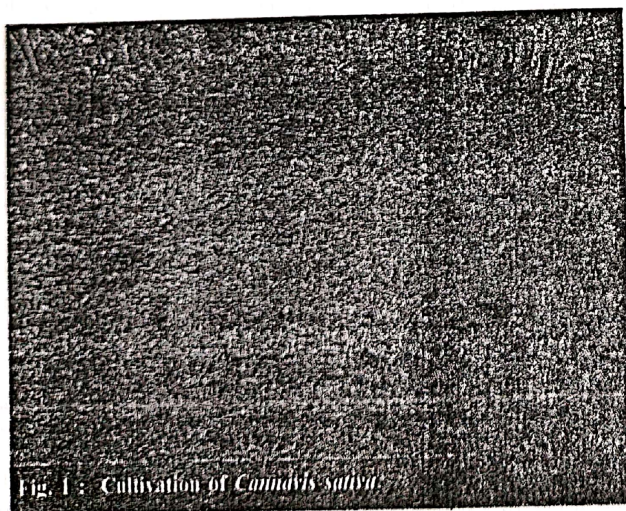


Fig. 1 : Cultivation of *Cannabis sativa*



Fig. 2 : Replacement with sweet orange cultivation