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Bhutto Tanchangya: Leading by example



Bhutto Tanchangya is a proud example for his community through cultivating nutritious vegetables and selling them for a fair price. Many in his community look up to him as a successful farmer and a trusted source of quality products.

Bhutto is not alone in his home of the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT); he works alongside many other farmers who have benefitted from the European Union funded Leadership to Ensure Adequate Nutrition (LEAN) project's trainings on nutritious food production and educating the consumer base regarding the benefits of these products.

Bhutto belongs to the Tanchangya community in Rangamati hill district. Before getting acquainted with the LEAN project, his crop production was very low because of poor access to seeds, many of which were only available commercially. He also struggled to sell his crops because of limited access to the right markets and buyers, as well as stifling competition larger producers who were able to undercut his price point on commercial crops.

After years struggling to provide for his family, Bhutto has been excited to join the LEAN project. With the help of LEAN staff, he learned about identification and storage of local indigenous seeds which helped reduce his input costs while also providing access to new markets through the production of more valuable indigenous crops. Where he didn't have access to seed, Bhutto was supported to collect good quality bringle, flat bean and groundnut seeds from local seed vendors.

Bhutto now cultivates these crops on his 33.5 decimals of land and seeks out opportunities from the government agriculture office to support his efforts. Through this increased connectivity, Bhutto has strengthened his cultivation methods and begun to use low-cost organic methods for pest control and resilience to extreme weather events that are common in his region.

Thanks to this support and the increased revenue generation it created, Bhutto was able to invest BDT 20,000 (EUR 200.00) in his land for maintenance and cultivation of crops which grossed him about BDT 35,000 (EUR 350.00) in income. After deducting costs, Bhutto's net profit for his harvest was about BDT 15,000 (EUR 150.00) representing a significant increase on previous earnings.

Now, thanks to his increased access to investment capital Bhutto is continuing to develop market opportunities and is increasingly linking with local service providers in his area who are able to purchase his crops at a fair price. They then take his nutritious products to market in Rangamati where they are in high demand thanks to the improved taste and organic production. Bhutto is very happy with this process and is thankful to the LEAN staff and European Union for helping bring this change to his livelihood. He says he's excited for what the future holds for agriculture and nutritious food in his community.