

## LEAN Farming Practices Improves yield and reduces cost of production for farmers

Sarvesh Maurya s/o Bhonu Maurya from Tikri village of Varanasi, who is a native farmer with agriculture being the only source of income for his family, was still practicing the conventional methods of farming with old technologies resulting in poor crop yield and less returns. In the year 2020, he got introduced to National Agro Foundation which gave him new insights on bottle gourd cultivation. They advised him to start with soil testing in his field to know the nutrient status, wherein they provided him with those micronutrients required for cultivation that was usually not available in local shops there.



Next step on crop protection was deploying Yellow sticky traps and Pheromone traps after sowing, helping a lot in trapping of insects and reducing the pesticide sprays. Bio control measures like Trichoderma spray and Panchakavya were also provided by NAF which eventually resulted in good productivity, large and attractive fruits. These fruits were with promising quality and were sold Rs.1-1.5 higher than the fruits of other farmers of

the same locality. This was his first experience with scientific farming methods, proving to be cost effective and remunerative. The relatable performance of this year had been 55 Quintals (from 3/4<sup>th</sup> of the field where demonstration was done), rather than the usual normal of 14 Quintals in 1/4<sup>th</sup> of the total field accounting to a 25 per cent more production. He had also reduced the usage of pesticides by 60 per cent along with the inorganic fertilizers; this was a breakthrough from his conventional farming.

National Agro Foundation unlike others has come to the rescue of the farmers and through their guidance and technical trainings, many farmers are benefitting from the new knowledge and skills. He wishes to thank NAF for their efforts and request them to work with many more farmers to help them rebuild their livelihoods through scientific methods of agriculture.