



# Fields of Possibility: Kabita's Lemongrass Odyssey

In the quaint village of Brahmapura, situated within the verdant landscapes of Cuttack, Odisha, resides Kabita Dalabehera — a woman whose life weaves a tapestry of determination and transformation. Her humble abode is shared with her devoted husband, a son, and a daughter, as they navigate their existence upon the vast expanse of their ancestral 5-acre land. Within this area, 3 acres are devoted to the nurturing of paddy crops, and the remaining 2.5 acres remain unused.



**Kabita at the Incense cone-making machine**

Kabita's life underwent a remarkable change with the establishment of the IMEDF-SFURTI Banki Aromatic Cluster (Government of India launched the Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI) in 2005 to make traditional industries more competitive, market driven and productive by introducing new technologies). Spearheaded by the Indian Micro Enterprises Development Foundation (IMEDF), which functions as a specialised entity under the Development Alternatives Group, this cluster serves as a Nodal Agency for the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI). Through IMEDF's efforts, over 1,000 farmers from Brahmapura village were successfully brought together to establish a thriving lemongrass cluster.

She discovered the world of lemongrass farming through the cluster's initiatives. With training in lemongrass cultivation, she decided to utilise her idle land for this purpose, which brought in additional income for her family.

Through the cluster's support, Kabita received farm machineries such as a lemongrass cutter, water pump, and spray pump. These machines made her farming activities more efficient and reduced labour costs.

Not content with solely cultivating lemongrass, Kabita underwent product development training to create value-added products. She began making lemongrass incense cones and sticks at the cluster's Common Facility Centre. Branded as Swarna Priya, these products generated a monthly income of INR 6000 for Kabita, adding up to INR 1,20,000 annually. The revenue earned from these products was shared among 1,756 farmers, including 709 women.

Kabita's success didn't stop there. She became an inspiration to the women in her village's Self-Help Groups, encouraging them to embrace lemongrass cultivation as well.

Kabita Dalabehera's story is one of resilience and resourcefulness. Through her efforts, she transformed her family's income by utilising unused land, embracing modern farming techniques, and creating value-added products. Her journey not only impacted her own life but also inspired other women in her community to explore new opportunities.

**Educate. Enable. Empower.**

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\*Exemption Under Section 80G