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Horticulture: New Ideas in Alternative Agricultural system in Bankura's Agricultural Economy

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Abstract

Due to the rough soil of Bankura, the amount of fallow land here is relatively high. For this reason, the state government had taken up a plan to cultivate the fallow land through fruit cultivation. Bankura was an important district among the five districts of the state that were selected under the Horticulture Development in Paschimanchal Districts project. In the first phase, lands in the western and southwestern parts of the district were selected for the development of gardens. Many mango orchards are established in different places in Bankura. For example, Lipidiri in Ranibandh block, Jhariakocha in Hirbandh block, etc. The National Horticulture Department is the main initiator of the creation of orchards in Bankura. Its main office is currently in Taldangra. The fruit cultivation research that has gained the most fame at Taldangra Horticulture Farm is grapes. Apart from different types of mangoes and grapes, there are various types of fruit trees here. Along with fruit cultivation, the Bankura Horticulture Department has also given importance to flower and vegetable cultivation. Nowadays, various new vegetables are grown in Bankura. Many people have benefited economically from fruit cultivation. For example, the main source of income for the people of Lipidiri village in Ranibandh block is the mango orchard there. In addition, after the establishment of mango orchards in Jhariakocha of Hirbandh block and Nadupara of Khatra block, the financial condition of the people there has improved a lot compared to the previous one. Thus, horticulture has given the farmers a new avenue of alternative agriculture.

Keywords: Horticulture of Bankura, Taldangra Horticulture Office, Mango Orchard, Alternative Agriculture System, Horticulture Development in Paschimanchal Districts.

The soil and climate of Bankura are not particularly suitable for agriculture. The soil here is rough and dry. Even large and medium industries are almost non-existent in this district. Therefore, the people of the district have to depend on agriculture. Although the condition of agriculture is not very good due to various reasons such as drought and floods. Still, the soil and environment of Bankura do not allow for the production of many crops. For this reason, the state government has taken up a plan to cultivate the fallow land through fruit cultivation. The project is called 'Horticulture Development in Paschimanchal districts'. Five districts in the western part of the state have been brought under this project. Among these five districts, Bankura district was given more importance in this project because of

the large amount of waste land in Bankura district. The government had planned to develop fruit orchards in the first phase on about 810 hectares of waste land in this district. Mainly, the production of mango, musambi, currant, guava, orange, kul and ata is given more importance. The lands in the western and southwestern parts of the district were selected for this work (mainly lands in Ranibandh, Raipur, Simlapal, Onda, Taldangra, Hirbandh and Indpur blocks were selected for this work). However, the Horticulture Department of Bankura has taken the initiative to demonstrate that impossible task with its hands. With the initiative of the Horticulture Department, fruits and vegetables have started to be produced which were previously unimaginable in the soil of this district. Due to the irregularity of rainfall, people are not able to depend on agriculture. They are joining factories, restaurants or other jobs in the neighboring districts in search of income. As a result, the fallow land of the district is also increasing. To solve the problem, the Agriculture Department is conducting various experiments to prioritize profitable crop production with less irrigation. The Horticulture Department is trying to make fallow lands suitable for cultivation to boost the economy of the district. For example, after eight years of efforts, grape cultivation has started in large quantities at the Taldangra Horticulture Development and Research Farm. The cultivation of 37 varieties of grapes, both seeded and seedless, was started here and they have gained considerable fame in the West Bengal market. According to farm sources, the cultivation of five varieties of grapes, namely Arka Neelamani, Arkavati, Arkakanchan etc., has been completely successful. About five to six kg of grapes are available from each tree. Apart from this, the district has witnessed great success in the production of various seasonal fruits including mango, guava, mosambi. Farmers became interested in alternative agriculture after not getting profit from traditional farming. Therefore, the production of horticultural crops gradually increased through government initiatives as well as private initiatives. With government assistance, farmers are benefiting a lot by cultivating various fruits on their small fallow lands. This has helped them improve their standard of living. Since the lack of irrigation creates problems in agriculture in this district, more importance has been given to fruit cultivation through low irrigation mainly on fallow land. Most of the land in West and South-West Bankura belongs to the Thara category. Therefore, most of the horticultural crops are cultivated in these places. Crops are being cultivated in the fallow lands of this part by conserving water according to contour bunding or 30 X 40 model. The places where crops are being produced by conserving water according to this rule are Lipidiri, Nabchiyada, Dulalpur, Baragoda in Ranibandh block, Jhariakocha, Layekdihi in Hirbandh block, etc. Mango cultivation is being done in Hirbandh block, while fruits like grapes, musambi, dragon fruit, different types of mangoes, green apples etc. are being cultivated in Taldangra Horticulture Farm. Apart from this, private initiatives in various blocks have also started the production of a large number of horticultural crops.

The Horticulture Department in Bankura was initially associated with the Agriculture Department. Later it was made a separate department. Although the main office of the Horticulture Department is located in Bankura city, there are two farms in Taldangra and Barajora. Under the cooperation and supervision of these farms, various fruits and vegetables are cultivated in different places, mainly on fallow land. For example, under the supervision of Taldangra Horticulture Farm, musambi and mango are cultivated in Patri of Simlapal police station and in the village of Jhariakocha in Hirbandh block. However,

mango orchards have been established not only in the southwest but also in several places in the north and northeast of the district. The main purpose of gardening was to help farmers financially develop by making wasteland productive through technology, encourage farmers to cultivate crops other than the main crop with less irrigation, create rural employment, promote socio-economic development, and promote and disseminate agricultural technology. In addition, due to the importance of using organic fertilizers in horticulture, importance is given to the production of vermicompost. As a result, an opportunity has been created for farmers as well as for the people involved in this work. Seeing the profitable aspect of producing various fruits, interest in production has increased among farmers. Due to which the financial support from the government has also increased. During the 10th Five Year Plan period, the National Horticulture Mission has been implemented for the extensive expansion and overall development of horticultural crops with 100% financial support from the Central Government and 85% from the Central Government and 15% from the State Government during the Eleventh Plan and with the management of the State Government.¹ Bankura was among the 14 districts of West Bengal where this mission was implemented. The fruit production table of the District Statistical Handbook shows that the production in the district has gradually increased. This production has not only made the farmers financially prosperous but also increased the national income of the district. Because Bankura has gained a good reputation in the country's market for the taste of its mangoes. If we discuss the progress and decline of Bankura's agriculture during the pre-independence and post-independence periods, changes are definitely visible. Where food shortages were a common occurrence before independence, the yield has increased steadily after independence. Apart from the main crops, the production of horticultural crops has increased. The district administration has taken the initiative to bring fallow lands under cultivation. If we look at the land use in 2011 and the land use in the previous few years, it can be seen that a large amount of fallow land has become cultivable. Under the initiative of the Agriculture Department, fruit seedlings are distributed among the farmers at low prices and sometimes free of cost. The objective of the Horticulture Department has been largely successful, although not completely successful. Because the purpose of horticulture was to make wasteland cultivable, improve the economic status of farmers, etc. Although it may not improve the economic status of farmers in general, farmers are able to benefit greatly by creating various fruit orchards. To further expand the horticulture project, the government has also approved the adoption of the horticulture project under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme. The government has started efforts to expand livelihood opportunities through horticulture in every district of the state with the help of NREGS. The guidelines of this project say that people living below the poverty line, belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, beneficiaries of Indira Awas Yojana, etc., if they are willing and have their own land, then a specific project of planting fruit trees on that land should be taken up. For a long time after independence, agriculture in this district was completely dependent on nature and manpower. Farming was done using traditional agricultural machinery, old farming methods and indigenous seeds. As a result, production was very low. Even when the Green Revolution started in the 1970s, the district did not see such success in agriculture. Due to the lack of high-yielding seeds, chemical fertilizers and pesticides, it was difficult for small farmers and agricultural workers to provide for others throughout the year. Naturally, they had no choice but to go elsewhere in search of work.

As farmers were not interested in using chemical fertilizers, a shortage in yields was inevitable. Later, the quality of the land began to decline due to the widespread use of chemicals, and as the production of common crops was not very profitable, farmers began to lose interest in agriculture. To solve this problem, the agriculture officials started researching alternative agriculture and gave importance to horticulture. Horticulture science is divided into various branches. Among these, pomology, Floriculture, Olericulture, Mushroom cultivation, Food processing have made considerable progress in Bankura. The details of horticulture in Bankura can be discussed.

Fruit cultivation:

Due to the rocky soil of Bankura, many lands remained uncultivated. Paddy, wheat, and potatoes were not possible to cultivate in these lands. A few vegetables were cultivated in one or two places. In 2006-07, the work of constructing fruit orchards in these lands under the National Horticulture Mission in the district started. Mango orchards have been created on about 1500 hectares of land in Bankura. Since paddy production in South and South-West Bankura is not as high as in East Bankura, more emphasis has been given to alternative agriculture in this region. The blocks in which fruit orchards have been created are Ranibandh, Raipur, Simlapal, Taldangra, Bankura-1, Bankura-2, Hirbandh, Indpur, Khatra, Chhatna etc. The National Horticulture Department is the main initiator in creating orchards in Bankura. Initially, its main office was in Bankura city, but later it was established in Taldangra. Various new types of fruits and vegetables are tested here, and then fruit seedlings are distributed to farmers free of charge or at a low cost, considering which variety of fruit is suitable for which soil. Even the Taldangra Horticulture Office has various fruit gardens. Currently, more new fruit trees are being planted there. First, the mango garden can be discussed.

Mango orchard in Jhariakocha:

When the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme was launched in 2006, the work of this project was limited to the work of digging soil and building unpaved roads in Hirbandh block. Two more works were started under the Individual Benefit Scheme. One of these two works was the creation of mango orchards. Since there is no cottage industry in places like Bishnupur, Taldangra or Panchmura, agriculture is used as the primary sector. For this purpose, 13 hectares of land was taken from 144 families in Jhariakocha Mouza of Gopalpur Gram Panchayat of Hirbandh Block.² Because that land had been lying fallow for a long time. People had given up hope knowing that agriculture was not possible on this barren land. But in 2008-09, a joint initiative of MGNREGS and NHM was taken to green that fallow land. This mango orchard was created at a cost of about 35.17 lakh rupees.³ There are 5863 mango trees in this orchard and these trees have grown under the care of people from 144 families. The 'Swayamvara Gosthi' plays an important role in the implementation of any current project. This case is no exception. This mango orchard has been developed with the efforts of twelve Swayamvara groups. After the creation of this mango orchard, most of the people in this region no longer have to travel to other districts for work. Ermanent workers get a minimum wage of 10,000 rupees and all medical expenses. High-ranking skilled workers get a salary of 40,000 rupees and all medical expenses. Temporary workers in this garden used to work as laborers in different places earlier. But after working here, their financial condition has improved a lot compared to before. They get medical expenses in addition to their wages. During mango

picking, 25 boys and ten girls are taken on a regular basis. While masons get 180 rupees per day, the laborers working in this garden get 250 rupees. Again, they don't have to work the whole day. Their work is over when they have collected 12 baskets of mangoes. Interviews with the workers reveal that they are quite happy with the work and the wages. The owners of the orchard land receive five lakh twenty thousand rupees as rent every year.⁴

Dhekiakocha Mango Garden:

Two kilometers from Jharia Kocha village, a village called Bansa can be seen. Next to Bansa, there is a tribal village called Dhekiakocha. A small mango garden was created here. 17 families of this village are associated with the work of this mango garden.⁵ Instead of relying solely on mango production, the people here earn money by cultivating various vegetables and spices in the garden and selling them in the local market. Initially, they only focused on vegetable production in this garden, but now they are also producing necessary spices along with vegetables. Currently, the financial condition of the people associated with this garden has improved a lot.

Lipidiri Mango Garden:

Ten Shabar families live in Lipidiri village. Since they did not have their own land, they worked as laborers on other people's land. However, due to the lack of irrigation facilities, they could only get work for three months during the farming season. The rest of the time, they had no work, so they had to spend their days half-eaten or starving. Their main livelihood was broom making, but their income from working as agricultural laborers and broom making was very low. But the women of Shabar took the initiative to change their fate. In this case, the then local B.D.O. Babulal Mahato came forward to help them. All the people of Shabar Palli were involved in this work. They leased waste land from others (10 acres of land of Lolitmohan Patra, Ashok Kumar Patra, and Abanibhushan Patra of Kendadi village) and established mango orchards. For this, they receive 100 days' wages for the project and share the profits by selling the mangoes produced by the trees (Although the money is deposited with the landowners and they take 25% and the rest is divided among the workers). This mango garden was established by the women of the village of Lipidiri in Ranibandh. This mango garden was established in 2008-09 by the women of the self-help group (Ladda Shabar Para Women's Self-Help Group, Kenduadi Maa Ambika Women's Self-Help Group). This garden, spread over 10 acres of land, was established with the financial assistance of Mahatma Gandhi National Employment Guarantee Scheme and National Horticulture Mission. Another feature of this garden is the production of vegetables as well as fruits. Although the Shabar family was not very economically advanced before the garden was established, they are now able to earn thousands of rupees.⁶ In the first year, mangoes worth 140,000 rupees were sold. Currently, due to the difficulty in light and air circulation in the garden, the mango yield has decreased. To solve this problem, initiatives have been taken to cut down some trees. As a result, their economy has slowly turned around.

Raipur Fruit Garden:

The Backward Social Welfare Association was formed in Raipur with a few farmers. With the help of the members of this association and the activities of the National Horticulture Mission, this garden was created in 2010. Currently, this garden is spread over an area of 160 bighas.⁷ This garden mainly cultivates mangoes of the Amrapali variety. However, not

only mangoes but also fruits like musambi, guava, lemon, sabela, pomegranate, kul etc. are cultivated here. A reservoir has been constructed for irrigation of the fruit trees of this garden, which is built on eight bighas of land. This association was formed with some backward people of the society, who are now much better off financially.

Nadupara Mango Garden: A mango garden was established in 2011 on the back slope of the hill opposite the Mukutmanipur Dam in Khatra block. This mango garden was developed with the financial assistance of the Mahatma Gandhi National Employment Guarantee Scheme and the National Horticulture Mission. A 30×40 model reservoir and ditch have been dug for irrigation in this garden. It is said that after the construction of the garden, the economic condition of the workers there has improved a lot compared to before.⁸

Taldangra Horticulture Farm Garden:

Taldangra Horticulture Research Farm has a large mango garden. Apart from this, there are also gardens of grapes, pomegranates, musambi, green apples. The fruit whose cultivation is being researched here is grapes. Experiments were started on the cultivation methods of 17 varieties of grapes in this farm and after four long years of experiments, the production of a total of 5 varieties of grapes (Ark Kanchan, Pusa Nabarang, Ark Krishna, Ark Soma, Ark Nilmani) has been considered possible here. In addition, fruits such as musambi, mango etc. are produced in Patri of Simlapal police station under the supervision of Taldangra Horticulture Farm. Information from the office staff reveals that Taldangra Horticulture Farm was started in 1962-63. The mango and musambi gardens that have been established in Bankura in the last ten years are under this farm. Mango, Musambi, and dragon fruit have been cultivated here for the past 10-12 years. There are 40-50 types of mango seedlings here, which are Alphonso, Himsagar, Amrapali, Golap Khas, Ratnagiri, etc. Also, Sundari Kul, Coconut Kul, Thai variety flowers are cultivated here. Musambi varieties like Sadguti, Washington, etc. are cultivated. Regarding the recruitment of workers, it is known that the block scheme is sent from this office. Then the workers are recruited from NRGS, but more importance is given to the people of the nearby locality, even most of the workers here are from the neighboring villages. The workers recruited from this office are employed throughout the year. However, the workers recruited from NRGS are not employed throughout the year. Here, since the grape, musambi, mango, dragon fruit orchards are irrigated by drip irrigation, farmers are also encouraged to cultivate fruits with less irrigation. The works done in this department are - According to the National Horticulture Scheme, if a farmer personally wants to cultivate more land, help is provided from this department 2. Some seedlings are sold at government rates from this department. 3. Elephant foot, turmeric, onion are sold here as seeds at government rates. 4. Training is provided to encourage farmers to do all these things. The Taldangra agricultural farm is spread over an area of 77 acres. Ponds have been dug here for irrigation in the low-lying land. There is also a canal that comes out of the Shivdanga Ecopark and passes through this garden. However, in such a large orchard, organic fertilizers are usually used. However, in some cases, chemical fertilizers are also used. Perhaps due to the care, the mangoes here are tastier and for this reason these mangoes have a good reputation in the markets of West Bengal and Delhi as well. Although there were attempts to sell it by ledge for a few years, due to corruption, the employees of the

department took the initiative to sell it themselves and the money was deposited directly into the government account.⁹

Digshuli Mango Garden:

There are three mango gardens here, two of which are run by the village public and one by the Mahila Sayambhar Samiti. The first two mango gardens were established in 2002-03 and the new one was established in 2016-17. The two big mango orchards were established by the Panchayat Samiti and the small mango orchard by the Gram Panchayat. The big mango orchard is managed by the village people and the small mango orchard by the women's association. Although from the beginning, the orchards were given to a businessman. Initially, 20-22 tons of mangoes were produced from the garden. However, its quantity gradually decreased. This garden was developed as a share of the Ghatwali property. The workers involved in this garden get a salary of 250 taka per day. The rest of the time they do their own farming work. With the creation of this garden, they have been relieved of their water problem. The villagers collect drinking water from the submersible that has been built to watering the trees in the garden. Previously, their water problem was very severe. In addition, village puja ceremonies are held from the income from the garden. Even the entire village's electricity bill is paid from the money received from this garden.¹⁰

Beladi Cashew Nut Garden:

It is not just mango orchards that were created in Bankura district. In 1988-89, a cashew orchard was created on 35 hectares of land in Belyadi village at the initiative of the Forest Department. However, the forest was partially destroyed due to a forest fire. Therefore, at present, this orchard is located on twenty hectares of land. After the creation of this orchard, most of the people of this village became an income source. Initially, all the people of the village were involved in the maintenance of this garden, but now not many people are available. One person from the village was appointed as the head of the maintenance and 20-25 people worked as his assistants. However, now only 5-7 assistant's work. Tapan Mondal, Tuhin Mondal, Sahadev Mondal, Bishwanath Mondal, Subhash Sahana, Phatik Sahana and others have been involved in the maintenance work for a long time.¹¹ Although the cashew orchard initially produced 40-50 quintals, production has now decreased due to the weather and the age of the trees. Naturally, income has also decreased. Although the income was initially 40-50 thousand takas, now the income has decreased a lot. 25% of this income goes to the people of Beladi village and the rest goes to the government office. The cost of maintaining the trees is around 8-10 thousand taka and the rest is shared among the people involved in this work.¹²

Flower cultivation:

Along with fruit cultivation, the Horticulture Mission of Bankura has also given special importance to flower cultivation. For this reason, although in small quantities, the cultivation of several seasonal flowers including marigold has become popular in the areas of Barajora, Sonamukhi, Patrasayer. Agricultural experts hope that if seasonal flowers are produced in Bankura, the farmers will be able to prosper economically in the future.

Vegetable Production:

It is known from Ramanuja Kar's book that during the colonial period, many vegetables were imported to Bankura from the neighboring districts of Bankura and the villagers used to buy vegetables from the city. However, in some places, pumpkin was cultivated on the danga lands. At present, pumpkin cultivation is widespread in Bankura. When many

people came here after the partition, pumpkin and tomato were also cultivated on the fallow lands that were given to them. Later, if we look at the statistical report, it is seen that the vegetable production has increased gradually. At present, Bankura has become known as a leading district in vegetable production. Apart from some local vegetables, many new vegetables are being produced at present such as capsicum, broccoli, etc. Several villages of Bankura are quite important in vegetable production such as Aralbashi, Puramauli, Barut, Nikunjapur under Onda police station, etc. Initiatives have been taken to preserve vegetables for the benefit of the people of Bankura. For this reason, the establishment of a cold storage for preserving vegetables is being considered. Vegetable seeds are being produced in different blocks to expand vegetable cultivation in Bankura. For example, work is underway to produce cauliflower seeds in Bishnupur block. Emphasis has been placed on distributing vegetable mini-kits and creating vegetable markets through the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana.

Now the production of fruits and vegetables for a few years can be discussed, which will make the matter clearer.¹³

Area and production of fruits and vegetables in the district of Bankura

Name of Fruits and Vegetables			Area (Thousand hectares)			Production (Thousand tonnes)				
Fruits	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Mango	0.65	1.60	3.60	3.80	3.95	4.55	5.64	5.79	5.79	7.79
Banana	0.59	0.59	0.55	0.55	0.56	6.52	6.32	6.31	6.13	6.51
Pineapple	0.05	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	1.31	0.60	0.60	0.60	0.60
Papaya	0.57	0.57	0.57	0.57	0.57	14.12	12.12	12.12	12.12	12.21
Guava	0.62	0.70	0.70	0.76	0.81	6.72	6.95	6.95	7.95	8.55
Jackfruit	0.55	0.52	0.52	0.52	0.52	5.11	8.99	8.99	8.99	8.99
Litchi	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mandarin orange	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Another citrus	0.29	0.40	0.44	0.48	0.49	2.31	3.43	3.49	3.67	3.77
Sapota	-	-	0.06	0.06	0.06	-	-	0.59	0.59	0.59
Others	0.33	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	3.20	2.55	3.15	3.33	3.19
Total	3.64	4.72	6.78	7.08	7.30	43.83	46.60	47.99	49.17	52.20
Vegetables										
Tomato	3.16	3.17	3.17	3.17	3.20	59.30	49.50	49.50	49.50	50.14
Cabbage	4.78	4.79	4.79	4.79	4.85	160.32	155.33	155.33	155.33	157.50
Cauliflower	5.31	5.31	5.31	5.31	5.38	145.71	145.65	145.65	145.65	147.57
Peas	0.64	0.64	0.64	0.64	0.65	2.79	2.79	2.79	2.79	2.88
Brinjal	10.00	9.99	9.99	9.99	8.59	194.74	194.85	194.85	194.85	173.95
Onion	0.78	0.79	0.79	0.79	0.79	6.90	7.10	7.10	9.10	9.35
Cucumbers	11.38	11.78	11.88	11.88	12.05	151.25	161.43	162.43	153.43	158.85
Ladies finger	5.75	5.75	5.75	5.75	5.82	64.20	64.29	64.29	64.29	66.12
Radish	1.61	1.61	1.61	1.66	0.37	22.31	22.34	22.34	22.34	4.16
Others	7.38	7.37	7.39	7.42	17.40	48.11	38.79	40.79	41.19	87.55
Total	50.80	51.20	51.30	51.40	59.10	855.63	842.07	845.07	838.47	858.07

The table shows that as the mango orchards have increased, so has the production. The banana producing area has decreased in 2010-11 compared to 2006 and the production has also decreased slightly. The production of pineapple has also decreased significantly. Although the area under papaya cultivation has remained the same, the production of papaya has decreased in 2007-08 compared to 2006-07, but there has been no increase or decrease till 2010-11. Guava production increased in 2010-11 compared to 2006. Lemon and litchi cultivation was not very successful here due to soil and climate, but if the production of all fruits is seen, then it can be seen that the amount of fruit-producing land has increased significantly in 2010-11 compared to 2006. One of the reasons for this was the tireless work of the National Parks Department.

Similarly, although vegetable cultivation was not given importance here before independence, it is seen that vegetable cultivation has been given importance along with other major crops after independence. The above table shows that although the area of land under tomato production has increased slightly, the production has decreased significantly. Although the production of onion, beans, okra, cauliflower has increased slightly, the production of cabbage has decreased. At the same time, the production of brinjal and radish has also decreased significantly. In fact, farmers have to work very hard in vegetable cultivation, but farmers face losses due to excessive rainfall, attacks of diseases and pests, reduction in prices due to overproduction, and being forced to sell at low prices to brokers. So, they lost interest in vegetable production. When asked about the reasons for their reluctance to cultivate vegetables, they all gave almost the same answers.

Conclusion:

Known as a drought-prone district of West Bengal, Bankura district is a notable name in the current agricultural map. The rugged soil of this district is a guide to agricultural diversity. The farming community here has now created its own identity by taking farming to new horizons while preserving the forest land. In the past, agricultural research was the brainchild of the farmers, but with time, agricultural experts started performing this responsibility. The geo-natural location of this region is very unfavorable for the implementation of agricultural diversification. In some places, the soil lacks nutrients. Due to the low amount of water, it is almost impossible to cultivate twice or thrice. But efforts have been made here to make this impossible possible and produce more crops (for example, evidence of this effort can be found in the farm of the Taldangra Horticulture Office). With the blessings of the Horticulture Department, the fallow lands here have become green with crops. The income of the farmers, the national income of the district has increased. Now the residents of Bankura no longer have to depend on other districts for vegetables or fruits. It has become possible to produce the necessary crops for the district here. The use of new technology and new machinery has given the farmers a secondary livelihood. Above all, gardening has given the farmers a new way of alternative agriculture.

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11. Interview, Haradhan Mondal (in-charge of the garden), Sankar Mondal(member), Beladi, Bankura, Time. 9.00, Date. 30.03.25.
12. Interview, Haradhan Mondal, Sankar Mondal, Beladi, Bankura, Time. 9.00, Date. 30.03.25.
13. District Statistical Handbook: Bankura 2010-11, Government of West Bengal, Kolkata, 2012, Table 5.3(d).