



## IMPACT STORY

# REBUILDING AS A FEMALE FARMER

Babita Mehta, a housewife from Nepal, was forced to quit her teaching career after she got married at the age of 20. The family she got married into required her to get involved in agriculture. With very limited knowledge on farming practices and limited aid, Babita lost all her hopes for better future. But with timely support from SRFSI project, Babita gained knowledge about the use of zero tillage farming which revived her confidence and interest in farming. Now, whenever her husband is out of village, she oversees all the agricultural activities.

Babita's husband owns and operates a tractor and was trained on the use of the Zero Till Machine. He used the machine not only on his own farm to sow wheat but also provided service to around 200-250 farmers. Babita and her husband was immediately convinced that it is the future of farming.

Now the couple have started saving to be able to buy their own zero till machine in the near future.



Photo: Manisha Shrestha

*Babita Mehta, a zero-tillage female farmer*



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Babita believes that the machine will help them earn more because there will be the optimal use of their tractor and since her husband knows how to operate the machine, it will be an additional benefit.

With knowledge and experience, the couple has understood the benefit of zero-tillage machine. They believe using the machine, the same production can be achieved with less expenses.

Facilitation from SRFSI in the widespread adoption of zero-tillage machine for sustainable, resilient and more profitable farming combined with the Mehta couple's hard work and service are already improving lives of smallholder farmers in Sunsari, Nepal.

*“Traditionally we had to take turns to sow seeds and then add fertilizers manually. And if could not find laborers on time, the whole planting period would get delayed. But with this zero-tillage machine, we can do all things together- sowing and adding fertilizer in such a short time and not worry about laborers”- Babita Mehta (Sunsari, Nepal)*



Photo: Conor Ashleigh