



## IMPACT STORY

# COLLABORATION, COOPERATION AND PRACTICAL TRAILS: FOR BETTER FUTURE OF FARMING

Md, Abdul Malik from Rajshahi, Bangladesh is not only a farmer but also a field technician, agri- machinery operator (like, zero tillage seed drill, Strip tiller, power tiller operated seeder etc.) and service provider.

A deep interest in farming which developed from his early childhood as he started helping his farther in their farm, also motivated him to complete his diploma in Agriculture. The passion and education together made him believe that developments in agriculture is always for a better future.

With ages of experience in cultivating wheat, the farmers at Rajshahi has been undertaking manual tilling of land, continuing the process for three or four times before sowing the seed, which has been a laborious task. But with the development in agricultural machinery introduced for sowing, it has become much easier and beneficial for the farmers.





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The best way to introduce farmers to any new development is practical trails, believes Malik.

In 2007 when strip tiller was introduced that would both till the land and sow the seed, and in 2008 power tiller operated seeder and zero tillage seed drill was introduced, farmers were equally skeptic at the initial stage but with repeated practical trials, the machines are commonly used these days.

Malik believes in the same strategy to promote zero tillage technologies. *"It has to be done through the farmers"*, he says. After a practical demonstration targeting farmers which helps convince them about the adoption of zero tillage technology, the farmers will continue using it and thus, help scale up.

Md. Abdul Malik has been continuing with zero tillage farming since past years and with his personal experiences he mentions that in his fields, there are more earthworms making the land more fertile and the fields require less fertilizer as well. He is also saving more in labor cost and time consumption. As a farmer and as a service provider, he knows that the ideal situation would be farmers get fair price for their crops and businesses start making profit. Eventually, it is the income that not only brings comfortability in one's life but also social recognition and respect.