



IMPACT STORY

BUILDING FUTURE TOGETHER: JAHANARA BIBI INSPIRES

Men and women contribute equally when it comes to farming activities in the Eastern Gangetic Plains of India, Bangladesh and Nepal. But gender role differs according to location, crops grown and opportunities available to them. However, it is a prevalent male perception supported by culture, tradition and social biases that women cannot be household heads.



Photo: Manisha Shrestha

Jahanara Bibi standing by her farm, Coochbehar, India

Passing of her husband was an unfortunate but inevitable incident in the life of Jahanara Bibi from Coochbehar, India which left her as a head of her household and sole guardian of her only son. Though a tragic event, Jahanara Bibi never gave up hope.

Going through hardships of a rural single female farmer intensified by poverty, Jahanara Bibi came to know about CASI techniques and the use of Zero Till Machine.



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Though it seemed like a far-fetched technique at first and no one to rely on for a true advice, Jahanara Bibi decided to gather all her courage and give it a try. Low cost, more produce, added income and time and energy saving- all these factors encouraged Jahanara Bibi to adopt this Zero Till Machine since 2013.

Today, she advocates CASI technology-based farming and has stood tall as an inspiration to all men and women.

With no regrets from life but grateful for all the support she received from her dear ones, she dreams of her future as a female agro-entrepreneur. Being a lead female farmer of her community, having a good contact with Agriculture Office and conducive connection with local service provider, she believes that her dream is completely achievable and can inspire many single rural female farmers like her encourage them to change the prevalent male perception.

“I feel happy when people come to me for advice. The same people who once thought I was good-for-nothing,” said Jahanara Bibi with a pride.
