



# IMPACT STORY

## Tunnel Farming with Drip Irrigation Getting Popular in Toba Tek Singh



**Cultivation of High Value  
Crops with Drip Irrigation  
in Tunnel Provides High  
Yield & More Economic  
Returns**

**Muhammad Naeem Akhtar  
Chak No. 256/G.B,  
District Toba Tek Singh**

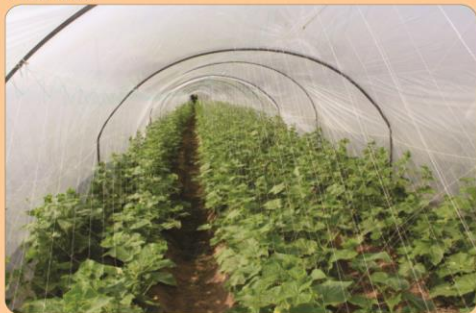




**T**he progressive farmers of the Toba Tek Singh district prefer to grow high value crops under tunnel farming using high efficiency irrigation systems particularly



drip irrigation and getting more economic benefits than traditional farming. Actually, farmers of T.T.Singh are compelled to make better use of available precious canal water resource due to highly brackish groundwater, unfit for irrigation. According to official record, drip irrigation systems have so far been installed on 691 acres in the district. The farmers are growing different vegetables on drip irrigation under tunnel farming and getting better returns by fetching better prices of good quality produce in the local market.



Mr. Muhammad Naeem Akhtar is a progressive vegetable grower of Chak No. 256/G.B in Toba Tek Singh district. He has installed drip irrigation system on 5 acres to

grow vegetables under walk-in tunnels during 2014-15.

While sharing his pleasant experience of tunnel farming with drip irrigation, indicated that: **“I used to grow cotton and wheat crops that were absolutely not profitable on my land due to high input costs and low yields. One of my friends suggested me to grow high value crops with drip irrigation under tunnel. As I was already convinced about the success of technology. I, therefore, get installed drip irrigation system on 5 acres and started growing vegetables. Now I grow different vegetables like cucumber, chilies, tomatoes, eggplant and pumpkins under walk-in tunnels with drip irrigation to get maximum yield and economic returns. Tunnel farming with drip irrigation not only increased my crop production but also helped me in saving costlier inputs, particularly water and fertilizers”.**

Mr. Naeem told that **“due to increased income from growing vegetables under tunnel with drip irrigation, I have started raising nursery of flowering plants especially Roses, as an alternate business for additional income and getting much more financial returns from it. Both businesses (vegetable growing & nursery raising) have created livelihood opportunities for the local peoples particularly females of nearby villages”.** He added that **“shift from**

**traditional to high value crops through adoption of high efficiency irrigation system and**



**tunnel farming provided me sufficient financial resources for higher education of my daughters and arranging marriages within short period of two years”.**

He excitedly shared that **“before adoption of drip irrigation, I was growing only one crop in a year due to shortage of irrigation water. Now I am**



**growing three cucumber crops with same water resources under drip irrigation under tunnel farming”.**

At the end, he told that progressive farmers of the district are adopting modern and efficient farming techniques particularly tunnel farming with drip irrigation to grow high value crops due to their added benefits in terms of less production cost and high economic returns.