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Now he cultivates several varieties of flowers like gladiolus, Rose, Marigold, Tuberose (Rajini), and other ornamental flowers etc.

Sri Dilip Das said, his desire and love for flowers has improved the socio-economic status of his family through flowers business. He also says that at first, he purchased flower seeds and saplings through an agent from Agartala as the seeds and plants saplings were not available locally on those days and he also sought help of the experts from Agriculture and Horticulture Department for growing flowers and training purpose. However, it was in the year of 2010 that he was recognised for his hard work and flower growing skills by the Agriculture Department of Tripura. Now, the flowers that he grows are used in decorations, in weddings, wedding cars, in local temples, cultural programmes etc. Since then, there was no looking back, for him and he has continued with his newly found love i.e. flower cultivation.

“Initially, I did not have the right knowledge how to grow flowers but the Agriculture department has come to my rescue and provided me fund and free training which has proved very useful and beneficial to me,” says Sri Dilip Das. For a flower grower like him, it took some time finding the right seller for his flowers in the local market. So he had to look for buyers outside the Sub-Division. He took his flowers to towns like Udaipur and Agartala for sale. Now, he is making double, triple profit from this sale, due to low investment cost and high sale prices.

Initially he started growing flowers in 1.5 acres of land now he has expanded to another 5 acres. With this success he felt encouraged and started growing more varieties of flowers and wanted to pass on the trade to his only son. The surge in economic status of Dilip Das has also been reflected in his family life with his children going for better education. One of his daughters has passed out from a prestigious nursing college in Bangalore and has joined a government-run hospital in Belonia Sub-division and also his thatched huts are giving way to pucca houses. Moreover, he also runs a flower shops in the heart of the town in Santirbazar.

Smilingly Dilip Das says, he earns anywhere between Rs 75,000 to Rs 1.5 lakh per annum from flower cultivation. Meanwhile, he was also selected for a subsidy of Rs 85,000 from the Agriculture Department for a new power tiller machine and owned one from the Agriculture Department in the FY 2020-2021. He also says, one of the reasons behind his success in flower cultivation is government financial assistance, skill development training before starting of cultivation, availability of market facilities and constant technical support from the Agriculture Department.

According to Sri Das, in the last three years he has received Rs 92,500 as financial assistance from the government of Tripura for cultivation of various flowers under MIDH schemes. “In 2020, I have also received Rs 2,000 from the state government under the COVID-19 relief package for flowers growers and am very thankful to the Chief Minister of Tripura for showing his care and concern for us”, says Sri Das.

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Now, Dilip Das is a very happy person, for the Agriculture Department has selected and identified him as a beneficiary and provided him Rs 37,500 to take up a programme of Gladiolus flower cultivation under the Mission of Integrated Development Horticulture (MIDH) scheme in the financial year of 2020-21. "The horticulture department is also lending support to those who are keen to take up flower cultivation in the Sub-Division", says the Superintendent of Agriculture, Bagafa Agri-Sub-Division, Santirbazar. Today, as one drives through the roads one can also find and see endless stretches of fields covered with bright Marigold, feel the fragrance of Indian varieties of rose, Tuberose, Ghada etc. Many young enthusiasts are also visiting the flower fields of Sri Das to get a glimpse of his successful flower endeavour and venture.

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