

Under Sericulture Sub-division office, she was also assisted with a plantation maintenance cost of Rs 8000/-, fencing netcost of Rs.3,200/- and Rs 800/- for purchasing bamboo. "I am also using the equipments provided by the department for raising and rearing silkworm," says Ruma Majumdar Naha. "The state government has provided a grant of Rs 96,000/- to set up a rearing house and also cover the cost of fencing, irrigation facilities", says Ruma Majumdar Naha.

Suman Das, Field Supervisor of Sericulture department, Santirbazar Division said, "such scheme is created to provide alternative source of income to the woman farmers. He also added that such programmes will ensure active participation of women in decision-making.

Besides sericulture farming, she also practices organic farming of vegetables like beans, ladies' finger, cucumber, ridge gourd, long yard beans, brinjal, bottle gourd, green chilies, tomato, radish, and the like. In addition, she also cultivates winter vegetables like cauliflower, cabbage etc. She said, "Every year with sericulture farming



and organic vegetable cultivation my family has fetched a good profit and has improved my family income to near about Rs 90,000 annually."

"The returns from the farming activity have really helped us to renovate our old houses and to take a farming land on lease from a fellow villager to grow more crops and vegetables", said, Ruma Majumdar Naha. She also added, "With my success in farming and cultivation we got recognition in the society. Moreover, I am also very happy and thankful to the state government for providing me financial assistance of Rs 1000/- and for inclusions under the COVID — 19 Chief Minister Special Relief Package Scheme".

Not only she has become a successful woman farmer but she has also become an iconic example in her village. She now encourages and supports other women of her village to take up sericulture farming and to adopt organic method of vegetable cultivation to increase family income. Now, that she has become a self-reliant woman farmer and an example for attaining sustainable social and economic empowerment in her village.