

## Santubhai Waghera

*Tutarkhed village, Valsad district, Gujarat.*

Santubhai, 25 is a Junior Master Trainer at UTMT. He lives in a family of 7. He passed Std. 10 Board exams, after which he appeared for the Special Reserve Police exam.



Santubhai's is a remarkable case that demonstrates the impact UTMT has had in Tutarkhed. Although not part of UTMT's formal training sessions, he learned the skill on the job - by observing the Master Trainers handle beehives and interacting with them. Santubhai's interest in beekeeping was piqued after he saw his neighbours benefit from

beehives. He felt it was a worthwhile activity, and voluntarily took the initiative to learn from UTMT staff.

Santubhai is an expert in conducting a Natural Colony Transfer, a technique of filling a bee colony from the wild into a box. He also mentors other beekeepers in the village.

He recalls accompanying his father to the forest for honey hunting. His father helps him spot colonies in the wild and he fills the bee box by Natural Colony Transfer. In 2013, Santubhai filled 5 bee boxes, unfortunately all of them absconded. However, he persisted and succeeded in filling 7 bee boxes the very next year. Today, he has 6 bee boxes of his own.

Prior to taking up beekeeping, Santubhai migrated to Valsad for 2-3 months during summer and worked in mango orchards where he earned Rs 200 per day.

He has a 3 acre farm on which he cultivates bee - friendly crops like tuvar, udid, niger, sunhemp, and bitter gourd. In his orchard, he has mango and cashew trees. The yield of all these crops has increased by over 50% as a result of bee pollination. There has also been an increase in the amount of honey extracted over the years. In 2013, he was able to extract only 1 kg honey from 3 bee boxes. In 2014 and 2015 he extracted 3kg and 6 kg of honey respectively. In 2015 , 5.5 kgs from 3 boxes was extracted, all sold to UTMT Co.

This year Santubhai has earned Rs 37,000 through the sale of increased agricultural yields and honey. He enjoys beekeeping as he doesn't have to migrate for work, and sees increased income. In the future Santubhai plans to have 30 beehives, the profits of which will feed into the funds he is setting aside for constructing his new house.

	<b>Before bkping- 2011</b>	<b>After bkping - 2014</b>
<i>Karela</i> (started in the village on a	10 man <sup>1</sup>	20-25 man

<sup>1</sup> 1 man = 20 kg

large scale in 2011, good price Rs. 800-900/ man. 8 people do collective farming of karela)	(Rs.8000 total)	(Rs. 16,000- 20,000)
mango	10-12 man (Rs. 5000 total: Rs 200/ man Rajapuri, & rs. 700/ man Kesari)	15 man  Rs. 8000
cashew	4-6 man Total Rs. 2000-3000 (Rs. 500/ man)	Crop failed (till Madhubhai was in BAIF, they could access good fertilizer/ pesticide hence crop was good then)
tuvar	6-7 man	10-12 man
arad	7-8 man	10-11 man
Khurasini	7-8 man	10-12 man
Sunhemp	Not grown yet	Rs. 7000 on selling. Seed quality is good, larger in size