



Validation of Allah's Promise

“Vertical Tomato Farming has revolutionized my thinking and my resources. It is a validation of Allah's promise to mankind that He shall provide as long as man strives. I am lucky to be living this promise. LPH became a means for me to improve my livelihood by growing more food from my little land. When I started vertical tomato farming I saw a big difference when compared to traditional method. Realizing this I replicated the same technique with cucumber and pumpkin and it worked.”

Qari¹ Muhammad Ismail, Farmer, village Kanro Gumbadkay, Talash valley, District Lower Dir

“Tomatoes into the air? Unbelievable. I am a Qari³ and I have learnt to seek and appreciate the wonders of Allah. This was certainly a wonder at first sight. This is how I was introduced to vertical farming and why I am sticking to it. I am a farmer by profession, or by luck, amongst a joint family comprising 13 members. Do you see my father Muhammad Zaman, pruning and adjusting on his vertical crops? I was most impressed with the exposure visits organized by the LPH for farmers. I still remember a farmer from Mardan who had grown vertical tomatoes which reached a height of 8-10 feet. There were more tomatoes than leaves. All the farmers were astonished and we could not believe

¹ someone who has memorized the whole 30 booklets of the Holy Quran, word by word

our eyes. So we all decided to give vertical farming a try. Later on, the district Nazim was invited to come to a field day to my farm. He is a farmer himself. When he came, he had the same expressions we had during Mardan exposure visit. The same year, he asked the agriculture department official to guide and assist him in cultivating tomatoes by using vertical farming technique.

Prior to being introduced to LPH, we used to grow tomato varieties No. 5913 and 1219, but now after successful trials and in consultation with the Agriculture Extension Department we are growing 'Shail' (Syngenta Company). The vertical farming is more cost effective as compared to horizontal as it is a onetime expense with multiple pickings while in horizontal the case is opposite. Vertical tomato plants do require regular pruning.



The more pruning you do, the better it grows; this also contributes to more height. I buy good quality agricultural inputs and do consult with the agriculture officer before the application in the field. I have replicated the same with cucumber and pumpkin. It is a trial to see if the results are similar to tomato or not. According to my father, these are modern times, there is mechanization and technological advancement so he likes it more when he compares it when everything had to be done manually. Seed too was not of good quality in those days and the techniques were conventional. Things are turning to be positive for the farmers. He is also amazed that due to the conventional practices he never earned as much as I do from vertical tomato farming”, says a beaming Qari Ismail.

