

English translation:

-Have you ever worked in the fields?

-No, we haven't but we have seen our father and uncles do it.

-What kind of work did you see them do?

-Say, for example we plant some crops. Those seedlings have to be cleaned otherwise they won't grow. Then they have to water the crops in the evening. They also have to water in the morning or else they will not grow. They won't bear any fruit.

-Okay. So you get a lot of fruits and vegetable in the villages, don't you?

-Yes, we do.

-Can you tell us something about them?

-Something about them...I mean, what do you want to know about them?

-Like fruit...What do they taste like? The vegetables -- are they good/bad?

-Yes, in our village, we get *laal shaak*,¹ *pui shaak*, spinach, radish leaves, and another leafy vegetable known as *kheter shaak*. These are small leaves, and they do not bear any fruit. It just consists of the leaves, and people in our area really like this. Everyone likes it. You don't need any seeds for this plant to grow.

-And what fruits do you have?

-Fruits? We have mangoes, [unclear] then coconuts...Then we have that... *bel*,² which is a bit sour. And fruits such as oranges and grapes cannot be found in villages.

-I see. And vegetables? What good vegetables do you get?

- Among vegetables we get *data*,³ radishes, eggplants and gourds.

- Do you have these plants in your house?

-Yes, we do.

¹ Red leafy vegetables. *Shaak* is the common word used for all leafy greens.

² Bengal quince or wood-apple.

³ Stems of a plant similar to a rhubarb or chard.

-What plants do you have?

-We have an eggplant bush, *pui shaak*, green chilies, radishes and *sheem* (flat beans).

-Do you know how to plant these...or how to take care of these plants?

-Yes, I do.

-Can you tell us something about it?

-Yes. For example when we plant the flat beans, we first have to buy the seeds of the plant (the beans themselves) which can be found in the shops. After buying them, we dig up the soil and plant them. You need to look after that place for at least three or four days, because in our place there are a lot of chickens that like rooting up the soil, and that prevents the plant from growing. Once it starts growing, we make a little fence around it. When the vines start appearing, we have to make a roof type of thing with the fence so that the creeper can climb up.

-Do you have any animals at your house such as cows or chickens?

-Yes we have cows and chickens at our house.

-So what do you get from keeping these animals?

-We benefit from them. For example, see, my Grandpa had bought one cow four years ago. From that cow we now have three cows -- so we got two more. Then we had only two chickens. From two, we now have about ten or twelve of them. And that is excluding the ones we ate and sold off.

-Other than this, do you get anything else from your cows and chickens?

-Yes, we get milk from the cow, and also manure. And we get eggs from chickens.

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