

Motorcycle-Driven Field Cultivator

By Santosh Sinha, BBC News

Mansukhbhai Jagani is not your typical inventor. He dropped out of school at the age of 10 due to financial hardship. After working at the family farm in India's western state of Gujarat, he moved to Surat to work in the diamond-cutting industry there.

At 18, Mr Jagani returned to his village without much hope for the future. But in the 22 years



since, he has chalked up three inventions - a motorcycle-driven field cultivator, a seed-cum-fertilizer dispenser and a bicycle-mounted sprayer. The appeal of the products lies in their simplicity.

The powerful Enfield Bullet motorcycle - a regular sight in Indian villages - is modified with a cultivating device costing just \$450 that replaces the rear wheel. Compared to a tractor, which costs almost \$6,000, Mr Jagani's invention is not just cheaper but can be shared among farmers with smallholdings.

Mansukhbhai is not a farmer. He was visited by one worried about how to cultivate his field with bulls that do not get enough fodder in a drought-affected region. Ansukhbhai looked at the villager's motorcycle and said "I'll make something to work with this".