



One Day Training Programme on System of Millet Intensification

“Special Programme for Promotion of Millets in Tribal Areas of Odisha”

Venue: FIAC Training Hall, Kotagarh, Kandhamal

Date: 20th June 2017

One day training Programme on System of Millets Intensification (SMI) was organized on 20th June 2017 at FIAC Training Hall, Kotagarh, Kandhamal. The purpose of the training programme was to train the Project Coordinators (FAs), the Community Resource Persons (CRPs), as well as Progressive farmers on advanced agronomic practices in order increase the production of Millets. There were 40 participants present in training programme such as Deputy Director of Agriculture, Deputy Project Director of ATMA, Dry Land Scientist, Assistant Agriculture Officers of Kandhamal, Project Coordinators and CRPs of Facilitating Agencies (FAs) and progressive farmers of the millet mission operating blocks, State and District Coordinators of Wassan and Research officer of NCDS.

Mr. Dinesh Balam, the State Coordinator of Millet Mission Odisha, WASSAN had welcomed the participants and, Deputy Director of Agriculture, Kandhamal Sri BijayKetanSahoo had inaugurated the programme by lighting the candle and talked about the aims and objectives of the Special Programme for Promotion of Millets in Tribal Areas. The introductory session was carried out by Mr. Dinesh Balam in which he talked about the need of SMI training and had taken on theoretical session on SMI and, focused on the importance of local agronomic practices.

Mr. Dinesh Balam was the Resource Person for the above mentioned training programme; he started the training programme by doing the cost-benefit analysis of rice and millet. It was a kind of interactive session, where he was elaborating the basic understanding of the System of Millet Intensification. He had thrown some light on how a farmer can get huge benefits by investing a small amount? He also talked about Processing, Consumption and Marketing of millets and

itsproducts. The following Procedures for adopting SMI as an agronomic practice had been suggested to the participants by Mr. Dinesh Balam:-



Land preparation: Minimum six times ploughed land is ideal for SMI with bullock plough or four times in tractor. Add 2 tons of fully decomposed FYM for one acre of land. Make the lines before furrow making at 12” spacing by wooden marker or rope. Preparation of ridges and furrows were completed by cycle wheel hoe. Put compost on side of ridge not inside furrow. Transplantation in main field collect seedlings without root damage at 15-25 days of age and plant it in the furrows one side, where compost is placed at 12 inch mark. Rather cover by putting soil after placing seedling. • Weeding and top dressing • Weeding should be done at 10-12 days interval by cycle wheel hoe. • Apply Jeevamrta / Vermicompost immediately after interculture or weeding. • Weeding should be done three times during the crop season. • Do weeding at 12-15 days interval when the soil is friable. • Cycle wheel hoe and simple hand weeding tools can be used. • Using a light *rolling log* press down the seedling bending them without damage.



Seed Selection and Treatment:

There is no specific preference for using any particular variety of millet seed, but it is always better to start with new seeds rather than using older ones. The quality and best suitable variety should be chosen and the quantity should be 300-500 gm per acre, where as in traditional cultivation 4 kg will be required. The Seed treatment should be done with Bijamrita, a natural

solution for effective protection against pest, diseases and fungi. The solution should be prepared with cow dung, cow urine and lime.

Nursery bed preparation:

The area for Nursery bed should be 1 decimal land or 40 sq. meter area for 8 beds specification of 5 m length and 1 m width and 9 to 12 inches rise bed above ground level will be sufficient for an acre of land. The bed should be prepared with mixture of sand, soil and compost at a ratio 1:1:1.



The above photo shows the procedure of weeding.

At the end, the vote of thanks was given by DINESH BALAM, District Programme Coordinator, and WASSAN.