

# G.P level Group Discussion on Broad Situational Analysis of Millets

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Millets Mission Odisha had organized a group discussion on broad situational analysis of millets on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2017 at Kurmel GP of Narla block in Kalahandi district with the support of Facilitating Agency SVA, Balipada.

## Group discussion was carried by

- Shri Aditya Pratap Singh Deo, Programme officer WASSAN
- Shri Sudhansu Meher, AAO Narla
- Shri Parasara Nayak, AO Kurmel GP
- Shri Hemanta Sahu, Project Co-ordinator FA SVA
- Shri Sukanta Chand, SVA staff

## Introduction

The broad situational analysis of millets had been planned with an aim to collect the rich experiences of people, who have been engaged in growing millets since long time. The exercises are designed and planned to carry out significant changes that are being witnessed in the agriculture.

This group discussion was completed with the tools and techniques of PRA tools. It comprises Time-line, seed mapping, seasonal mapping, and consumption pattern of millets.



## Objective of Group Discussion

- To figure out existing agronomic practices of millet.
- To get information about crop diversity and, its impact on household food security and their consumption.
- To obtain changes in farming practices and its present impact
- To get status seed availability

## Methodology

Community participation had been emphasized through group discussion, exercises and individual interactions.

A gross total 17 participants from 7 village of kurlmel GP of kalahandi district were participated in this group discussion out of which 7 were female participants. Participants were joined in various exercises primarily used to assess their existing farming practices and, its trend in practices and impacts of such practices on food & nutrition status, consumption practice at family level. Various pre-assigned PRA tools (Seasonal mapping, crop timeline) were used during the entire discussion.

As a part of discussion, farmers shared their entire process of agronomic practices along with the harvesting details. All insights from the discussion on current and previous status of millets have been summarized in the following table-1 and 2.

Table-1. Current status on availability of millet (Sowing and harvesting calendar)

<i>Sl.No</i>	<i>Crop name</i>	<i>Seed sowing period</i>	<i>Harvesting period</i>
1	Littlemillet (Dahanragurji)	June	August
2	Fingermillet(Bhalugudi)	June	November

Table-2. Previous practices of millet crop (Sowing and harvesting calendar)

<i>Sl.No</i>	<i>Crop name</i>	<i>Seed sowing period</i>	<i>Harvesting period</i>
1	Littlemillet (Dhanragurji)	June	August
2	Little millet (Khed)	June	November
3	Little millet ( Dhutudi)	June	November
4	Fingermillet (Bhatmudhi/ Bhodo)	June	August
5	Fingermillet(Bhalugudi)	June	November
6	Fingermillet( Sikagudi)	June	December
7	Fingermillet		
8	Kodo(Jhati)	June	November
9	Kodo (Bini)	June	November
10	Kodo (bhanei)	June	October
11	Banyard millet (White)	June	August
12	Banyard millet (Black)	June	September
13	Sorghum/ jhajara(Bada)	June	December
14	Sorghum/ jhajara(Sana)	June	December

To continue the discussion with participants, a participant told that above variety crops were available before 10-20 years ago. But at present, these are disappeared from our field as well as food practice. We evoked these varieties.



Then, the next participatory exercise i.e. time line of crop trend analysis was completed with support of participants. It covered the 20 years of period. As per responses from participants, it was observed that profound changes have taken place within the period of 10 to 5 years. The variety of millets had reduced from 14 to 2 types. The main cause for the millet erosion was erratic rainfall, people moved towards cash crop like cotton and others, changing in food practices, migration etc. After a long exercise, it was found that finger millet reduced from 4 type to 1 type, little millet 3 type to 1 type whereas, kodo millet, Barnyard millet and sorghum was totally disappeared. The trend analysis exercise is given in below as Table no 3.



Table-3. Time-line Trend Analysis of Crops grown

Trend	Crop name / Diversity Trend (in no. of varieties)				
	Finger millet	Little millet	Kodo millet	Barnyard millet	sorghum
	Mandya	Gurji	kodo	jhari	Jhajara
20 year before	4	3	3	2	2
10 year before	4	3	2	2	0
5 year before	2	2	2	0	0
Present year	1	1	0	0	0

### Agronomic practice

There was different types of agronomic practices such as inter cropping of finger millet with blackgram (climber). This practice involved transplantation of finger millet and, after 3 days blackgram seed was sown in the space of millet field. But another practice claimed that, farmer first introduces blackgram seed then after 3 day finger millet was transplanted in that field.

According to the farmers, this practice ensures that finger millet can survive in less rainfall and, Blackgram act as mulching agent in the millet field.

In another practice, finger millet intercropping with sorghum. Two varieties of seed mixed together and seed sowing was completed.

In some area, farmer also practices intercropping with sorghum, short durational paddy and, planting pigeonpea at border. At first paddy was harvested later, pigeonpea and sorghum can be harvested with this continuation.

Some farmers also practice short durational little millet (Gurji) intercropping with Pigeonpea. At first Pigeonpea seed planting in main field then little millet seed was sowing. In another practice, finger millet intercropping with Pigeonpea. At first finger millet seed was sowing then after 2 days pigeonpea seed can be introduced to maintain space.

Kodo millet and little millet were also cultivated as mono crop in some area.

### **Consumption practice**

At present day only few farmers were used finger millet and little millet in their diet. But in past, people used to prepare and eat various types of recipe made of millet like Gurji kuna (little millet powder). In this recipe, first little millet rice is prepared and then need to fry that rice. And add sugar during grinding. After grinding the Gurji kuna is ready to eat. People normally use the Gurji kuna as breakfast and when they travel outside, they take it with them as ready to eat food.

Gurji (Little millet) & kodo millet are used as rice in lunch. Also different types of sweet item like Gurji pitha, mandya pitha, gurji kheer, mandiyakheer, mandyajau are prepared in past.

At last Mr. Aditya Pratap Singh deo, Programme officer, WASSAN expressed heartily gratitude to the farmers from Kurmel GP for their timely co-operation, participation, valuable knowledge sharing and suggestions in this process.