

REPORT OF “TOT ON SYSTEM OF MILLETS INTENSIFICATION SPECIAL PROGRAMME FOR PROMOTION OF MILLIETS IN TRIBAL AREAS”

Finger Millet is one of the most nutritious of all the major cereal crops and a part of the daily diet of the rural population of the Malkangiri district. It is one of the widely cultivated food crops of Malkangiri District. Finger Millet is a rainfed crop, suited for dry land, adaptable to climate stress, require less nutrient care and management, less pest attacks in spite of all these advantages the production of this crop is neglected. So that Wassan introduced “Special

Programme for Promotion of milliets in tribal areas” a program of Department of Agriculture, Odisha Government. Finger Millet (Ragi) is an important millet crop in the Mathili block of Malkangiri District both in the tribal food cultures and in the farming systems. The average productivity is around 300 kg per acre. As a part of the “Special Programme”, a training program was organized on “ToT on System of Millets Intensification Special Programme for Promotion of milliets in tribal areas”.

20 Progressive Farmer and 4 members from the facilitating agencies from Parivarttana participated in the training. 9 nos VAW, Deputy Director of Agriculture (DDA), Malkangiri, Assistant Agriculture officer (AAO) of Mathili block also attended.

Mr. Damodar Sethy(DDA) , from Agriculture Department, Malkangiri and Sanjaya Sahoo from Parivarttana facilitated the training. Parivarttana hosted the program in Duraguda in their GP Resource Center, Duraguda with Sujit kumar Patra helping in logistics.

All Participants reached training venue at 10 am. After the registration and self-introduction, context and objective of the training was explained by Sanjya ku. Sahoo. Objective of the Training was:-



- ✓ To Introduced SMI system on Ragi to enhanced production in Tribal Area.
- ✓ To increased the capacity of progressive farmers on best agronomy practice to enhanced millets productivity.

Seed Selection

- Quality and best suitable variety to be chosen.
- Select variety as per the soil condition and crop duration.

Nursery bed preparation

- Preparation of raised bed 40 sq.mt or 4 beds of 4 m length and 1 m width will be sufficient for an acre of land.
- While making bed mix 500kg fully decomposed FYM.
- 400g of seeds sufficient to develop seedlings in the nursery bed which will be sufficient to transplant them in an acre of land.
- Seed treatment to be done with locally available material (Put the seeds into the water and removes floated seeds and particles from the water).
- Treated seeds should be mixed either with sand or vermicompost while sowing seeds on the nursery bed, ensure seeds should be spread equally.
- Apply thin layer of vermicompost or fully decomposed FYM on the bed after seed is sown.
- Spray *Jeevamrutha* by adding water at 1:10 ratio on nursery bed (it can be done within 3days of seed sown it makes root zone more friable).
- During sunny days (temperature above 35°C) having a green shade net until germination would be useful; it can be used as protection from birds too.
- Ideal age of ragi seedlings to transplant on actual land is 15 to 20 days; but should not exceed 30days.



Land preparation

- Well ploughed plain land is ideal for SRI cultivation though it can also be tried in lands with slope lands.
- Add 2tons of fully digested FYM in an acre of land and incorporate.
- If manure is not available, green manure crops like sun hemp, Crotalaria, Sesbania, etc, can be incorporated. Mulching with such biomass will also help in regulating weeds.
- Make the lines before furrow making at 12" spacing by wooden marker.



Mark the lines across the slope to prevent soil erosion (possibly contour lines).

- Preparation of ridge and furrow by cycle wheel hoe.
- Open up the lines marked using marker.
- This will create ridge and furrow.
- Planting point marking by fine compost/ash at 10'' spacing.
- Use rope shifting it across furrow at 10".
- Take care not damage the ridges
- 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 compost is placed at 10 inch mark.
- Don't plant the seeding where deep by pressing down. 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 Jeevamrtuahm / 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.