



INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON
**SHREE ANNA &
WOMAN FARMER**
— 2025 —

November 10 & 11, 2025
Bhubaneswar, Odisha, India



*Role of Women in Agriculture Heritage and
Conservation of Agrobiodiversity*

Department of Agriculture & Farmers' Empowerment, Government of Odisha





About Shree Anna Abhiyan

Millets have been traditional crops for tribal farmers of Odisha from ancient times. They are climate-resilient and rich in nutrition. As climate change intensifies, millets are increasingly recognised as a hope for the future. These crops are mainly grown by vulnerable small and marginal rainfed farmers of Odisha.

Rooted in the vision of the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India to reposition millets (*Shree Anna*) in national diets, the Government of Odisha launched the *Shree Anna Abhiyan* programme. It combines traditional knowledge with modern approaches in 177 rainfed blocks across 30 districts of Odisha to support these communities with justice and equity.

The main goals of *Shree Anna Abhiyan* are to increase household millet consumption and revive traditional millet-based food cultures. It also aims to conserve and promote indigenous millet landraces. The programme encourages decentralised processing and value addition through WSHGs and FPOs. It focuses on improving productivity in millet-based cropping systems and ensuring millet inclusion in PDS and other government schemes. The initiative is carried out at the grassroots level by Mission Shakti WSHGs and Farmer Producer Organisations, with active support from civil society groups.

UN-FAO and WFP have recognised it as one of the best practices for replication in India and Africa under South-South Collaboration. The Government of India and NITI Aayog have recommended *Shree Anna Abhiyan* as a model for millet promotion to other State Governments.



About International Symposium on Shree Anna and Woman Farmer 2025

Millets have historically been a part of Odisha's food culture and farming systems, valued for their resilience and rich nutrition. For generations, they have sustained tribal and rainfed communities while conserving the state's agroecological heritage. To honour this legacy, the Government of Odisha has declared 10th November as Mandia Dibasa (Millet Day), celebrated every year to recognise the cultural, nutritional, and ecological importance of millets.

Odisha's agrobiodiversity and agri-heritage are deeply rooted in its diverse landscapes, traditional farming practices, and indigenous knowledge systems. The state has 10 distinct agro-climatic zones, delineated by variations in soil types, rainfall patterns, topography, and cropping systems across its districts. From the millet-rich uplands of tribal districts to the paddy fields, pulses, oilseeds, medicinal plants, and a wealth of neglected and underutilised species, the state's farming communities have nurtured an extraordinary genetic repository over centuries. This heritage is preserved through community seed banks, festivals, and rituals that honour the earth, sustaining not only crop diversity but also food culture, local economies, and ecological resilience. Women farmers, in particular, have been the custodians of these traditions—protecting local varieties, ensuring food diversity, and transmitting farming knowledge across generations. Their deep connection to land and seed makes them integral to Odisha's biodiversity-based agriculture.

Mandia Dibasa is not only about reviving the traditional food practices but also about highlighting Odisha's leadership in millet promotion. It reflects the state's commitment to climate-resilient farming, food and nutrition security, and rural livelihoods through the *Shree Anna Abhiyan*.

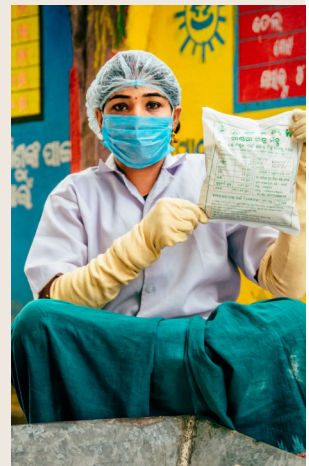
The global context adds further significance. The United Nations has declared 2026 as the International Year of the Woman Farmer, recognising women's vital contributions to agriculture and calling for greater action on gender equality and empowerment. Women farmers are custodians of seeds, biodiversity, and traditional knowledge, and their leadership is vital to building sustainable food systems.

The *Shree Anna Abhiyan*, under the Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment, Government of Odisha, is hosting the "International Symposium on Shree Anna and Woman Farmer (ISSWF 2025)", scheduled for 10th and 11th November 2025. The event will mark the celebration of Mandia Dibasa and centre on the theme "Role of Women in Agriculture Heritage and Conservation of Agrobiodiversity."



Objective

“The International Symposium on Shree Anna and Woman Farmer 2025” aims to promote a sustainable food system. It seeks to highlight the pivotal role of women farmers in conserving agro-biodiversity, strengthening seed systems, and leading community transformation. Through discussions on nutrition security, sustainable food systems, and gender-responsive policy frameworks, the event aspires to build a resilient, equitable, and health-oriented agricultural ecosystem in Odisha and beyond.



Technical Sessions at International Symposium on Shree Anna and Woman farmer 2025

Session Name	Anchoring Agency
 <p>MAHARISHI - Harnessing the Value Chain Potential of (Millets and other ancient grains, International Research Initiatives)</p>	 <p>IIMR भारतीय मील और अन्वेषण संस्थान IBAR - Indian Institute of Millets Research</p>
 <p>Roadmap for PMDDKY & Strengthening Pulses Value Chain</p>	 <p>DIRECTORATE OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PRODUCTION Government of Odisha</p>
 <p>Community Managed Seed System: Strategy for Empowering women for achieving sustainable and inclusive seed systems</p>	 <p>mssrf</p>
 <p>Gender Inclusive Policy Making for Sustainable Agriculture</p>	 <p>INTERNATIONAL FOOD POLICY RESEARCH INSTITUTE IFPRI</p>
 <p>Sustainable Food Systems for Healthier Tomorrow</p>	 <p>DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE Government of Odisha</p>
 <p>Seed System for Landraces/ Traditional Varieties</p>	 <p>CoFTI Coalition for Food-Systems Transforma(c)ion in India</p>
 <p>Role of women farmers in Conservation of Agriculture Heritage and Agrobiodiversity</p>	 <p>FAO FIAT PANIS</p>
 <p>Transforming Communities: Women's Leadership in Action</p>	 <p>SEWA SELF EMPLOYED WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION</p>
 <p>Mainstreaming Millets: From Procurement to Nutrition Security</p>	 <p>DIRECTORATE OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PRODUCTION Government of Odisha</p>



Distinguished Guests

- **Dr. Hari Babu Kambhampati,**
Hon'ble Governor of Odisha
- **Shri Mohan Charan Majhi,**
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Odisha
- **Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan,**
Hon'ble Union Minister of A & FW, and Rural Development,
Government of India
- **Shri Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo,**
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister, Agriculture and Farmers'
Empowerment and Energy, Government of Odisha
- **Shri Manoj Ahuja, IAS,**
Chief Secretary, Government of Odisha
- **Smt. Anu Garg, IAS,**
Development Commissioner, Government of Odisha
- **Dr. Yvonne Pinto,**
Director General, International Rice Research Institute (IRRI)
- **Dr. Mangi Lal Jat,**
Director General, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)
- **Prof. Pravat Kumar Roul,**
Vice-Chancellor, Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology (OUAT)
- **Dr. Soumya Swaminathan,**
Chairperson, M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF)
- **Ms. Elisabeth Faure,**
India Country Director, World Food Programme (WFP)
- **Padma Shri Sabarmatee,**
Environmentalist, Conservationist and Co-Founder of Sambhav
- **Padma Shri Reema Nanavaty,**
Director, Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA)
- **Dr. Raimati Ghiuria and other custodian farmers**



Programme Schedule

DAY 1

10th Nov 2025

Main Hall

10.30 am-1.30 pm Inaugural Ceremony

2.30 pm-3.45 pm MAHARISHI - Harnessing the Value Chain Potential of (Millets and other ancient grains, International Research Initiatives)

Hall 1

2.30 pm-3.45 pm Roadmap for PMDDKY & Strengthening Pulses Value Chain

4.00 pm-5.15 pm Community Managed Seed System: Strategy for Empowering women for achieving sustainable and inclusive seed systems

Hall 2

2.30 pm-3.45 pm Gender Inclusive Policy Making for Sustainable Agriculture

DAY 2

11th Nov 2025

Main Hall

10.30 am-11.45 am Sustainable Food Systems for Healthier Tomorrow

Hall 1

10.30 am-11.45 am Seed System for Landraces/ Traditional Varieties

12.15 pm-1.30 pm Role of women farmers in Conservation of Agriculture Heritage and Agrobiodiversity

Hall 2

10.30 am-11.45 am Transforming Communities: Women's Leadership in Action

12.15 pm-1.30 pm Mainstreaming Millets: From Procurement to Nutrition Security

Main Hall





4.00 pm-5.30 pm Valedictory Ceremony



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For more details visit- www.milletsodisha.com | Follow us on     Shree Anna Abhiyan

