

Proceedings of the Two Day Reflection Workshop on “Special Programme for Promotion of Millets in Tribal District of Odisha.”

Date: 10th & 11th August 2017

Venue: Conference Hall, NCDS, Bhubaneswar

A two day reflection workshop on “Special Programme for Promotion of Millets in the Tribal district of Odisha” was organized by the Programme Secretariat, WASSAN and State Secretariat, NCDS on 10th and 11th of August 2017. The main objectives of the workshop were to:

- Identify the field level issues during implementation
- Identify the budget allocation related issues during implementation
- Way forward strategy for addressing the above mentioned issues
- Research related baseline format finalization
- Collective engagement on the wider issues related to Millets but beyond scope of Project

NGO Representatives, Programme Secretariat staff and NCDS attended the workshop. During these two day workshop various issues and concerns with regard to the implementation were discussed rigorously in each session which was chaired by the some of the NGO representatives. A working group was also formed to finalize the additional fund requirement for the facilitating agencies to deliver the programme effectively. At the end of second day workshop, Mr. Manoj Ahuja, Principal Secretary, Department of Agriculture & Farmers Empowerment, Odisha, Mr. Ashok Kumar Mohanty Joint Director, sp & c, Directorate of Agriculture & Food Production, Odisha and Mr. Sanjay Pani, Agronomist, Directorate of Agriculture & Food Production, Odisha and Mr. Anand Chandra Sasmal, Agronomist, Directorate of Agriculture & Food Production, Odisha, took note of the issues and assured that the genuine concerns should be taken into consideration as soon as possible.

Following are the main issues and decision against the concern noted during the two day reflection workshop:

- Government has in principle agreed to provide flexibility in administration costs for the facilitating agencies for the special programme for promotion of millets in tribal areas. State Secretariat will follow up on the same to come up with approval letter.
- Following is break up for the additional administration cost of Rs. 25000/month, proposed by the working group. File shall be put up by the NCDS regarding the additional costs to Directorate of Agriculture & Food Production.

SL. No	Component	Unit	Unit Type	Amount (Rs)
1	Project Coordinator	1	Month	5000
2	Accountant	1	Month	5000
3	MIS and Documentation	1	Month	5000
4	Institutional coordination	1	Month	8000
5	Audit	1	Year	1000
6	Miscellaneous	1	Month	1000
	Total			25,000

- Approval has been sought to meet the audit expenses of Community Based Organizations (CBOs) from the administration cost provided to the CBOs.
- CRP (Community Resource Persons) payment shall be made by nodal CBO based on the recommendation and approval of work done report by FA, Programme secretariat and ATMA.
- If any exception is required in any block for intervention, this may be moved by approval of respective District Collector and put up for approval of D.A. F. P.
- For inclusion of non ST SC farmers, FA should write a letter mentioning the percentage of inclusion of other communities other than ST to the PD, ATMA, concerned District Collector, NCDS and WASSAN. Inclusion is possible with approval of the Collector & District Magistrate.
- All the millet farmers should be registered under DBT before September 30th and efforts should be made to ensure 50% of the incentive is transferred before crop

cutting. FA will submit a request to State Secretariat and District ATMA if there is need for any additional trainings

- The Questionnaire for the baseline survey shall be in Odiya language and this will be shared with all the FA of the concerned blocks. The FA will facilitate the survey process in the field level.
- NCDS shall share final research report with FAs.
- Physical and financial statements related to programme shall be uploaded on the website.
- Programme secretariat will facilitate convergence with other schemes.
- Six monthly action sheet is added as annexure 1.
- During interaction with Principal Secretary , DoA & FE , Odisha , Prashant Mohanty represented FAs and mentioned below concerns:
 - The current allocation for the FA administration cost is not sufficient as there is no fund for some of the important components and inadequate to the existing ones such as; no cost allocated for FA monitoring, Stationary, and annual audit and there is inadequate fund for the Programme Coordinator and the Accountant.
 - Whether the CRPs come under the FA or the CBOs and who will be responsible for the payments of the CRPs.
 - Whether the people who have done Broadcasting, be given the incentives.
 - In case of drought whether there is any mechanism to respond to the millets farmers who have followed agronomic practices. And if the farmers should get the incentives.
 - Who should be responsible for CBOs documentation and auditing?
 - Whether the Non-ST community (OBC and SC) should be included in the programme.
 - Whether the Millets will be included in the PDS.

Interaction with Principal Secretary:

- Principal Secretary assured that reasonable concerns will be taken into consideration. However, due diligent process will be followed for the approval which might take a while.
- Inclusion of millets in SNPs will be explored on small pilot basis in some blocks. Based on the feedback, Government may take decision to expand to other areas.
- The secretary highlighted on organic millet cultivation and the scope to open outlets at Bhubaneswar for promotion value added millet products.
- The secretary insisted the FAs to ensure quality and bring transparency while implementing the programme.
- The secretary asked FAs for the departmental convergence for the leverage of resources to millet programme areas.
- The Principal Secretary mentioned Government of Odisha is considering expanding the programme to another 25 blocks in Odisha.
- The Joint Director, Directorate of Agriculture & Food Production, Odisha was very pleased about the ongoing activities of the Millets Programme and enquired on the package of practices that are followed in the cultivation of millets, hence there will not be any issues while transferring the incentive amount of the farmers.

The workshop ended with vote of thanks by Prof. Srijit Mishra, Director, NCDS, Bhubaneswar.

Ramani Ranjan
Regional Coordinator, Programme Secretariat
WASSAN, Bhubaneswar