Enhancing food security of rural families through production, processing and value addition of regional staple food grains in India

A collaborative project (2010-2013)
McGill University, Montreal
University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad
M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation, Chennai
Himalayan Environmental Studies & Conservation Organization, Dehradun

Valérie Orsat,
Bioresource Engineering
Project Objectives

✓ Reduction to drudgery of women through simple and affordable crop management and post-harvest operations;

✓ Farmer participatory interventions with agronomic practices for increasing the productivity and production of local food grains such as small millets (finger millet, little millet, foxtail millet, and barnyard millet) and grain amaranth;

✓ Women-centric farm-to-market value chain with value added product developed from local crops for enhancing household income and women empowerment;

✓ Improving the nutritional status of the rural households through nutrition education to women and children.
Reducing drudgery
Drudgery reduction

Seed cum fertilizer drill

Improved Sickles

Weeders
Locally suitable tools for row planting of millets (easier weeding and increased yields)
Traditional methods of processing of millet (labour intensive and tedious)

Cleaning

Processing of Millet
Millet dehulling equipment development
The challenge of technology transfer: Gender
Targeted training for women to use machinery
Farmer participatory millet cultivar selection

Different regions will have different preferences
Promotion of finger millet as intercrop with tapioca (for diversity and yield)
Vermi compost pits have been constructed among all adopted villages followed by the training of farmers on compost technology. The major improvement is seen in the increase productivity of all the millet crops following use of the compost in the field.
| **Value-addition training to women entrepreneurs in project villages** |
|---|---|
| **Ragi malt preparation** | **Little millet papad preparation** |
| Preparation of millet products | Packaging of products for marketing |
Training on Value Addition
Millet products introduced to market under brand name
Common Facility Centre/Community store
Entrepreneurial support
Nutrition education in villages and schools
Thank you and Questions