

Scaling up Small Millets Post-harvest & Nutritious Food Products Project

Project Dissemination Workshop

A brief report



A two day Project Dissemination Workshop was organized on 15-16 February 2018 at The Gateway Hotel, Pasumalai, Madurai by DHAN Foundation with the funding support of IDRC and GAC, Canada. The main objectives of the workshop were:

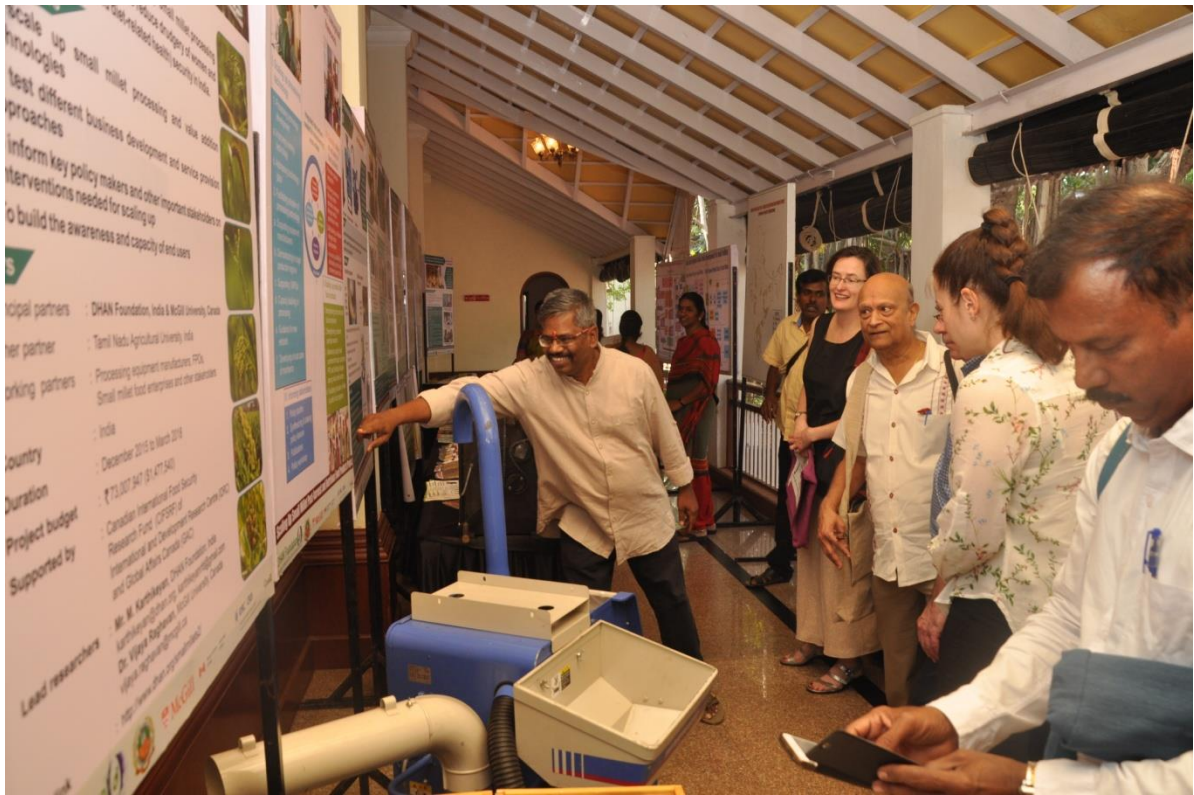
1. To disseminate the learning on scaling up of small millet processing equipment and food products
2. To strengthen the existing partnership and establishing new partnership and
3. To explore the next steps for further scaling up.

Small millet value chain actors such as farmers, processing equipment manufacturers, food entrepreneurs, government officials, NGO representatives and research organizations from

across the country participated in the workshop. In total, 73 participants turned out in the workshop.

The workshop had five major sessions, viz. (i) Inaugural session, (ii) Technical session, (iii) Free rolling discussion, (iv) Recognition and appreciation of small millet stakeholders and (v) Concluding & Way forward session. It was inaugurated by lighting the lamp by various small millet value chain stakeholders and partners of the project. Mr.M.Karthikeyan, Principal Investigator and Program Leader, DHAN Foundation, welcomed the participants and gave an introduction about the workshop. Mr.M.P.Vasimalai, Executive Director of DHAN Foundation, made opening remarks and Dr.A.Seetharam, President, Society for Millets Research, delivered the keynote address. He emphasized that demand generation, reduction of cost of production and increasing productivity are the main issues to be addressed for scaling up consumption of small millets. The following project outputs were released by the delegates: (i) Films on cooking demonstration of small millet recipes in Hindi and Oriya, (ii) Film on cooking demonstration of modern small millet recipes and (iii) A Synthesis of Policy Recommendations of National Policy Workshop of Mainstreaming Small Millets in Our Diets.

The technical session was divided into five sub-sessions, namely (i) Scaling up appropriate processing equipment, (ii) Scaling up appealing small millet food products, (iii) Promoting household consumption, (iv) Local & regional value chain development for small millets, and (v) Informing policy actors for favorable policy environment for mainstreaming small millets. In these sessions, the project partners- DHAN Foundation, Madurai; Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore; and McGill University, Canada shared the progress made with respect to the objectives of the project, the learning and insights gained and the possibilities for further scaling up. Further, the value chain actors and the NGO partners involved in the project shared about their experiences, support received, improvement made and future plan.



Dr.Malleshi, Former Director Grade Scientist and Head, Department of Grain Science & Technology, CFTRI, Mysore, **Mr. Dinesha Kumar**, Founder, Earth360 Eco Ventures (P) Ltd, **Dr.Vijaya Raghavan**, Professor, Bioresource Engineering, McGill University, **Dr.Varadharaju**, Professor & Head, Post Harvesting Technology Center, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore, **Dr.Valerie Orsat**, Professor & Head, Bioresource Engineering, McGill University, **Mr.K.Palaniswamy**, Deputy General Manager, NABARD, **Dr.Oliver King**, Principal Scientist, M.S.Swaminathan Research Foundation, and **Mr.M.Palanisamy**, Programme Leader, DHAN Foundation were among the panel members for the sessions of the workshop.

The project results were also shared with the participants as Project Update, and as posters. Small millet processing equipment and small millet food products were displayed in the exhibition, which was organized as part of the workshop.



The following food entrepreneurs/development professionals were felicitated in recognition of their promotional works related to small millets:

- Mr.K.V.Sivarama Krishnan, Sri Velavan Agro, Trichy
- Mrs. B. Sivarani, Regional Coordinator, Salem Kalanjiam Program
- Mrs. V.Anuradha, Anu Green Foods, Madurai
- Mr.Ramesh Kumar, Ammirdham Foods, Chennai
- Mr.S.Sivakumar, Mothi Food Products, Virudhunagar
- Mr.Muruganantham, Amudham Foods, Hosur
- Mr.Srikanthan, Thai Foods, Srirangam
- Mr.Manogara, Akshaya Foods, Coimbatore
- Mr.R. Amuthavel, Tamil Snacks, Aruppukottai
- Mr.Thesingu Raja, Thevar Kool Kadai, Madurai
- Mr. S. Ranjith, Salem Uzhavan Unavagam, Salem

Similarly, the following collaborators of DHAN Foundation were given the special accolade by the experts in recognition of their services to the promotion of small millets in their respective places:

- Mr.M.N. Dinesha Kumar, Founder, Earth360 Eco Ventures (P) Ltd., Kadiri, Andhra Pradesh
- Mr.G.C.Pant, Coordinator of INHERE, Uttarakhand
- Mr.Prasant Mohanty, Executive Director of NIRMAN, Bhubaneswar in Odisha
- Mr.Dinesh Balam and Mr.Tapas Chandra Roy, Odisha Millet Mission

- Mr.Sanjay Sangekar, District Coordinating Officer, MAVIM, Nandurbar, Maharashtra
- Dr.K.R.Sahu, Senior Scientist & Head, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Balrampur, Chhattisgarh

The press coverage of the event can be seen at <http://www.dhan.org/smallmillets2/sm-news.html>