# Scaling up the reach of appealing small millet food products

### Capacity building of end users



#### M. Karthikeyan, Principal Investigator & Program Leader



### Scheme of presentation

- Preparation of promotion materials
- Promotion with different consumer groups
  - Efforts taken
  - Results
  - Learning
- Over all learning
- Scope for scaling up to make larger impact



### Preparation of promotion materials

- Film on cooking demonstration in Telugu, Hindi & Odiya
- A music album of motivational songs developed
- A radio program on health benefits, medicinal properties and utilisation of small millets in Tamil and Telugu
- Awareness Posters Tamil, Telugu
  - Most of them available at www.dhan.org/smallmillets2/









### Content of promotional material

- Introducing the crops
- Food for all
- Can be as appealing as any other food
- Banking on culinary heritage
- Health benefits
- Easy to cook
- Ways of cooking & tips for integration with regular diets
- Need to eat less polished small millets
- Advantages of barboiled rice



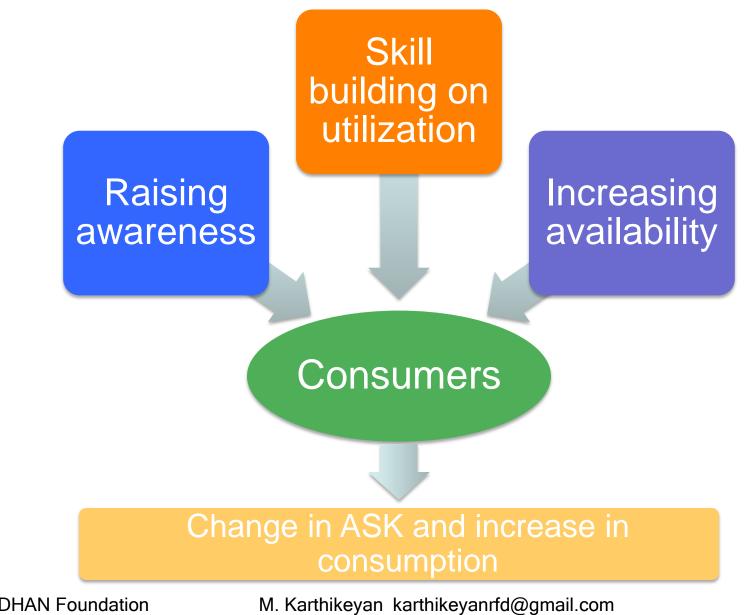
## Consumer groups and their issues limiting consumption

1. Consumers in Production areas	<ul> <li>Not retaining the small millets produced for consumption</li> <li>High drudgery related to processing</li> <li>Declining consumption</li> <li>Lack of awareness on appealing home made SM recipes</li> </ul>
2. Consumers in Non- production areas	<ul> <li>✓ Lack of awareness in small millets' benefits</li> <li>✓ Lack of skills on utilization of small millets</li> <li>✓ Inadequate availability</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>Organised consumers</li> </ul>	✓ High price of small millet ready to eat &
<ul> <li>Unorganised consumers</li> </ul>	ready to cook food products ✓Less quality of small millet food products

#### - Differentiated efforts needed

DHAN Foundation

### Approach for promoting consumption



15-16/02/2018

### Points given attention

- Consumption of small millets as meals, tiffin or in any form involving substantial quantity will make a difference on the nutrition
- Building on prevailing local/ regional food cultures
- Building on available functional knowledge & skills on recipes & health benefits
- Have to cover the wider section of the society, with the focus on poor families



## Consumption Promotion efforts taken in the production areas

#### **Raising awareness**

- Campaigning thro' folk music, songs, dance and skits
  - Jawadhu Hills and Anchetty, Tamil Nadu
  - Reached 2340 students and 530 adults from 15 villages
- Wall paintings
- Films on cooking demonstration thro' local TV channels- Peraiyur





15-16/02/2018

### Skill Building

- Focus was on
  - Recipe demonstration on appealing home made SM recipes
  - Recipe competition to revive appealing traditional recipes
- The knowledge and skills of 2211 persons (1702 women, 358 men and 151 children) on inclusion of small millets in their diets was enhanced through recipe demonstrations



### Increasing availability

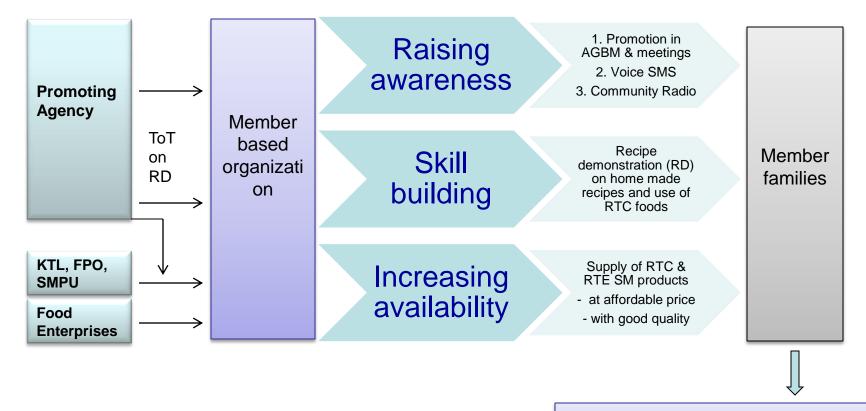
- Setting up new village level processig units
- Revived the 16 local processing units in production areas in Tamil Nadu and 5 in Odisha

#### Results

- Consumption increased
- But slowly picking up
  - Need more investment on promotion



## Consumption Promotion model for member based organisations



#### **Increase in consumption**

✓ Positioning SM foods as 'health foods for all'
 ✓ Inclusion of SM food in regular diet



### Efforts taken

- 78 Women SHG / Farmers federations (24 urban, 49 rural and 5 tribal) were engaged
  - Tamil Nadu- Madurai, Salem, Dindukal, Kancheepuram and Vello Tanjore districts
  - Andhra Pradesh -Chittoor and Visakhapatnam districts
  - Odisha- Koraput

**DHAN Foundation** 

- ToT on recipe demonstaration
  - The capacity of 729 persons including
     626 women and 103 men built
- A set of promotion materials and cooking kit provided



### Raising awareness

- Orientation and recipe introduction in community events
  - Cluster AGBM of seven clusters at Kanchepuram
  - "Vilakku Pooja" in Tirupathur SHG federation
- Promotional events
  - 14 Kalajatha events in seven federations in the Chittoor region of Andhra Pradesh; 2,314 persons including school students, teachers, farmers and the SHG women participated
  - Cooking competition organised by Kottampatti



### Raising awareness...

- Orientation to 100 diabetic patients on the use of millets in their diets at Visakhapatnam.
- Voice SMS to **14764 persons** 
  - Covers proverbs, the preventive and curative medicinal properties of millets and nutritional and medicinal benefits specific to foxtail, barnyard and finger millets
- 2018 monthly calendar with motivational messages in Tamil & Kannada for 2750000 members





### Skill Building

 Skills of 10,450 persons (8,949 women, 820 men and 677 children) on inclusion of small millets in their diets was enhanced through recipe demonstrations.





M. Karthikeyan karthikeyanrfd@gmail.com

15-16/02/2018

### Increasing availability

- Given the constraints in access to small millet food products and the need for a 'nudge' to include small millets in the regular diets, efforts were made to organised supply at affordable prices
  - Working relationship was built with FPOs and food enterprises
  - Serve as large scale demonstrations
  - About 160 tonnes of small millet food products supplied to the members





## Consumption Promotion model for unorganised families

- Raising awareness
  - Large scale
     promotional events
     like WALKATHON
  - Campaign in the schools
  - Campaign through
     Community radio in
     32 locations







### Skill building



SM recipes skill building training given to Inba Seva Sangam, Karur



Paid cooking classes for urban enthusiasts



Training to caterers



### Engaging different actors





Short Film contest on the theme of

Madurai, Tamil Nadu

"Small Millets- Our Food: Our Pride"

as part of the Madurai Symposium at

Novel and innovative small millet recipe competition for College students was organized in Madurai.

DHAN Foundation

M. Karthikeyan karthikeyanrfd@gmail.com

15-16/02/2018

### **Overall learning**

• Prerequisites

 Wider media & event based campaign/education to generate demand

 Shortening of millet food chains to supply small millet foods at affordable price

- Engagement of many actors

 Promoting consumption through member based organisations like women/ farmers organisations hold promise



### Moving forward...

- Promoting consumption need to be sustained in various forms until small millet food products transforms from a "consciously consumed food" to a "food that is consumed default- becoming part of monthly family food budget"
- There is large scope for scaling up the learning
   Within DHAN
  - In general





### Thank you!



Affaires mondiales Global Affairs Canada Canada 🔀 IDRC | CRDI



International Development Research Centre Centre de recherches pour le développement international