Supporting Millet Porridge Vendors (MPV), a pro-poor millet food marketing channel

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Scheme of presentation

- Context
- Approach followed for strengthening
- Efforts taken
- Results
- Learning
- Scope for scaling up to make larger impact

Context

- Pushcart Millet Porridge Vendors (PMPVs) are informal street food service providers in the cities and small towns in Southern India
- They provide nutritious millet porridge to the poor sections and floating population
- They are not recognised for their valuable role
 - They have an image of providers of unhygienic food
 - Harassed by city authorities
- Stabilising and strengthening PMPVs can go a long way towards providing nutrition-dense millet foods to 'bottom of the pyramid' population

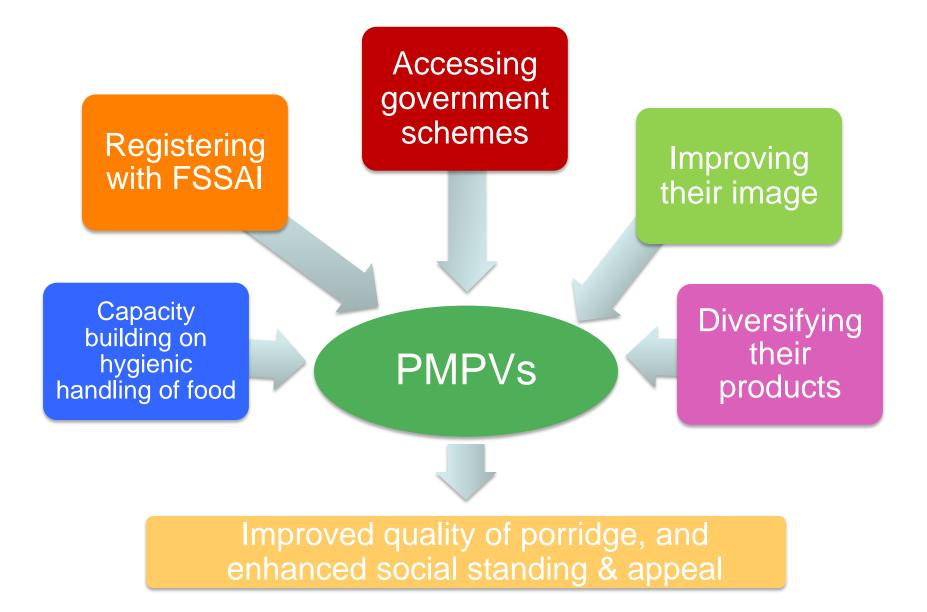
PMPVs engaged in Tamil Nadu

- Madurai 72
- Krishnagiri 30
- Salem 40
- Harur 20

Profile of the PMPVs

- Family run informal enterprise
- Usually involves two persons; rarely labour engaged
- Rarely one person runs more than one unit
- Not getting any state support
- Not complying with FSSAI registration

Support offered for PMPVs



Capacity building on hygienic handling of food

- Thirteen training sessions organised with the support of TNAU, FSSAI and City administration covering
 - Food safety & hygiene practices for food vending carts
 - Importance of FSSAI registration and procedures
 - Registering with the city administration for a biometric card
 - Possible Government schemes that can be accessed
- Good food hygiene and safety practices followed by some of the PMPVs were shared with the other participants
- Support was given for adopting relevant hygienic practices

Capacity building on hygienic handling of food at Salem



Mr. Eswaran, FSSAI staff, addressing PMPVS at Salem

Do's and Don'ts for food cart vendors







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Registering with FSSAI

- PMPVs were not aware of the need for registering with FSSAI
- Did not feel comfortable to deal with the registration process
- Support was given for registration

Registering with City administration

 Supported for enumeration with city administration and to get biometric card

Registering with FSSAI



Mr. Saravanan, FSSAI Staff, Madurai, handing over the FSSAI registration certificate to food vendor

Improving their image

 Supported for improving visibility through name board and charter for following food hygiene and safety practices

Improving their infrastructure

 9 PMPVs were supported for repairing the vehicle, getting umbrella, vessels, snacks box and table

Accessing government schemes

 Educated and supported for accessing labour welfare schemes available for them

Diversifying their products

 Supported to explore diversifying to other millet snack items



Results and learning

- 124 PMPVs have adopted customised food hygiene practices
- 51 have registered with FSSAI
- 75 got biometric card
- Above all, these poor entrepreneurs, mostly women, received moral support due to the attention they got as part of the project, as so far no agency has touched their lives

Hygienic food handling practices adopted

- Providing drinking water using a water can with tap instead of the pot
- Covering the side dishes to protect from dust and flies
- Serving side dishes to the customers by themself instead of self-serving by them
- Using long handled scoop to avoid contact of hand with porridge while serving
- Cleaning the used vessels away from the food serving place
- Keeping the surrounding clean







Fixing stainless sheet for ease of cleaning



Washing in a separate place

Using scoop to avoid contact



Serving side dishes himself

Covering side dishes



Using a water can with tap

Improving their image



Mr. Desiguraja displaying certificates & oaths



Display board with message on small millets

Improving their infrastructure



Mrs. Kalaiselvi with her renovated cart



Introduction of umbrella in Mrs. Saroja unit

Best practices of PMPVs



Diversification to other food products by Uzhavan Unavagam, Salem



Diversification to tender coconut by Sathyamurthi and Radha, Salem



Diversification to sarbath by PMPVs at Madurai

Results and learning

- Improvements have been limited on

 (i) diversification of millet products and
 (ii) improvement of infrastructure, (iii) credit
 linkage, and (iv) accessing government schemes
- The design of the incubation approach have to take these into consideration
- Enabling support is needed from city/local administration for provision of space and for access to clean water

Scope for scaling up to make larger impact

- These interventions throw light on innovatively reaching poor with nutrition-dense foods through existing market channels with a lower development investment
- A working model of supporting PMPVs was developed that can be extended to other regions in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh
- Also applicable with similar agencies



Thank you!

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