

Women Empowerment for Sustaining Development



Workshop on

Reducing Drudgery of Women in Processing Small Millets -
Recent Advances

Madurai Symposium 2019

Thamukkam Grounds, Madurai
September 20, 2019

Organized by



Small Millet Foundation
A division of DHAN Foundation





Background

Small millets in the Indian context include finger millet, kodo millet, little millet, foxtail millet, proso millet, barnyard millet and browntop millet. They have been cultivated in India for around 3000 years, making them an integral part of the culture and history of India. Small millets offer better nutrition with more micronutrients (like vitamin B complex, calcium, iron and sulphur), more protein, more dietary fibre and low glycemic index when compared to mainstream cereals like rice and wheat. They are known as both preventive and curative foods. They help to manage lifestyle diseases like diabetes, hypertension, cardiovascular diseases and anaemia. They are also a safe source of food, as no or meagre farm chemicals are used for their cultivation. However, consumption of small millets has come down drastically in the last three decades. Drudgery of women in primary processing of small millets is a major reason for decline in consumption of nutritious small millets in the production regions across India. Women in the small millet farming household in general spend about three hours to process 5-8kg of grains of small millet crops with husk. This process involves considerable drudgery and physical efforts. Appropriate mechanisation is the way to address this problem. Understanding the scope of small millets to address triple burden of malnutrition and non-communicable diseases, many agencies are taking efforts to develop appropriate processing equipment for small millets in the recent past. The sharing between the agencies involved in developing and the users and promoters of these technologies has been limited. As development of small millet primary processing technologies is in nascent stage, it is important to understand these recent developments to build various efforts to reduce drudgery of women and to mainstream small millets in the regular diets.

About this workshop

In this backdrop, a one-day workshop on 'Reducing Drudgery of Women in Processing Small Millets - Recent Advances', is organized by Small Millet Foundation, a division of DHAN Foundation, on 20th September 2019 at Madurai. The broad objective of this workshop is to bring together recent promising advances in primary processing of small millets carried out by different actors, recognize their contributions and facilitate an interaction among them.

Specific objectives of the workshop are,

1. To pool recent advances in primary processing of small millets carried out by different actors and facilitate an interaction among them
2. To learn from experiences of processors

3. To inform and orient the potential users/adopters
4. To identify areas of further research and development

This workshop is organized as part of **Madurai Symposium 2019**, a biennial large-scale development event organized at Madurai on the theme of **Women Empowerment for Sustaining Development**. The workshop focuses on reducing drudgery of women and improving nutrition of the community through processing technology development and adoption.

Participants

About 40 persons including millet entrepreneurs, food processors, FPOs, women SHGs, machinery manufacturers, home science or catering professionals, new entrants to millet processing sector, NGOs, government officials and agricultural universities are expected to participate.

Indicative program schedule

I. Opening session

- | | |
|----------|--|
| 10.00 AM | Prayer and welcome |
| 10.15 AM | Purpose and background of the workshop |

II. Technical Session

- | | |
|----------|---|
| 10.30 AM | Lead paper presentation
Presentations by researchers |
| 01.30 PM | Lunch break |
| 02.30 PM | Demonstration of small millet processing equipment |
| 03.30 PM | Experience sharing by processors |
| 04.00 PM | Discussion on further areas of research |

III. Concluding Session

- | | |
|----------|---------------------------------------|
| 05.00 PM | Concluding remarks and vote of thanks |
|----------|---------------------------------------|

Place : Thamukkam Grounds, Madurai, Tamil Nadu

Date : 20 September 2019

Expected outcomes

- Understanding on the recent advances related to primary processing of small millets by various stakeholders in the small millet value chain
- Recognition to the agencies who have contributed to development of small millet processing technologies
- Identification of areas for further research for improving mechanization of small millet processing

Registration

M. Karthikeyan

Convener

Chief Executive

Phone: 04343 226568, 9094054560

Email: karthikeyan@dhan.org

P. Saravanan

Co-Convener

Team Leader

Phone: 04343 226568, 8667566368

Email: rfdpkrishnagiri@dhan.org

About Small Millet Foundation (SMF)

Realizing the importance of small millets for addressing triple burden of malnutrition and the prevalence of non-communicable diseases such as diabetes and for ensuring health of the planet and the economy, DHAN Foundation has started working on small millets since 2011. It has led two South Asian consortium research projects on small millets in India, Nepal and Sri Lanka, supported by IDRC and Global Affairs Canada under Canadian International Food Security Research Fund (CIFSRF). These projects resulted in a set of technologies and working models developed on production, processing, value chain development and consumption of small millets. There is considerable need and scope for scaling up the learning across India. Towards this, DHAN Foundation has initiated an exclusive organisation, Small Millet Foundation (SMF) by 2018. Small Millet Foundation is engaged with 6000 farmers in Tamil Nadu, Odisha and Jharkhand. It supplies quality seeds of various small millet crops and improved processing equipment to the interested agencies. It also offers training on small millet cultivation, setting up and operating small millet processing mills, value added food products and promoting consumption. More details on the activities, training manuals and publications of SMF can be seen at <https://www.dhan.org/smallmilletfoundation/>

For further information, please contact

M. Karthikeyan and P.Saravanan (Event Coordinators)

Small Millet Foundation

A division of DHAN Foundation

1/31-33, Sixth Street, Rajaji Nagar,
Krishnagiri, Tamil Nadu, India- 635 002,
Website: <http://maduraisymposium.net>