

2.1 Odisha Millets Mission: Improving Nutrition and Farm Incomes

Rice, maize and wheat account for 60% of plant-based calories consumed world-wide. Dependence on these crops, bred for yield rather than resilience, is part of the reason for India's current agricultural and nutritional crisis. Millets, a nutritious and climate-resilient crop, championed by the Odisha Millets Mission, could be an important part of the solution.

The Odisha Millets Mission (OMM) was launched in 2017 to improve nutrition through the revival of millets on the farms and plates of tribal communities in Odisha. The program has successfully introduced millets in the Public Distribution System and other State nutrition schemes.

The project includes partners from academia, regional government and civil society; breaking down conventional silos to come together to combine traditional knowledge and cutting-edge science to open up new possibilities and improve the food system, from diets to farm incomes. To address a gap between producers and consumers, the programme has worked across four vertical themes: production, processing, marketing and consumption.

The first-year outcome, compared to a baseline, led to a doubling of output and trebling of additional value, paving the way for the Programme's expansion from 30 blocks (a block is subdivision of a rural administrative district) across seven districts in year one (2017-18) to 84 blocks

across 15 districts by year five (2021-22). The Programme expanded from 8,030 farmers cultivating millets in 3,399 hectares in year one to 1,18,561 farmers cultivating millets in 54,496 hectares in year five. and, in 2022-23, the planned expansion is 81,700 hectares in 142 blocks across 19 districts.

The intervention shows great promise in addressing nutritional deprivation in Odisha particularly in the tribal population.

The World Food Programme has entered into an agreement with the Government of Odisha to document, provide technical support and share what has been learnt from the Mission in a global platform in line with the UN General Assembly's designation of 2023 as International Year of Millets.

The Government of India has set up a task force to understand the framework of the Odisha Millets Mission and revise the National sub mission on millets based on the learnings of the OMM.



CMO Odisha
@CMO_Odisha

#Odisha Govt's #MilletMission is boosting consumption of nutrition-rich millets across the state. The mainstreaming of millet is also contributing to the nutrition security and strengthening of livelihoods of small farmers, including women.



United Nations in India @UNinIndia · 30 Mar

Subasa Mohanta is no stranger to hunger. Even after 16 long hours of back-breaking work as a farmhand, she didn't know where her next meal would come from.

Then, in 2018, a small bag of seeds, 250 grams to be precise, helped her bid farewell to uncertainties around food & more.

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