

Transcription of E²Impart Video

Music plays in the background with the E²Impart logo on screen.

Music continues softly in the background as speakers introduce E²Impart.

Speaker 1 (Dr Apurba Shee)

00:00:04 - 00:00:33

Our research project is called *Economic and Empowerment Impacts of Millet Processing and Value Addition Enterprises by Women Self-Help Groups in Tribal Areas of Odisha*, also known as E²Impart.

The project is supported by the International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie) and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. We aim to generate evidence on the impact of support and services related to millet processing and value addition for female group-based enterprises using a randomised control trial approach.

Speaker 2 (Dinesh Balam)

00:00:34 - 00:01:19

This project specifically addresses constraints faced by women participating in millet processing and value addition.

To reduce the drudgery involved, equipment such as threshers and dehullers has been provided through various schemes. However, these initiatives have often yielded limited results due to a lack of:

- Capacity building,
- Business development,
- Hand-holding support, and
- Market linkages.

Historically, this has impeded the promotion of millet enterprises, particularly among women-led Self-Help Groups (SHGs). Through this project, we are tackling these issues and evaluating our interventions.

Narrator

00:01:19 - 00:02:33

Millet is among the earliest domesticated crops, essential to the tribal communities of Odisha, including finger millet and little millet. These crops are:

- Nutrient-rich,
- Resource-efficient, and
- Well-suited for less fertile highlands.

However, the drudgery involved in processing millets, combined with limited access to mechanised technologies, has contributed to a decline in millet consumption.

E²Impart is conducting action research with women millet producers in SHGs across the Koraput district of Odisha. We aim to evaluate whether millet processing and value addition:

- Generate income, and
- Enhance livelihoods for women in these groups.

The project also explores how collective millet-based enterprises empower women by providing greater control over income.

Speaker 3 (Somyashree Tripathy)

00:02:35 - 00:03:47

The key components of this project include:

- Technical support for post-harvest millet processing enterprises,
- Value addition through new product development,
- Enterprise development support,
- Gender-responsive capacity-building training,
- Innovation and nutrition profiling, and
- Market linkage strategies.

We conduct gender-responsive training for women SHGs on millet processing, value addition, and enterprise development. These trainings consider social and domestic norms that hinder women's participation by:

- Providing creche facilities,
 - Locating training venues close to villages, and
 - Scheduling training sessions at convenient times for participants.
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Participants (Multiple Speakers)

00:03:43 - 00:04:11

- *Participant 1:* "We make manduru (with radi) and flat pitha. We boil water, place the mix in a container, and use steam to prepare pitha."
 - *Participant 2:* "We learned about line sowing for finger millet, using organic fertilisers like cow dung and cow urine, and preparing handikhata (organic compost). I enjoyed these aspects of the training."
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Speaker 4 (Anup Kar)

00:04:15 - 00:05:31

The use of millet in daily life has declined over time. Why?
In some regions, rice has replaced millets as a staple food.

Through our training programmes, we are exploring ways to revive the use of millet in day-to-day life. Exposure visits are organised for SHG members to observe and learn from established millet processing and value addition enterprises across the country.

Narrator

00:05:31 - 00:06:16

The project also aims to:

- Provide technical support for business development plans around millet processing units,
- Develop new millet-based products with local SHGs, and
- Conduct nutrition profiling of over eighty millet varieties in and around Koraput.

With the United Nations declaring 2023 as the International Year of Millets, the world is refocusing on these crops for food security and nutrition. This project seeks to highlight the experiences of tribal women farmers, ensuring dignified livelihoods through millet-based enterprises.

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