

Corp diversity gives more Sustainability to marginal farmers

Pedemadu Majhi is an inhabitant of Gambhari, a village located in Guma Gram panchayat & Tumudibandha block in Kandhamal district of Odisha. She lives with one son and one daughter. She has total 1.5 acres of land, of which 0.5 acres are low land and one acre up land. She usually utilizes the low land for rice farming where as the up land for millets cultivation. Her hill-side village bears sand mixed black soil. With her traditionally adopted knowledge & skills, Pedemadu grows paddy, pulses (black gram, pigeon pea), and varieties of Millets.

During the recent 3-4 years, it is due to drought conditions, irregular rainfall and restriction of forest department to cultivate in hilly regions, the cultivating area is decreasing year by year and in turn the production. In the process, the traditional seeds were also lost and her family gradually lost its food sufficiency.

As a part of the intervention, she was involved with village level farmers institution. The project supported seeds; she received her share of 4 kg of finger millets, 2.8 kg of little millets, 0.4 kg of



According to her if more numbers of crops can be grown by a marginal farmer in one unit of land, he/she will never be feel vulnerable in survival. The varieties of crops can play as insurance crop to each other and in turn to the farmer.

little millets, 3.5 kg of little millets, 0.9 kg of sorghum, 0.45 kg of foxtail millets, 0.75 kg of pearl millets, 0.2 kg of barnyard millets and 1 kg of pigeon pea.

Pedemadu says that she has already harvested 90 kg of maize, 25 kg of cow pea and 10 kg of black gram. She expects a harvest of 50 kg of pigeon pea, 15 kg of rice bean, 18 kg of sorghum, 20 kg of pearl millet, 150 kg of little millet, 90 kg of finger millets and 20 kg of foxtail millet and 3 kg of Barnyard millets. She estimates the total harvest expected will help her family to meet 90 more days of their grain needs.

While explaining her pleasure with the crops grown, she shares that the bumper harvest of rice beans are due to more dense vegetative coverage and coolness in the soil. As rice bean favours shade and cool climate, the more in

field diversity has provided the needs. She also scores pigeon pea as the vector for good harvest of other millets crops. During 2012-13, rice farming affected due to un-even rainfall, however, she fulfils her food needs with the traditional nutritious grains.