

Climate Smart Millet Crops Enhanced the Income of Farmers in Thiruvannamalai District of Tamil Nadu

A. Situation analysis / problem statement

Thiruvannamalai district is an agrarian district, total cultivated area is 314827 ha. The paddy is predominant crop in the district cultivated in an area of 161709 ha. However, due to production problems mentioned here under in paddy, the cultivation of millets has been gaining importance in the district due to high market demand and higher climate resilience potential. The KVK in collaboration with centre of excellence in millets, Athiyanthal and State Department of Agriculture has been promoting cultivation of millets through various activities in the district since 2015 to increase the income of the farmers.

Problems identified:

- Water Scarcity
- High cost on inputs and low income per various crops
- Higher Incidence of pest and diseases
- High fluctuation in market price
- Labour shortage

B. Plan, implementation of activities and support by KVK

In order to overcome the various problems mentioned above and increase the income of the farmers, the KVK has been promoting cultivation of millets with improved production practices. The various millet crops promoted by KVK include *viz.*, Pearl millet, Finger millet, Little millet, Foxtail millet, Kodo millet, Proso millet and Barnyard millet. The KVK has also helped in marketing through promotion of enterprises in value addition.



Advantages of the millets:

- ✓ Higher market demand and assured market price
- ✓ Low water requirement (350mm)
- ✓ Drought resistant
- ✓ Low pest and disease incidence
- ✓ Crop duration from 60 to 95 days
- ✓ Less labour requirement
- ✓ Higher net income with low production cost.

The details of various activities implemented by KVK for the promotion of millets are tabulated here under:

1.	FLDs and OFTs	4	52
2.	Trainings	8	92
3.	Method demonstration	12	126
4.	Extension activities	5	85
5.	Literature distributed	550	338
6.	Awareness campaign	2	156
7.	Field days	3	134

