

Sweet corn cultivation secured high profit for tribal women's farmers in Mandaramalini Producer Group during COVID-19 Lockdown period.

The Sweet corn Maize, being one of the principal cereals grown in the shifting cultivation up lands of Kathakaranjia Village of Sadar block Keonjhar district. The Government of India Ministry of Rural development Deptt. Under Bharat Rural Livelihood Foundation (BRLF) project by APC Agricultural Production Cluster working through Producers Group district deputy director of Horticulture as anodal officers at district level and PRADAN as a PMU cell across the Odisha state.



Sweet Corn collection at field Kathakaranjia of Bauripada

Scale the improved maize production technologies in the region, under the programme, the farmers practicing both *upland (rain fed)* and settled agriculture were introduced with the sweet corn cultivation. The farmers fetched a steep rise in their annual income from the year around large scale sweet corn cultivation especially womens Producers groups member's tribal women's only .IDA Ideal Development Agency as Implementing agency in the Sadar Block of Keonjhar district. Mandaramalini Producers groups Kathakaranjia village Sadar block of Keonjhar District, the existing cultivation was replaced by the sweet corn under the project APC through the seeds support by ITDA Integrated Tribal

Development Agency successfully cultivated sweet corn without any fertilizer application or use of plant protection chemicals during the pre-Kharif season for the sweet corn cultivation, it is the first time introduced the upland areas which land till now not cultivate any crops, The phase identified through the producers groups and first time cultivate the sweet corn. Inspired by her success, the womens producers groups farmers in the upland field of Kathakaranjia village also adapted the standardized package of practices for growing the groups through IDA Khari and introduction of sweet corn cultivation during early 2020 resulted in the gradual expansion in the maize area, particularly under the *Kharif season* sweet corn cultivation in the nearby village.



Tribal women's collection the production in groups UNITY

Mandaramalini Producer group, Kathakaranjia womens farmers producer group farmers *sweet* corn cultivation. During 2019-20, *sweet* corn cultivation over her traditional cultivation practice of local Moreover, it is evident that the sweet corn cultivation has considerable potential to increase the net farming profitability for the tribal farmers. The subsistent level organic sweet corn cultivation often resulted in marginal rise in individual farmer's income from the periodic price fluctuations of sweet corn in the local Keonjhar market per kg @ Rs.20/- and it is 4 to 5 pc I the market particularly during the nationwide lockdown from sudden onslaught of COVID-19 global pandemic. Since 2020, a total of 5 acres area was covered under the participatory demonstration and 15 beneficiarieres tribal

womens were benefited under the collaborative APC project Seeds supported by ITDA,Keonjhar.



ITDA Programme Manager Keonjhar visit the sweet corn field at Kathakaranjia Mandaramalini PG of Sadar Block.

especially womens farmers first time cultivate the sweet corn maize cultivate the barren land get the benefit tribal womens and the support of ITDA &APC project intervention implementing agency IDA encourage and time to time given the technical support in the field and benifitted so all the 15 womens are happy to cultivate the sweet corn cultivation at Kathakaranjia village (Sadar Block,Keonjhar district) 5 acres area.



Sweet corn at 5 acres field photograph

Details figures is given below the table-1

No. of the Farmers	Production (kg)	Economics (INR)			Remarks
		Expenditure of the cultivation	Total selling	Net benefit	
15	60000pc	50000	300000	250000	Each beneficiary@ 15000 to 16000 profit