

BEGINNING OF A BIG DREAM

(A case study of Khatav Vibhag Jwari Producers Co. Ltd. District Satara)

- **About:**

National Institute of Women Child and Youth Development (NIWCYD), Nagpur has been recognised as the Resource Institution for the promotion of Farmers Producer Organisation by Small Farmers Agri Business Consortium, a society promoted by Ministry of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers' Welfare, Government of India. NIWCYD promoted five Farmers Producer Organisations in Satara and Kolhapur districts of Maharashtra during the phase 2018-2022 as a part of Nutri-Cereal Project under National Food Security Mission. KHATAV VIBHAG JWARI PRODUCERS CO. LTD. is one such company. Initially 10 promoters were identified for the formation of FPO with consent of members of farmer Interest Group (FIGs)/ Village Organizations (VOs). These 10 promoters selected five Board of Directors (BODs) among themselves. After the selection of Board of Directors, the process was initiated for the registration of Farmers Producer Organisation with Registrar of Companies. Khatav Vibhag Jwari Producers Co. Ltd. got registered on 6th July 20220 and after that the Company started it's operations from mid-July 2020.

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- **Impact:** The focus crop of Khatav Vibhag Jwari Producers Co. Ltd. is Sorghum. For the production enhancement demonstrations on improved seed varieties were organised in the fields of member farmers. The CEO of the Company organise the visits of experts from other reputed companies such as Baier, Yaara to give technical guidance to the members about the production enhancement, protection from diseases and pest attacks etc. Also the farmers are encouraged to adopt appropriate and the current agricultural technologies suggested by Agriculture Universities and Krishi Vigyan Kendras. This has resulted in increase in the sorghum production in the area.
- **Background:** In coordination with the Agriculture Department Government of Maharashtra, the information about the government schemes and the subsidy is also given to the member farmers. Over the past 3 years, the good quality

and improved varieties of Jowar, Soyabean and Bajara seeds have been made available to the member farmers as under:

S.N.	Crop	Year	No. of Farmers Linked
1	Jowar	2021-2022-2023	450
2.	Soyabean	2021-2022-2023	225
3.	Bajari	2021-2022-2023	225

From the inception year, Khatav Vibhag Jwari Producers Co. Ltd. Khatav is implementing the seeds Subsidy Scheme in coordination with the Agriculture Department for its member farmers. Following table reflects number of farmers linked with the seeds subsidy scheme over the past 3 years

S.N.	Year	Number of member Farmers linked
1.	2020-21	30
2.	2021-22	50
3.	2022-23	50

Along with that the farmers are also linked with the Crop Insurance Scheme of the Government.

- Efforts Made:** The company has started collective marketing of Sorghum and other agriculture produce from May 2023. The agriculture produce is purchased from the farmers at the prevailing reasonable market prices and after selling in bulk quantity, the amount is deposited in the bank account of the farmers. Around 400 member farmers and 600-700 other farmers from the operational area of the company have been benefitted from the initiative.

“Central India Convention on Millets” was organised on 15th and 16th February 2023 in association with the Millet Action Group of **Visveshwaya National Institute of Technology (VNIT), National Institute of Women Child and Youth Development Nagpur and Directorate of Cotton Development (Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India)** at VNIT Campus. The representatives of Khatav Vibhag Jwari Producers Co. Ltd. Khatav participated in this convention and shared their experiences with the

audiences. They also showcased the different varieties of food products from Millets in Shri Anna Ustav organised at the convention venue.

Agro Service Centre (Krishi Sewa Kendra)

Khatav Vibhag Jwari Producers Co. Ltd. Khatav has started the Agro Service Centre in the second year of its functioning. The Agro Service Centre Provides Seeds, Fertilisers, manures and medicines to the farmers from the area at the reasonable cost. Around 300 member farmers and 500-600 farmers from the working area of the company are linked with this Agro Service Centre.

Linking the Women Self-help Groups with the initiatives of the Company:

There are numerous women self-help groups available in the working area of Khatav Vibhag Jwari Producers Co. Ltd. Khatav. Through these self-help groups packaging of the millets such as Sorghum, Pearl Millet, Ragi is done in 1 kilogram, 2 kilogram and 5 kilogram packets for marketing. Also the products of the millets such as papad, Kurdai etc. are made by these SHG members for the marketing in the housing societies of Pune city. The basic purpose is to provide work to the women and link them with the company.

- **Way Forward:**

- Development of Seeds Bank of Local Varieties.
- Participate in the International Millet Trade Fair to be organised at Pragati Maidan New Delhi from 3rd to 5th November 2023.
- Khatav Vibhag Jwari Producers Co. Ltd. has started the process of setting up of Cleaning, Grading, Processing and Packaging Unit for all sorts of available millets and other grains. As a part of this, company has started the construction of Shed with the size of 40 ft X 60 ft.
- The Company has submitted the proposal for purchasing the machinery to the Bank. The Board of Directors of the Company have contributed Rs. 10 Lakhs till the proposal gets the approval, towards the purchase of Processing Machinery. The President and the Secretary of the Company have also visited Ambala, where processing Machinery is being manufactured.



Office Premises of FPO



Agro Service Centre being run bu FPO



SHGs engaged in processing and packaging of Millets



Board of Directors participated in Millet Convention at Nagpur



Construction of Millets Processing Unit



Millet Processing Machinery to be installed