



**Name : Sania Guntha**

Village : Atalguda,

Block: Boipariguda, District: Koraput

Age : 52 years

Caste : Rana (OBC)

Occupation : Farmer (3 acres)

Family size : 5 (4 adults, 1 child)

Written by **Naresh Chandra Patra**,  
Technical Assistant, FSN study under LANSA.



## Improved variety of finger millet for higher production

Finger millet is one of our major crops, also our staple food. We depend on finger millet throughout the year for our daily diet, and it gives us energy to do our every day work. I have 0.15 acres of upland and I always cultivated rice. Due to water scarcity I had very poor yields. So in 2010, I switched to finger millet cultivation and continue till now. I broadcast my own seeds and the yield was around 30-40 kg. The produce was sufficient for 5-6 months of my family, and for rest of the months I bought from the market.

In 2013, M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation began LANSA project in our village. To improve the production of food crops - rice, finger millet, maize, pigeon pea, green gram and black gram, they introduced improved varieties of these crops along with improved cultivation practices like line sowing, line transplanting, etc. In 2014 and 2015, they demonstrated line transplanting of finger millet with two new improved varieties GPU-67 and Bhairabi in some farmers' fields. The yield was very good, and then I decided to use the recommended practice in kharif 2016. Between the two new improved finger millet varieties Bhairabi seemed polished with a shiny seed coat. I had never seen polished finger millet seeds before, and decided to grow this variety in my 0.15 acres of upland. As suggested by the project team, I prepared the nursery and followed line transplanting along with recommended management practices, timely weeding and proper dose of fertilizer application. After following all the recommended practices I observed that there were fewer weeds in the

field and cost of cultivation was also less than under traditional practice. The size of fingers was very big; grains were bold and polished when compared to traditional varieties. I harvested 100kg of finger millet and the produce was enough for my family needs throughout the year. Usually we focus on rice cultivation rather than on finger millet, so we have a poor yield and insufficient produce for home needs. Over the last two years however, we have good yields of finger millet, thanks to the recommended package suggested by the LANSA team. I am very happy now as the produce is sufficient for my family and I do not have to buy finger millet from the market.

