

Note on the visit of the Chairperson, Odisha State Food Commission to MSSRF, Regional Centre, Jeypore on 1 Nov, 2016

Rangalal Jamunda IAS (Retd.), Chairperson, Odisha State Food Commission visited MSSRF Jeypore on 1 Nov 2016 and had discussion with staff members about ongoing initiatives for food and nutrition security. The visit followed a discussion by members of the LANSAs team at MSSRF (Dr. Bhavani, Programme Manager, Dr. Aliza Pradhan, Coordinator, FSN Study under LANSAs and Akshaya Panda, Coordinator FSN Study in Koraput) with Jamunda at his office in Bhubaneswar on 3 September when they called on him to apprise him about MSSRF's work in Odisha and the current research under LANSAs.

Jamunda was in Koraput for a district level consultation on implementation of the National Food Security Act (2013) with officials during 1 -3 November, in Koraput and made time to visit the



MSSRF Regional Centre in Jeypore on the afternoon of 1st November 2016. He was accompanied by Raj Kishore Mishra, State Advisor to Commissioners, Supreme Court of India and officers from District Civil Supply Department we also visited the centre.

Dr. Ch. Ravinder Reddy, Director, MSSRF, Jeypore welcomed the guests and gave a brief introduction to the activities of the Centre. Jamuda also briefed the purpose of his visit. Thereafter, Mr. Susanta Sekhar Choudhury, Principal Scientist, MSSRF, Jeypore made an overall presentation about the centre followed by a presentation on “Farming System Approach to address Undernutrition under LANSAs by Akshaya Kumar Panda, Senior Scientist, MSSRF, Jeypore.

The following comments and suggestions emerged during the discussion after the two presentations:

- Agricultural interventions that can combat anaemia should be popularised and showcased in various platforms, as it is a major problem in the state, irrespective of age and gender.
- The key interventions under the FSN study should be made available in Odia language and also uploaded on the LANSAs website for better reach to researchers, policy makers and farmers. It should showcase the information regarding specific nutrient rich varieties of different crop and nutrition garden interventions *viz.*, variety name, nutrient content and yield potential along with the nutrient maladies it will help to combat. Furthermore, information on fishery and poultry species that are suitable and acceptable in these areas should also be added.
- A pilot project on community pulse processing unit may be proposed in order to give higher return to pulse growers in the area
- Nutrition awareness programmes to educate people on importance of balanced diet, clean drinking water and agricultural interventions in order to achieve these.
- Pilot projects on growing short duration pigeon pea varieties in rice fallows of this area
- Link farmers’ produce to Midday meal (MDM) and Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) for better nutrition delivery under these programmes
- Link the FSN interventions; starting from input procurement to sale of the farm produce, post harvest management along with access, affordability & absorption of nutrition rich food to various state and central govt. Schemes
- The chairperson appreciated the approach and expressed the need for its replication.

The visit ended with the team taking a round of the campus.

