

JOURNEY OF THE 'MILLETRENEUR'

Dipali Mahato, a 34-year-old resident of Kusum Juria village in Hura block, Purulia district, has seen herself transformed from being a humble farmer to a successful 'milletpreneur'. Her inspiring journey towards sustainable agriculture, particularly in millet cultivation, has been majorly supported by SwitchON Foundation, which played a pivotal role in mobilising farmers, helping raise awareness on benefits of millet farming, and providing the essential tools and knowledge that helped Dipali and many others like her embrace this nutritious and climate-resilient crop.

Dipali's transformation began with

MILLET REVIVAL IN PURULIA AND BANKURA:

Farmers engaged | 500+

Land cultivated | 150 acres

Community impact | 100+ women farmers have adopted millet cultivation

her active participation in focus group discussions (FGDs) and state and district-level workshops organised by SwitchON Foundation. These sessions deepened her understanding of millet cultivation and its numerous benefits.

SwitchON Foundation further assisted by ensuring access to quality seeds, enabling Dipali to start her millet cultivation journey on 0.35 acre land. Her initial harvest during the Kharif season yielded 37 kg of millet.

Recognising Dipali's passion for cooking, SwitchON Foundation trained her on millet cooking, helping expand her repertoire of millet-based recipes.

Collaborative efforts of Anandahara Prakalpa by WBSRLM and SwitchON Foundation culminated in the inauguration of a Millet Café in Hura block. Here, Dipali took on a leading role, actively engaging in food prepa-

ration and management.

Encouraged by her achievements, more women are now eager to participate in training programmes, adopt millet farming practices, and explore entrepreneurial opportunities within their own communities.

"I am excited to prepare and serve different millet recipes such as millet laddoo, kheer, fritters, malpua, khichdi, and many more," Dipali said with joy.

Dipali's journey is a powerful reminder of how targeted interventions, skill development, and community support can transform livelihoods and empower rural women.