

Empowering Women Self Help Group through Post Harvest & Marketing Support under BGREI

Category:

Post Harvest & Marketing Support under BGREI

Background:

The scheme “Amar Dhan Amar Chatal” was introduced in West Bengal as a Post Harvest & Marketing Support Intervention under BGREI to provide financial assistance to the farm families for construction of farm family level paddy processing yards for Sun drying of par boiled paddy as an essential component of House hold level paddy processing unit.

Challenge:

Drying of paddy, particularly at household level, is always problematic. As usual the practice of sun drying of parboiled paddy by spreading it on mud floor or even on the surface of road, resulted in admixture of high percentage of stone and coarse sand. As consumers have become more quality conscious, paddy with such admixtures fetch lower price in the market. This was the challenge for survival for the members of Rashmi Self Help Group of Dhupguri under Jalpaiguri district of West Bengal.

Problem:

After harvesting of paddy, the produce is not immediately brought to the drying platform rather stacked at the field due to non availability of appropriate drying yard at household level.

Issues and Opportunities:

Commercial rice milling units are designed for bulk output, which neither encourages smaller quantity nor varietal heterogeneity.

Compared to drying of paddy at a commercial rice milling unit, this scheme is aimed at providing processing facilities at the household level where they can process and maintain varietal heterogeneity as per consumers’ preference and thus earn much better price.

In order to support Rashmi Self Help Group towards socio-economic upliftment and in order to reduce the post harvest losses with targeted improvement in agricultural marketing system, Agricultural Marketing Department, Government of West Bengal has arranged to provide **Rs. 23000/- as financial assistance under “Amar Dhan Amar Chatal” scheme from BGREI 2015-16** to construct paddy processing yards for Sun drying of par boiled paddy. This group applied for the assistance following standard operating procedure and subsequently selected through a District Level Sanctioning Committee.

Benefits:

Rashmi Self Help Group has now a concrete Paddy Drying Yard at their own place. This has helped them to transfer of paddy from the field to the chatal immediately for Sun drying resulting reduction of losses incurred by stacking at the field level. A clean drying yard has resulted into their produce free from admixtures and now fetches remunerative prices at the market. Besides Sun drying of paddy, this drying yard is also used for other produces.

Benefits:**Supporting Quotes & Images:**

Picture of paddy processing yards for Sun drying of par boiled paddy of Rashmi Self Help Group of Dhupguri, West Bengal



Smt. Aloka Roy, Group Leader of Rashmi Self Help Group conveyed her thanks to the Agricultural Marketing Department , Government of West Bengal saying that construction of paddy processing yard has helped them to dry the paddy in a more hygienic way and the grains become less contaminated with stones and other dirt materials.

Additional Information:

1. List of Project Partners:

- (a) Agriculture Marketing Department, Government of West Bengal,
- (b) District & Sub Division offices under Agriculture Marketing Department,
- (c) Block Agriculture Offices under Agriculture Department, Government of West Bengal ,

2. Contact Person for this story:

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