STI Hub for Technology enabled Production and Marketing of Value added Agricultural products to enhance the Livelihood of SC Community in Thellar Block, Tiruvannamalai, Tamilnadu

The target villages/blocks/districts of project implementation

Thellar block of Tiruvannamalai district, Tamil Nadu State has been chosen as the target block comprising 61 panchayat villages. The SC population consists of 30.54 % of total population in Thellar block. It comes under Vandavasi legislative assembly which is a SC Constituency. The Villages (10) targeted are Thellar, Mazhaiyur, Thenthinnalur, Thennathur, Ponnur, Therakovil, Nerkunam, Vadavanakkampadi, Embalam and Seeyamangalam

Description of the project

1. Provision of basic seeds to the farmers facilitate for multiplication of certified seeds through implementation of improved technology with Groundnut Harvester, Groundnut Decorticator and Groundnut Grader will be used to reduce the cost and time of operation, as a mechanization promotion.
2. A series of Integrated Crop Management, evaluations, decisions and management would be carried out for effective crop cultivation to enhance per unit area production through Capacity building training to adopt appropriate mechanization.
3. The productivity would be improved and scaled up through alternative methods of manual operations which would enhance the post harvest process of Groundnut and Blackgram production and adoption of digital marketing with the support of self help groups for effective supply chain networks would be developed to connect with the farmers and reduce their drudgery at various levels.
4. Adoption of advanced mechanized crop production with scientific technology, development of entrepreneurship would enhance social economic status & sustainable development of the target community.

Significance of the project in improving the livelihoods of target population

- The main earnings of this region are agricultural associated income through crops like groundnut and black gram.
- Setting up an STI Hub with Groundnut Harvester, Groundnut Decorticator / Sheller and Groundnut Grader to upgrade farmers' agricultural cultivation yield and income.
- Technical - know how will be disseminated among the target village people and development of more entrepreneurship skills for their livelihood sustenance.
- Scale up production and productivity of Groundnut and Black gram would enhance the livelihood of SC farmers with the efficient market strategies through effective supply chain management.

The novelty, innovation and S&T component of the project

- The uses of post harvest farm machinery equipment like Groundnut decorticator and Grader which will reduce the labor, labor cost, time and losses due to Aflatoxin content especially minimized post harvest losses. It will help to undertake timely field operation and cultivation or a crop rotation basis throughout the year.
- The shelling percentage will also be improved while using the Groundnut Decorticator, Sheller and Grader in correct time with minimized mechanical damage.