

Fostering Empowerment: Cereal Processing and Value Addition Training for Rural Women at ICAR-CIPHET Ludhiana, Punjab

ICAR–Central Institute of Post–Harvest Engineering and Technology (ICAR-CIPHET), Ludhiana, organized a three-day training program on “Processing and Value Addition of Cereals” from 29th to 31st January 2024 under Scheduled Caste Sub Plan (SCSP) scheme of the Government of India. The program was aimed to strengthen Scheduled Caste poor families and nurture them to initiate activities in the field of cereals processing with special emphasis on value addition. Fifty Scheduled caste women participants from villages Mohan Majra, Rampur Fassa, Behrampur Bet, and Mehtot under Chamkor-Sahib tehsil of Ropar District, Punjab, participated in the program. The training program was coordinated by Dr Ranjeet Singh, Head and Principal Scientist, Transfer of Technology (TOT) Division, Dr Swati Sethi, Senior Scientist, and Dr Chandan Solanki, Scientist (SS), Food Grains and Oilseeds Processing (FG&OP) Division, ICAR-CIPHET Ludhiana. The skill development program provided hands-on training on processing of food grains such as milling of cereals, pasta making, bakery products from cereals (muffins from maize), extruded and popped products from coarse cereals like pearl millet and sorghum. The experts delivered lectures on various government schemes and marketing strategies during the training program. Dr. S.N. Jha, DDG (Engg.) ICAR motivated the participants to form FPO/groups and start processing in cereal processing and value addition and also distributed beneficiary items to the women participants. Dr Nachiket Kotwaliwale, Director, ICAR-CIPHET, highlighted that interested participants can utilize the processing facilities of ICAR-CIPHET to initiate entrepreneurial activities and attain experience for entering the processing field. A training manual on the subject was also released and distributed to the participants for knowledge sharing. Mr. Manpreet Singh, Mr. Santokh Singh, and Ms Sakshi from Grant Thornton Bharat team Ludhiana provided support in facilitating participants' involvement in these three training days.

