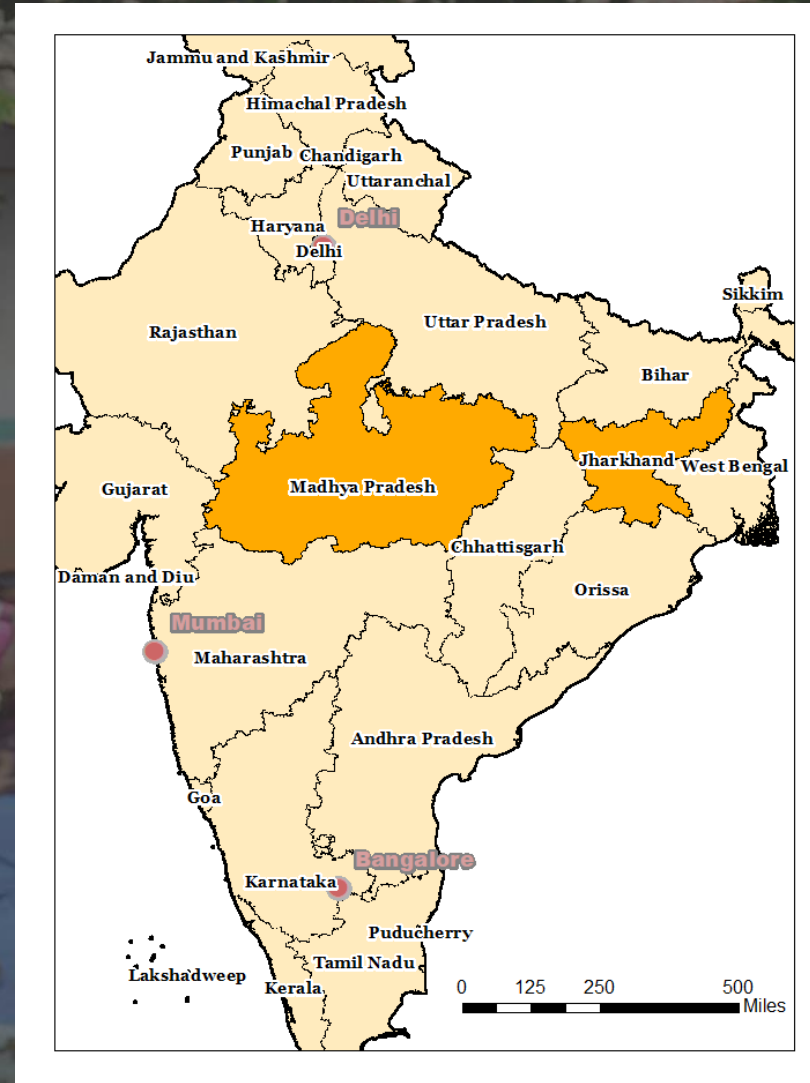
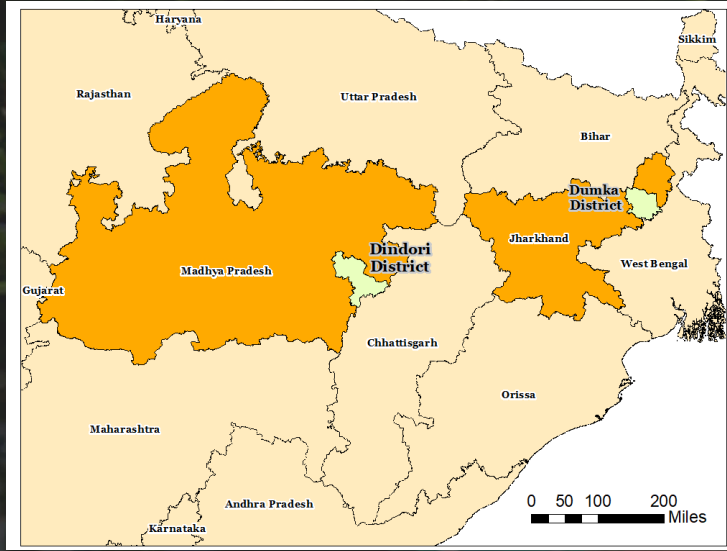
A photograph of a person plowing a field with a white ox in Central India. The person is wearing a white turban and a blue shirt, and is walking behind the ox, holding a long wooden handle. The ox is pulling a wooden plow. The background shows a rural landscape with trees and a clear sky. The text is overlaid on the image in a yellow font.

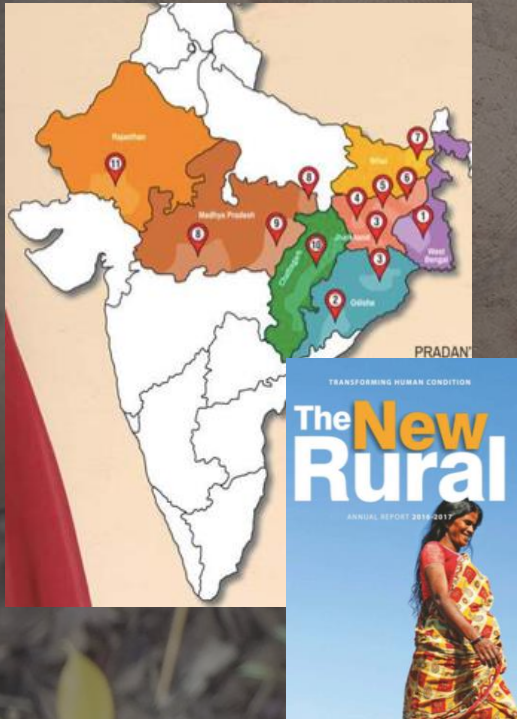
# Equity Concerns in Nutrition- Sensitive Agriculture Promotion: A Case from Central India

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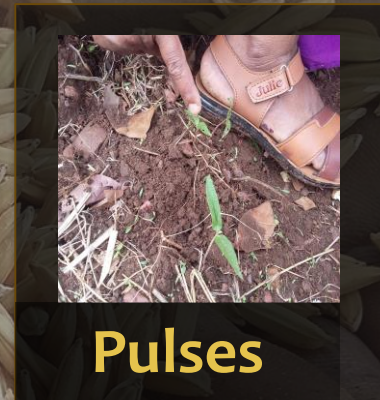
Agriculture, Nutrition, & Health Academy Week  
Hyderabad, India  
26 June 2019



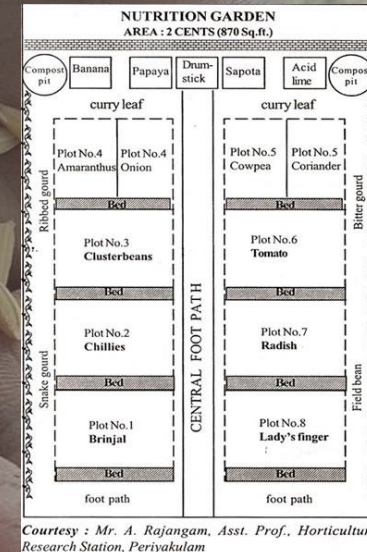
# Making agriculture “nutrition-sensitive”



**Millet**



**Pulses**



**Kitchen Garden**

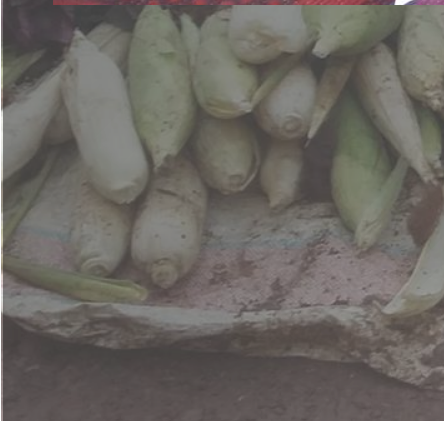
How does a particular nutrition-sensitive agriculture (NSA) program actually work, and how does it impact people’s decision-making processes on what food to eat, and what crops to grow?

# Data Collection, Ethnography

<b>Interviews (N=156)</b>	<b>Women farmers</b>	<b>Community nutrition workers</b>	<b>Development Professionals</b>	<b>Government workers</b>
Jharkhand (n=59)	44	7	5	3
Madhya Pradesh (n=60)	38	8	5	12
New Delhi (n=37)	0	0	37	0

<b>Participant observation (trainings and meetings)</b>	<b>Behavior change communication</b>	<b>Nutrition-sensitive agriculture</b>	<b>Gender Issues</b>	<b>Body Mass Index (BMI) Camps</b>
Jharkhand	10	8	4	3
Madhya Pradesh	12	6	3	9

# Nutrition-sensitive agriculture (NSA)



# Nutrition-Sensitive Agriculture and the Green Revolution

- Green revolution increased rice/wheat production
- Malnutrition, environment, inequality still problems<sup>1</sup>
- **Nutrition-sensitive agriculture:** rectify cereal-centric agriculture systems
- Less focused on equity than impact

# Rawlsian Equity Framework

Distributive: sharing of benefits/costs, who is targeted and is it based on efficiency or needs of most marginalized

Procedural: whether there is participation and representation in decision-making processes, including giving positive bias to most marginalized

Recognition: placing different values, beliefs, knowledge systems on equal footing

Karlsson, L., Naess, L. O., Nightingale, A., & Thompson, J. (2018). 'Triple wins' or 'triple faults'? Analysing the equity implications of policy discourses on climate-smart agriculture (CSA). *Journal of Peasant Studies*, 45(1), 1–25.

<http://doi.org/10.1080/03066150.2017.1351433>

# Main Findings)

Program could be more effective *by leading with a strong equity focus*

1. Main barrier to NSA is labor demands of paddy
2. Most marginalized have not benefitted from improved paddy
  1. Need recognitional equity to remedy low project participation



# Main barrier to NSA is paddy

- NSA seen as additive element to paddy-centric agriculture
- Millets
  - Land converted to paddy bunds: “50% of uplands converted”
  - No time: “everyone is weeding paddy, who will do the millets” (10/15/17)
  - Changing food preferences: “if I grow it nobody will eat it” (7/11/17, interview)
- Vegetable gardens
  - WATER , flooding and scarcity, time, open grazing (winter)



## Marginalized have not benefitted

- “I do not have the right land” (6/24/17, interview)
- “we don’t know the rules” (7/1/17, interview)
- “too much ego” (3/23/17, interview)
- “we are farmers, we like indigenous rice” (7/6/17, interview)

# Marginalized not actively engaged

A woman wearing a purple headscarf and a blue top is smiling and holding a large, shallow basket filled with grain. She is standing in what appears to be an outdoor or semi-outdoor setting. The background is dark and out of focus.

- Reliant on existing social relations to implement projects
- Pressure to meet quantitative targets
- “Triangle of participation”
- No time

# Imagining Equity-centered Nutrition sensitive agriculture



- Lead with an equity approach that starts from recognitional equity
  - Education, aspirations, language
- Acknowledges and honors those who are less entrepreneurial (cognitive justice<sup>1,2,3</sup> )
  - Engage their knowledge/aspirations with tools for improving diverse food system
- Recognitional equity → greater procedural and distributive equity

A woman wearing a purple headscarf and a blue short-sleeved shirt is shown from the chest up, looking down at a large, shallow, woven basket filled with grain. She is in the process of sorting or cleaning the grain. The background is slightly blurred, showing more of the grain and some indistinct shapes, suggesting an indoor setting like a grain mill or storage area.

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