

Bhutku Rice: Reviving Jharkhand's Indigenous Grain for Nutritional and Ecological Sustainability

Profile of Innovator

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Brief description of Innovation

Bhutku Rice, an indigenous aromatic paddy variety selected from 136 landraces for its **nutritional value**, **fluffy texture**, and **aromatic flavour**. Grown under natural farming conditions, Bhutku rice is now cultivated by over 1000 farmers through FPO 4S 4R in Ranchi's Mandar Block.

Innovation's Highlights

Bhutku Selected from 136 traditional rice varieties of Jharkhand state and registered with PPVF&RA (REG/2015/801). This variety is high in protein (8.7 g/100g), iron (10.24 mg/kg) and zinc (24.66 mg/kg) as estimated by ICAR NRRI, Cuttack, Odisha. As per performance of this variety at farmer's field and KVK farm, this was found very much suitable for natural/organic farming system. Scaled from individual to more than 1000 farmers in last five years; and supported by farmer producer organization (FPO).

Benefits/Advantages

Nutrient-rich and aromatic rice with high consumer demand; Suitable for organic/natural farming; Resilient to heavy rain, winds, and pests; Preserves indigenous agro-biodiversity; and provides premium market value and rural income generation. Highly preferred by consumer demand due to its



Situ Oraon in his Bhutku rice field



Packaging of Bhutku rice for selling

characteristic aroma and taste. This climate resilient variety has yield potential of 42 q/ha in 140-145 days' crop duration, suitable for organic/natural farming under rain-fed low land (Don 1). Selling price of paddy (Rs. 40/kg) it is highly remunerative (Rs. 45600/acre including income from grain and straw) with Benefit: Cost ratio of 2.24 (against 1.57 achieved in hybrid varieties).

Scope & Potential of Innovation for Wider Reach/Out Scaling

High potential for expansion across organic and heritage rice markets. It can be promoted through FPOs, organic retail chains, and GI-tag initiatives & suitable for promotion under government biodiversity and tribal development programs. Presently covered 14000-acre area by 5000 farmers. Seed demand increasing across the districts.

Scientific Validation required

Different parameters like aroma, nutrients, molecular analysis (DNA finger printing) have been estimated after multi-location field trial. The process of Geographical Indication is in process. Research work for yield improvement needs to be carried out. Validation of pest/disease tolerance, climate resilience and yield is needed.

Domain

Indigenous Crop Conservation / Organic Farming / Nutritional Crops. Huge scope of export. GI rice can be popularized by educating farmers to produce under natural farming in tribal areas.

