

Malnutrition Matters

FOOD TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS

JULY 2023 NEWSLETTER

New Projects: With SEWA in India, Fostering Women Empowerment and Clinton Development Initiative in Tanzania

MM and SEWA (Self-Employed Women's Association) in India, have taken a significant step towards empowering women and youth by signing an MOU (Memorandum of Understanding). MM, as part of Cohort 1 "Empowering Women and Youth" at the Food System Game Changers Lab, completed drafting a planning contract resulting in this project plan with SEWA India. This milestone laid the groundwork for the subsequent MOU, solidifying their shared vision.

This project sets the stage for sourcing local components to manufacture an Indian-made SoyaKit. This innovative product has the potential to reduce malnutrition for millions by providing a low-cost source of soy milk and other soy-based products. By sourcing materials locally, MM and SEWA aim to support local businesses and contribute to the economic growth of the region. Given SEWA's 1.8 million women members across India, the MOU has significant potential for scaling. By leveraging SEWA's strong presence and expertise in empowering women, the collaboration has the potential to transform the lives of countless individuals.



Students drinking soymilk from their lunch plates in Orissa



Children in Orissa drinking soymilk

MM is also hoping to implement a project in Tanzania funded by the Citi Foundation. In partnership with the Clinton Development Initiative, this project would empower 170 women entrepreneurs and benefit 10,000 rural consumers in Iringa, Tanzania.

AgDiv Project in Malawi Expands Impact with 2,000 Additional Soy Kits

The AgDiv Project in Malawi, dedicated to sustainable agriculture and empowering women entrepreneurs, has achieved a significant milestone with the deployment of 2,000 additional local soy kits. This brings the total number of soy kits distributed in Malawi to 4,982, amplifying the project's reach and impact.

With this expansion, the production level of the AgDiv Project has soared to over 670,000 liters of soy milk per month. To put this into perspective, it is equivalent to the nutritional value provided by 4 million eggs, but with less than 50% of the GHG emissions.

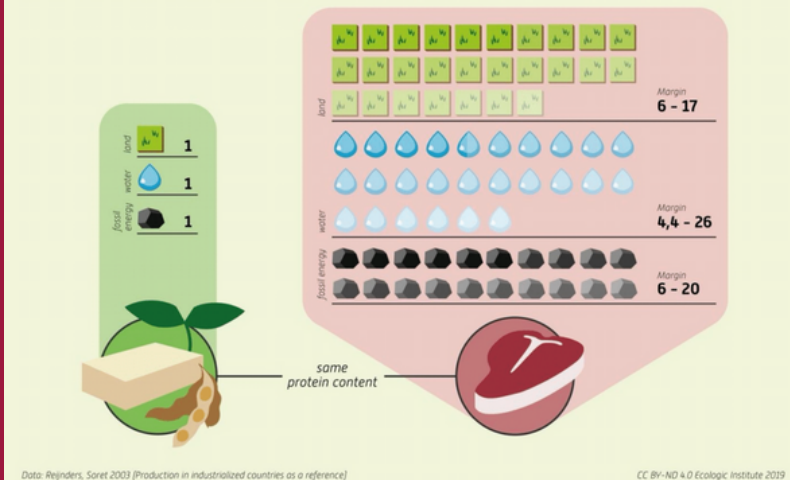


Ziona Charles, a rural woman entrepreneur, seen on the right, selling a cup of freshly-made soymilk to a customer in Malawi; Photo Credit MM

The impact of these soy kits extends beyond the women entrepreneurs themselves. Approximately 250,000 poor consumers now have access to affordable, high-protein food through the efforts of the USAID-funded AgDiv Project. This is a crucial step in addressing and improving food insecurity and nutrition of vulnerable populations.

MM's Food Tech Solutions Continue to Make Strides in Sustainability

Meat and soy products: Comparison of environmental effects
With the same protein content, much more land, water and fossil energy is consumed for the production of meat than for the production of soy-based vegetable products.



Infographic from "Climate Smart Approach"

For over two decades, MM has been at the forefront of deploying woman-empowering food tech solutions. One of MM's flagship initiatives is the Micro-enterprise-based approach, which enables hyper-local processing of soy foods with a financially self-sufficient model. This approach has yielded remarkable results, providing communities with affordable and sustainable protein-rich foods.

Compared to dairy milk production, these approaches use only 5% to 7% of the fossil fuel energy. This significantly reduces energy consumption and translates to substantially lower GHG emissions. In comparison, dairy milk or meat production can result in 15 or more times the GHG emissions required for the production of soy foods, even before accounting for the methane emissions from ruminants.

When considering MM's SoyaKit, this food technology solution incorporates a heat-retention cooking bag which reduces the fuel required for cooking by 50%, resulting in even lower GHG emissions. MM's commitment to sustainability is a huge priority and evident in our efforts to minimize the environmental impacts of our food technology solutions.

MM's Recent Articles and Recognition

We are excited to share some recent news and recognition of MM's impactful initiatives in the realm of economic and sustainable food solutions helping to empower women and youth. Here are some recent articles and publications highlighting MM's work:



Promise Silesi grinding soaked soybeans in Chiuzila, Malawi; Photo Credit Palladium

1. **“Reducing Chronic Malnutrition through Women Empowerment”**: This article explores how MM plays a crucial role in reducing chronic malnutrition through the highly-scaled, sustainable, and affordable SoyaKit and more. [Click here to view article](#)
2. **“The Economics of the Soy Kit as an Appropriate Household Technology for Food Entrepreneurs”**: This article dives deeper into the economic aspects of MM's Soy Kits. [Click here to view article](#)
3. **“SoyCow, VitaGoat, and SoyaKit: Small-Size Milk Processing Systems to Reduce Malnutrition and Generate Income”**: This FSRD Case Study shows the impacts and processes behind the different milk processing systems MM has to offer. [Click here to view article](#)
4. **“Soy Milk Solutions to Hunger”**: Discover how MM is making a difference in high-need areas worldwide with our innovative soy processing systems. [Click here to view article](#)

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