

**Project Title: Value chain linkage for Neem fruits and seeds (2018 – 2024)**

**Funding Agency: Tribal Co-Operative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Govt. of India**

PI: Dr. Neha Sharma & Co-PI: Dr. Ashish M. Mohite

### **Summary of the project:**

The objective of the project was to develop a combined mechanism for decortication of Neem seeds under different stages of maturation of seeds and cost-effective oil expulsion using cold-press technology. The conditions were standardized for washing, depulping, decortication, drying, oil extraction with respect to end usage. The aforesaid objective was achieved by designing and fabricating of a cost-effective composite machine mechanism consisting of seed depulper, dryer, decorticator and oil expeller. By-products resulted during processing, pulp was being used in development of value-added products like chocolates and beverages. The process technology is available for the value added novel products. The project has been linked with Pradhan Mantri Van DhanVikas Yojana for the state of Maharashtra (Yavatmal District).

**Extension Work:** A two day training-cum-workshop on the developed composite machine and new products has been conducted for tribals and farmers from the states of Gujarat, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh in collaboration with TRIFED, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, GoI

