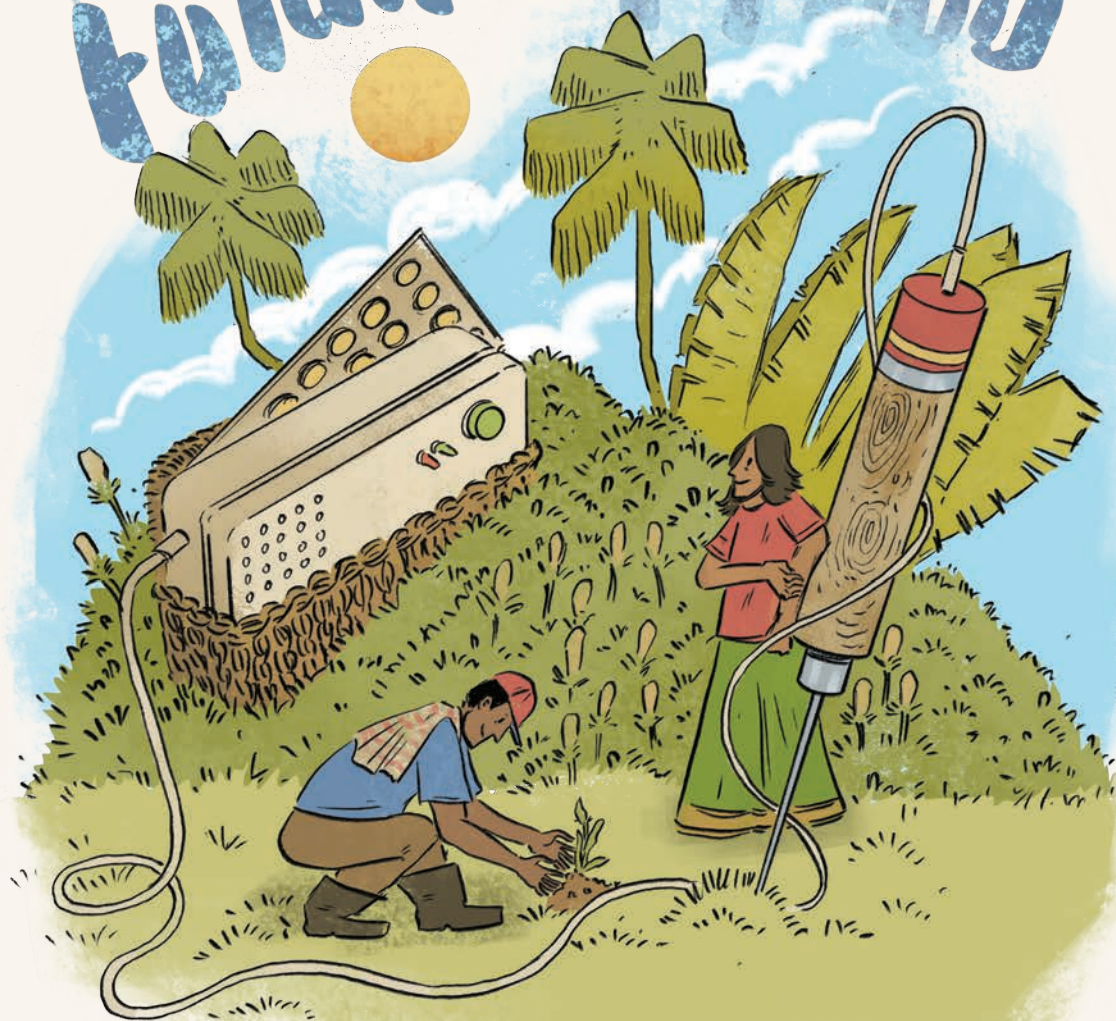


Future of Food



Decentralising Digital, or DeDi, was a two year long collaboration between the University of Dundee and the Indian design research agency Quicksand. Our aim was to co-create new stories that explore how powerful developments in emerging technologies such as the Internet of Things, the voice enabled Internet, machine learning and artificial intelligence might be harnessed to support rural communities in India.

This story is set in 2035, with consumers who are connected intimately to robust, small, sustainable farms of their “family farmers”. It traces the various steps that were taken over time to build healthier farming ecosystems, nutritious local food, prosperity for small organic farmers, and how localised technology innovations enabled farmers to drive this change.

Year 2035, Vishala is showing consumers around a farm



How good the food has been lately!

We have not just averted a national nutrition emergency, but also brought back diversity, quality and nutrition of food to how it used to be long ago...



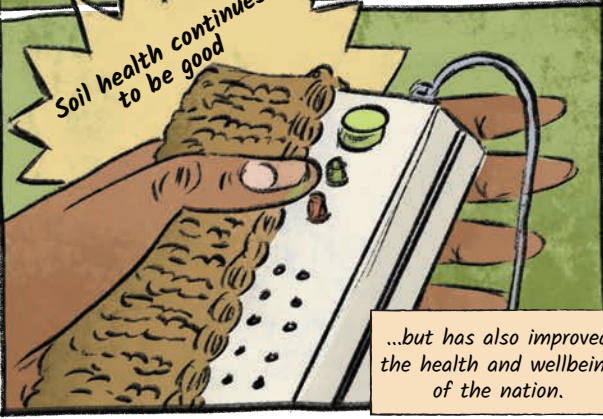
...We have good, tasty food that is locally produced and that is nationally trusted...



...This new revolution in farming has not only improved the life of rural farmers everywhere...



Soil health continues to be good



...but has also improved the health and wellbeing of the nation.

In the distant past of our ancestors...



...food was locally produced and had high nutrition, but this changed over time...

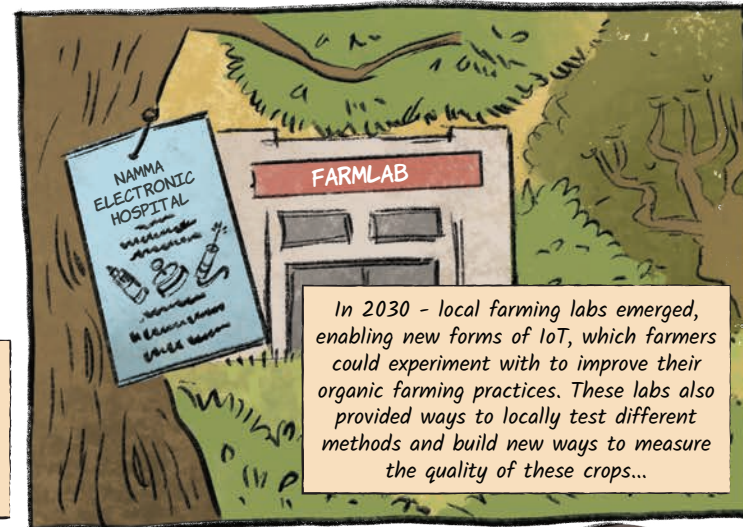
...A succession of governments fostered a highly industrialised approach to farming that came close to wiping out nutritional and diverse foods from India for good



But from 2025, new decentralised digital devices began to be built in villages...



...helping people to better understand the food they were growing, buying, and eating...such as scales that weighed up not just the economic value of the produce but also its social, nutritional, environmental and cultural value.



In 2030 - local farming labs emerged, enabling new forms of IoT, which farmers could experiment with to improve their organic farming practices. These labs also provided ways to locally test different methods and build new ways to measure the quality of these crops...

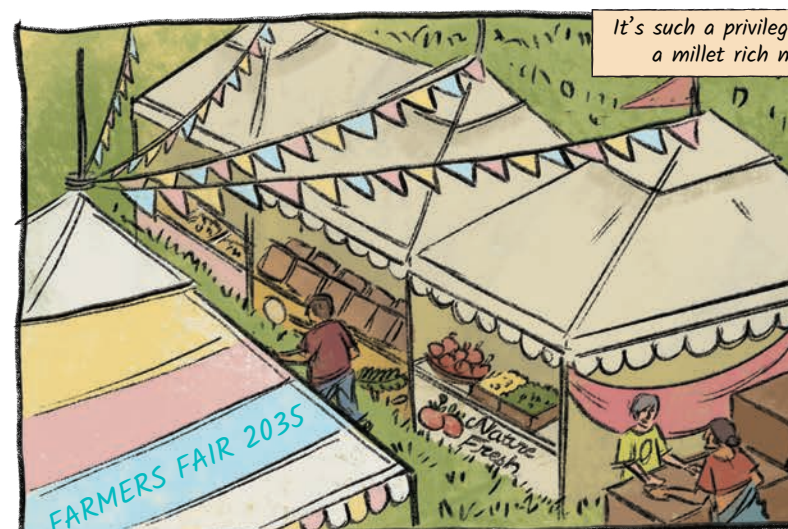


Packaging in shops with stories about the food - where it is grown and who grew it, environmental conditions, biodiversity indicators. More than just a certification stamp!

...By 2035, national certification schemes finally gave up their centralized mechanisms. The labs are now much more effective in gaining people's trust and delivering better food quality attuned to local needs and tastes...



Let us get some food, shall we?



It's such a privilege to have a millet rich meal...



...considering that back in 2021, we had lost most of our local millet varieties



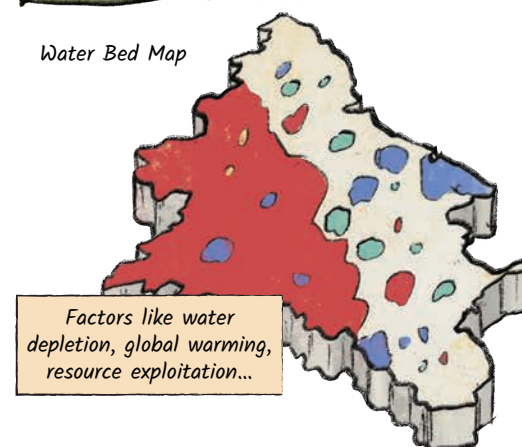
Farmers had to struggle a lot to bring back all these millet variants...



...Crop standardization made farming vulnerable to climate change

Indigenous millets and other heritage seeds

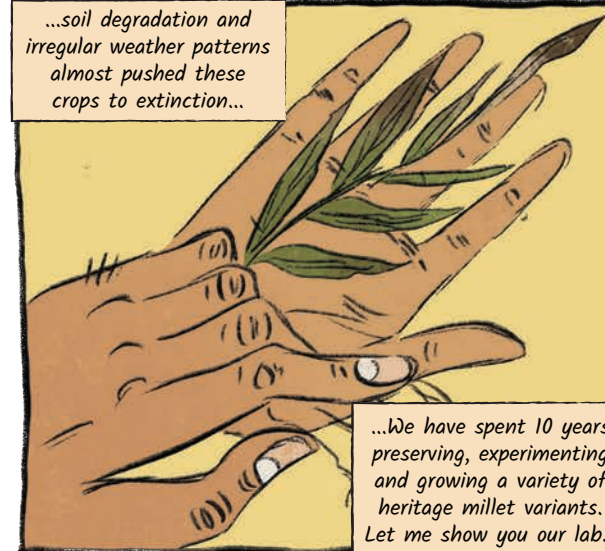
Water Bed Map



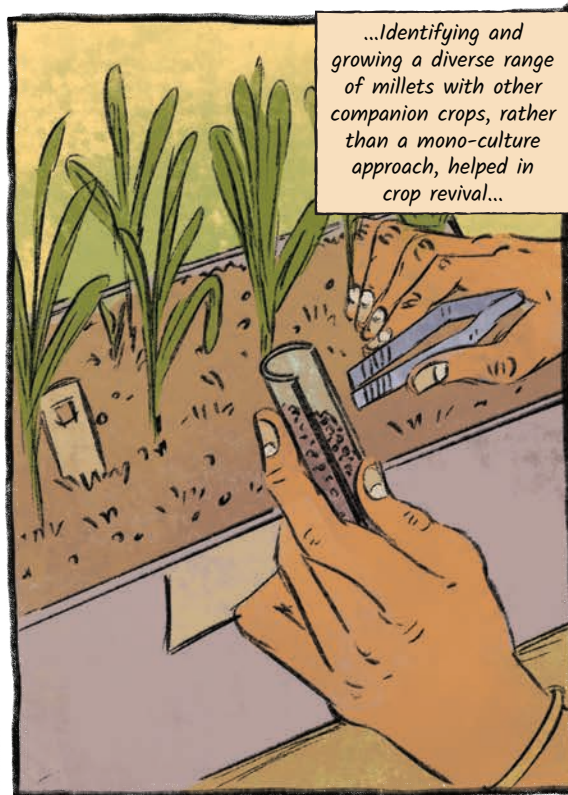
Factors like water depletion, global warming, resource exploitation...

Over Exploited Saline Semi-Critical Critical Safe

...soil degradation and irregular weather patterns almost pushed these crops to extinction...



...We have spent 10 years preserving, experimenting and growing a variety of heritage millet variants. Let me show you our lab...



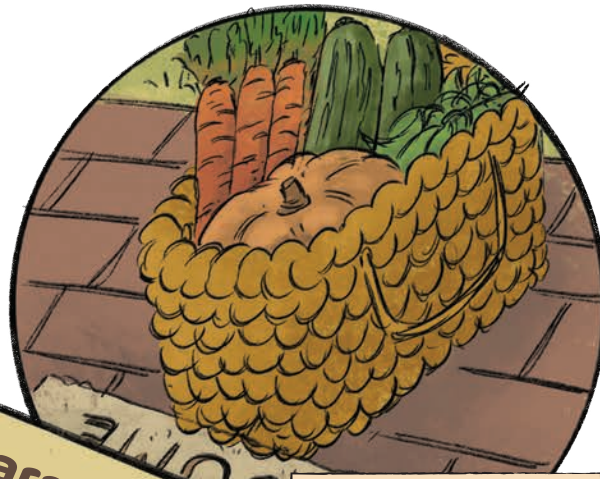
...like seed preservation and sharing



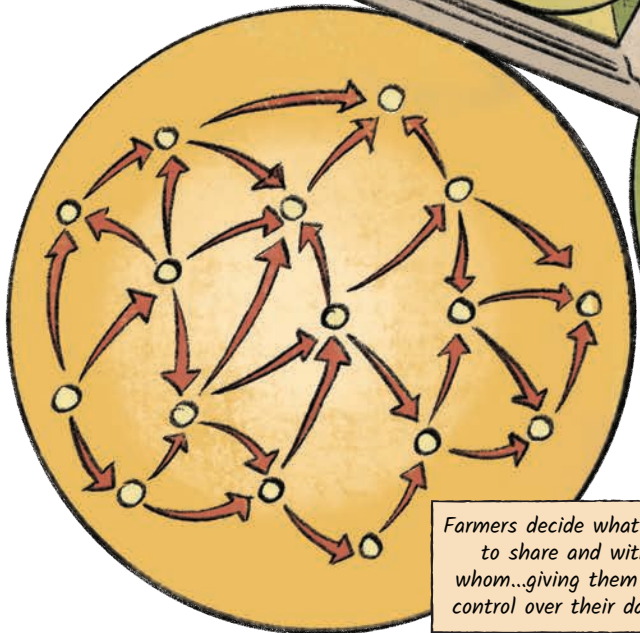
...and much more.



From our learnings, we published the "Future Farming Toolkit", and provided mail order kits for the farmers...



Farm boxes of local produce from "family farmers" are now delivered to homes...



Farmers decide what data to share and with whom...giving them full control over their data...



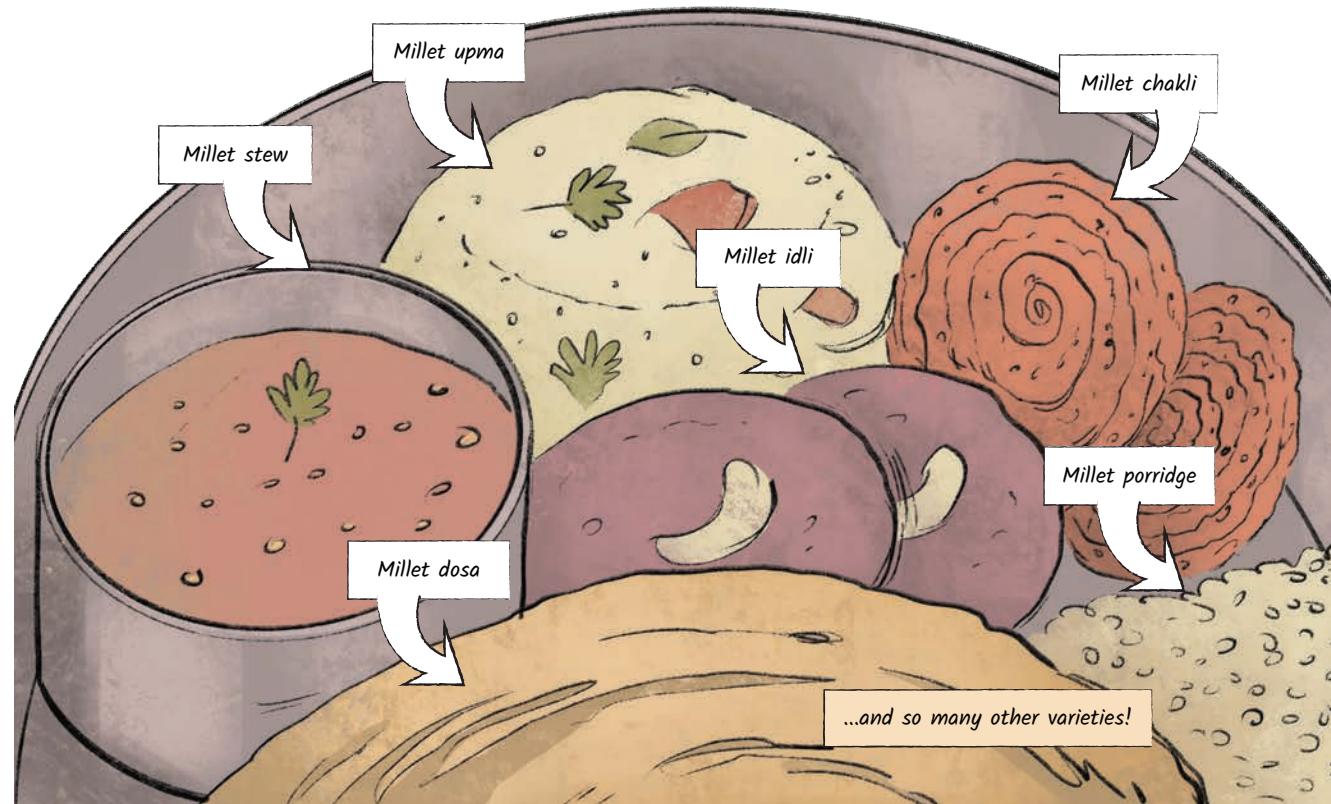
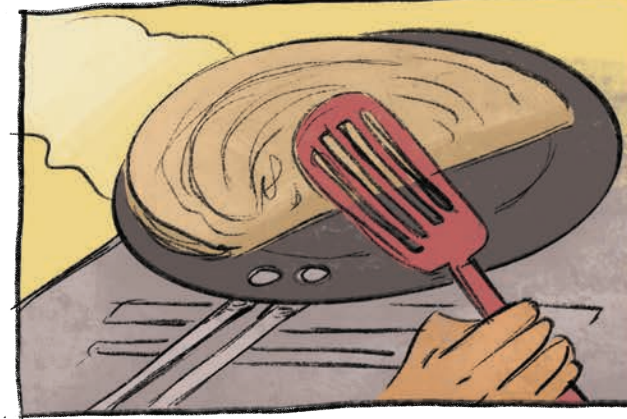
Use of natural fertilisers to avoid pest resistance and other chemical side effects...



We hope that our learnings can inform future crop restoration and food security...



...Losing culturally and ecologically rich crops like millets would have cost us dearly, including the loss of our diverse food history



...and so many other varieties!



Future of Food

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buffalobackcollective.com
pgsorganic.in

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decentralisingdigital.com

