



## India is Celebrating International Year of Millet 2023

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### INTRODUCTION

The government of India is celebrating the International Year of Millets - 2023 will provide an opportunity to increase global production, efficient processing and better use of crop rotation and promote millets as a major component of the food basket. The United Nations has declared the year 2023 as the international year of millets. Millets provide an alternative food system in times of increasing demand for vegetarian foods. Millets contribute to a balanced diet as well as a safe environment. These are the gifts of nature to mankind.

The government of India's aim is to increase the domestic and global consumption of Millets. The time has come for the Public Distribution System to shift the focus of distribution programs from basic calories to provide a more diverse food basket that includes millets to improve the nutritional status of pre-school children and women of reproductive age.

Considering the nutritional value of millets, the Government of India had decided to notified millet as a nutritious -cereal in April-2018 and millet has also been included under the Poshan Mission campaign for the mid-day children like that primary and middle school. The Govt. of India, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer Welfare is implementing National Food Security Mission; nutritious cereal component for Millets is being implemented in various states in the country. Apart from this, many types of assistance is given to the farmers by the states. It is supporting sustainable production, creating awareness for higher consumption, developing market and value chain and research-development activities.

To creating the employment of India has more than 500 startups in the millet value-added chain, while Indian Institute of Millets Research has incubated 250 startups under RKVY-Raftar which is continue face by the government. The Govt. of India, NITI Aayog and the World Food Program intend to identify and solve the challenges in a systematic and effective manner. “The partnership will focus on mainstreaming millets and support India in taking the lead globally in knowledge exchange using the opportunities in the form of the International Year of Millets.

The Millets have increasing relevance in the world today in the backdrop of COVID, climate change, and conflicts. Millets are important for food security as well as international relations. The climate changes can lower production and disrupt trade in international relations, much greater attention ought to be given to food security. To generate the income of small and marginal farmers and millet can be one of the best options for the same. It is climate friendly crop millet can be grown with less water consumption, less carbon emission and even in drought.

#### **Properties of Millets:**

Millet is a storehouse of micronutrients, vitamins and minerals. International Year of Millets will raise awareness about the contribution of millets for Food Security and Nutrition, motivate stakeholders for continuous production and quality improvement of millets and attract attention to increase investment in research and development services.

#### **World Production scenario and India**

Asia and Africa are the major production and consumption centres of millet crops. India, Niger, Sudan and Nigeria are the major producer of millet. Jowar and Proso Millets (Common Millet) are the most cultivated millets in the 112 and 35 countries respectively. Sorghum and pearl millets covers

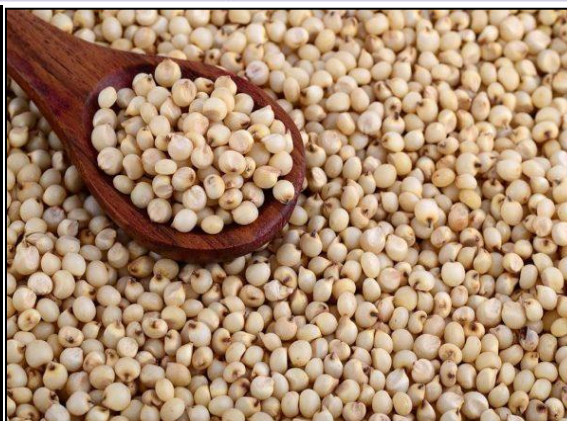
more than 90% area and production. Remaining production comes from Ragi (Finger Millets), Cheena (Proso Millets), Foxtail Millets (Kangni) and other non-segregated millets. India is the major production country of Millet in which Kangni, Kutki or small millet, Kodon, Gangora or Barnyard, china and Brown top are included with Jowar, Bajra, Ragi and small millets. Most of the states in India grow one or more millet crop species. During the last 5 years, our country produced more than 13.71 to 18 million tonnes of millets with the highest production in 2020-21.

As per the fourth advance estimates for the year 2021-22, about 16 million tonnes millets have been produced in India, which is about 5 percent of the national food grain basket. It has the highest market share of 9.62 million tonnes, followed by jowar with a production of 4.23 million tonnes. Ragi is another important millet, which contributes to the production of 1.70 million tonnes and the production of other millets is 0.37 million tonnes.

#### **Details of the notified of eight millets crop**

The millets commonly grown in India include Jowar (sorghum), Bajra (pearl millet), ragi (finger millet), Jhangora (barnyard millet), Barri (Proso or common millet), Kangni (foxtail/ Italian millet), Kodra (Kodo millet) Barnyard Millet is a high source of iron and fibre. It is known as Kuthiravali in Tamil, Oodhalu in Kannada, Odalu in Telugu, Kavadapullu in Malayalam and Sanwa in Hindi.

Jowar (*Sorghum bicolor*) is grown in different agro climatic conditions in the State. The crop is raised both in rainy and post rainy seasons depending on soil, rainfall and other climatic factors of the region. The crop is mainly grown in red, chalka soils during *kharif* and in medium to deep black soils during *maghi* and *rabi* seasons.



India is largest producer of Bajra (*Pennisetum glaucum*). Along with human consumption, it is used for fodder purpose, its stalk are used to feed animals. Major Pearl millet growing areas

in India are Punjab, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Gujarat, UP, Haryana, MP, Karnataka, AP and Tamil Nadu.



Finger Millet (*Eleusine coracana*) is a staple that is a very good substitute for oats and cereals. It is known as Ragi in Kannada,

Ragulu in Telugu, Kelvaragu in Tamil, Koovarugu in Malayalam and Mundua in Hindi.



Foxtail Millet (*Setaria italica*) is rich in minerals and vitamins. It is known as Thinai in

Tamil, Kirra in Telugu, Thinna in Malayalam, Navane in Kannada and Kangni in Hindi.



Little Millet (*Panicum sumatrense*) is also loaded with iron and fibre, the regional names are Chama in Malayalam, Same in Kannada,

Samai in Tamil, Sama in Telugu and Kutki in Hindi.



Proso Millet (*Panicum miliaceum*) is known as Barri in Hindi, Panivaragu in Tamil &

Malayalam, in Kannada it is called Baragu and Varigalu in Telugu

