

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 198
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21/07/2023

PRODUCTION AND PROMOTION OF MILLETS (SHREE ANNA)

198 # SHRI DEEPAK PRAKASH:

Will the Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare be pleased to state:

- (a) the status of production of millets (Shree Anna) in India;
- (b) the objective behind the continuous promotion of production of millets by Government;
- (c) the manner in which Shree Anna is beneficial to health; and
- (d) the objectives of research on 'super food' being conducted by the Central Technology Research Institute?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a): The all India production of millets (Shree Anna) during 2022-23 was 171.49 lakh tonnes comprising of 39.90 lakh tonnes of Jowar, 111.66 lakh tonnes of Bajra, 15.97 lakh tonnes of Ragi and 3.97 lakh tonnes of small millets (as per 3rd Advance Estimates).

(b) & (c): Millets (Shree Anna) are traditionally grown in rainfed areas of the country and are farmer friendly crops, need minimal agricultural inputs, require less water, are drought tolerant, photo-insensitive, resilient to climate change and can withstand diverse agro climatic conditions compared to the major cereals. Millets are rich in nutrients, dietary fiber and carbohydrates in millets are complex in nature with good amount of non-starch polysaccharides. Millets also have phytochemicals like polyphenols, phytates, carotenoids, tocopherols etc., which are termed as 'nutraceuticals'. Thus, millets are best suited grains for population with lifestyle disorders such as diabetes etc. Because of the presence of these nutraceutical components, millets exhibit excellent antioxidant and antimicrobial properties.

The United Nation's General Assembly (UNGA) had declared 2023 as International Year of Millets. Government of India has decided to celebrate IYM-2023 and to make it peoples' movement so that the Indian millets, recipes, value added products are accepted globally. The objective behind continuous promotion of millets is to create domestic & global demand and to encourage cultivation of climate resilient crops across the country, enhance production, consumption, export etc., due to their unique properties.

(d): The Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR)-Central Food Technological Research Institute (CFTRI), Mysore has been carrying out research work on millets, covering both basic and applied research since 1950. The institute is carrying out extensive research work on millets under different verticals such as establishing the health benefits, processing of millets for value addition, developing different products and technologies on millets including machinery development. CSIR-CFTRI has published more than 250 research papers, developed 53 technologies, 16 patents and 19 Ph. D. thesis exclusively on millets. The research work of CSIR-CFTRI include nutritional profiling of millets, promotion of region-specific millet products, shelf-life enhancement of the millets' products, global awareness of health and nutritional attributes of millets etc.
