

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 963
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28/07/2023

ENCOURAGING CONSUMPTION OF MILLETS

963. SMT. GEETA ALIAS CHANDRAPRABHA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- a) whether any scheme has been drawn to encourage the consumption of millets in the country;
- b) if so, grains included in the category of millets;
- c) whether any programmes are being implemented to make people aware of the benefits of millets; and
- d) whether any programmes are being implemented by the Government to encourage the consumption of millets among the employees and officers working in Government offices and other Government institutions, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) to (d) The Government of India is implementing a multistakeholder approach towards celebration of International Year of Millets (IYM) -2023. The action plan of IYM-2023 focuses on strategies to enhance production and productivity, consumption, export, strengthening value chain, branding, creating awareness for health benefits etc. Further, a year long action plan for monthly activity has been prepared by Central Ministries, State Governments and Indian Embassies to create awareness about millets for increasing production and demand. In addition, states such as Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh are implementing State Millet Missions to increase production and consumption. To make India a global hub for 'Shree Anna', the Indian Institute of Millets Research (IIMR), Hyderabad has been declared as the Centre of Excellence for sharing best practices, research and technologies at the International level.

Common type of millets grown in India include pearl millet (Bajra), sorghum (Jowar), finger millet (Ragi), and small millets such as foxtail millet, barnyard millet, kodo millet, proso millet, little millet, and two pseudo millets such as Buckwheat and Amaranthus.

In order to increase production and productivity of millets (Shree Anna), the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (DA&FW) is implementing a Sub-Mission on Nutri-Cereals (Millets) under National Food Security Mission (NFSM) in all districts of 28 States & 2 Union Territories viz. Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. Under NFSM–Nutri Cereals, the incentives are provided to the farmers, through the States/UTs, on crop production and protection technologies, cropping system based demonstrations, production & distribution of certified seeds of newly released varieties/hybrids, Integrated Nutrient and Pest Management techniques, improved farm implements/tools/resource conservation machineries, water saving devices, capacity building of farmers through trainings during cropping season, organizing events/workshops, distribution of seed minikits, publicity through print and electronic media etc. The interventions such as formation of Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) for Nutri Cereals, setting up Centers of Excellence (CoE) and seed hubs for Nutri Cereals have also been supported under NFSM.

In order to encourage consumption of millets among Government employees/officers all Government offices have been advised to include millet snacks in all departmental trainings/meetings and millet based food items in departmental canteens. This Department has also installed vending machines for millet products through National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED) to various Ministries/Departments. A millet experience centre has also been opened in Dilli Haat by this Department and being operated by NAFED showcasing millet cuisine.
