

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2247
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 19/12/2025

PROMOTION OF FOOD GRAINS

2247. SHRI RAMESWAR TELI:
SHRI MADAN RATHORE:

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

- (a) whether Government is taking steps to promote food grains in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government is encouraging production of quality seed for millet;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the details of research and extension activities undertaken by Government in the last three years for promotion of food grains in the country?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
(SHRI RAMNATH THAKUR)

(a) & (b): The Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare is implementing the National Food Security & Nutrition Mission (NFSNM) in the country with the objective to increase production of foodgrains such as Rice, Wheat, Coarse Cereals (Maize & Barley) and Nutri-Cereals (Shree Anna) through area expansion and productivity enhancement.

Under NFSNM, assistance is being provided to the farmers, through the States/UTs, for demonstration on crop production & protection technologies, for distribution of certified seeds, for production of certified seeds (nutri-cereals), for Integrated Nutrient and Pest Management measures, for capacity building of farmers through cropping system-based trainings etc.; and seed minikits of newly released varieties/hybrids (nutri-cereals), are also distributed through the states by agencies. The mission also provides support to Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) & State Agricultural Universities (SAUs)/Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) for technology back stopping and transfer of technology to the farmer under supervision of Subject Matter Specialists/Scientists.

In addition, the Government of India also assists States for interventions under the Detailed Project Report (DPR) component of the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (PM RKVY) according to their own needs and priorities.

(c) to (e): The DA&FW advises the States and seed producing agencies from time to time to place the breeder seeds indents of newly released High Yielding Varieties (HYVs) of different crops including millets for further multiplication into foundation and certified seeds, so as to make

available required seeds of these crops varieties to the farmers in the Country. A total of 2588 Qtl. of Breeder seeds of various millets have been produced during last 3 year (2022-25) against the indent of 1290 quintals for further seed multiplication, as reported by ICAR.

Further, as reported by the States, sufficient certified/quality seeds of millets were available in the country during last two and current year. The details of millets seeds are as under:

| Qty. of Seeds (in lakh quintals) | | | |
|----------------------------------|---------|-------------|--------------|
| S.No. | Year | Requirement | Availability |
| 1. | 2023-24 | 5.22 | 6.20 |
| 2. | 2024-25 | 5.55 | 6.64 |
| 3. | 2025-26 | 5.24 | 6.65 |

Under the National Food Security and Nutrition Mission (NFSNM), the financial assistance is available/ provided for different seed related activities viz., for purchase of breeder seeds, distribution (50% seed cost) and seed production incentives @₹1000 per Qtl. for various crops (including millets) under the component Boosting Seed Production of Traditional varieties (including millets), so that sufficient seeds could be made available to farmers.

During 2014-2025, a total of 2065 high yielding climate resilient varieties of various food grain crop varieties have been released and notified. In recent years, 110 Millets varieties have been released by Central Varietal Release Committee (CVRC) comprising 34 of Sorghum, 24 of Pearl Millet; 10 of Little Millet, 6 of Proso Millet, 5 of Barnyard Millet, 4 of Kodo Millet, 8 of Foxtail Millet, 17 of Finger Millet and 2 of Brown Top Millet for cultivation in different agro-ecologies of country. Various production and protection technologies have been developed to address the challenges of various biotic and abiotic stresses. These include development of high yielding climate resilient varieties, cost effective and efficient pre & post-harvest technologies, etc. A total of 40 millet varieties comprising 9 of Sorghum, 13 of Pearl Millet, 3 of Little Millet, 5 of Kodo Millet, 1 of Barnyard Millet, 1 of Foxtail Millet and 8 of Finger Millet have been developed and released during 2014-25 for cultivation on farmer's field under drought/moisture stress tolerant/water stress/ low rainfall areas. In addition to developing high yielding climate resilient varieties of millets, the ICAR-Indian Institute of Millets Research (IIMR), Hyderabad is extending support as a knowledge partner with various State Millet Mission/Agriculture departments intended to increase public awareness on the health benefits of millets and their suitability for cultivation under tough conditions marked by climate change.

In order to develop awareness about agricultural innovations and technologies among the farmers, a large number of extension activities are taken up by the KVKs. The technologies are transferred to the farmers in several ways: mainly through organizing Frontline Demonstrations (FLDs), field/site visits, Kisan Melas, Farmers days, Seed days, training programmes, etc.
