

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1482
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 12TH DECEMBER, 2023

INCREASING THE DEMAND FOR MILLETS

1482. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH ALIAS LALAN SINGH:
SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV:
SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is taking any steps to increase the demand for millets across the world based on its health benefits;
- (b) whether our country is leading in the production of millets in the world; and
- (c) if so, the details of the steps being taken by the Government to increase the production of millets?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI ARJUN MUNDA)

(a) to (c): The United Nation's General Assembly (UNGA) declared 2023 as International Year of Millets (IYM). The Government of India is implementing a multi stakeholder 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. Millets were promoted during G20 presidency in India, Millet Culinary carnival, International Trade Events, Chef's Conference, exhibition of Farmers Producer Organizations (FPOs), road shows, kisan melas, Chef's training for paramilitary forces, ASEAN India Millet Festival at Indonesia etc.

Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) has approved the Production Linked Incentive Scheme for Food Processing Industry for Millet-based products (PLISMBP) for implementation during 2022-23 to 2026-27 with an outlay of Rs. 800

crores. An Export Promotion Forum dedicated to promotion of millets in the international market has been set up to facilitate promotion, marketing and development of millets exports from India. Under the Eat Right campaign, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) is creating awareness to promote the use of millets as part of a healthy and varied diet.

Millets are also included under the Poshan Abhiyan of the Ministry of Women and Child Development. Further, the Ministry of Food and Public Distribution has revised its guidelines to increase the procurement of millets under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) and Mid-Day Meal. The ICAR-Indian Institute of Millets Research (IIMR), Hyderabad has developed value-added technologies which include “Ready to Eat” and “Ready to Cook” for millet foods, branding of millet foods under “Eatrite” tag, organized awareness programmes, agri-business incubator, technology business incubators etc.

As per Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) statistic 2021, India is the leading millets producer in the world. In order to increase the production of 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. The Government of India also provides flexibility to the states for state specific needs/priorities under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY). The states can promote Millets (Shree Anna) under RKVY with approval of State Level Sanctioning Committee (SLSC) headed by Chief Secretary of the State.

In addition, states such as Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh have initiated Millet Missions in the States to promote millets. To make India a global hub for 'Shree Anna', the Indian Institute of Millets Research (IIMR), Hyderabad has been declared as the Global Centre of Excellence for sharing best practices, research and technologies at the national and international level.

To strengthen the research collaboration and public awareness of millets globally, a new initiative viz., “Millets and OtHer Ancient GRains International ReSearch Initiative (MAHARISHI) has been adopted during the G20 Presidency.
