

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

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2691**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 2<sup>nd</sup> AUGUST, 2022

**PROMOTION OF MILLET PRODUCTION**

2691. SHRI ACHYUTANANDA SAMANTA:

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

- (a) the steps taken to promote millet production considering that millet is more nutritious than wheat and rice and needs very little water for production;
- (b) whether the Government has taken any steps to link small and marginal millet farmers to online marketing platforms such as the Electronic Agricultural National Market (eNAM), if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has taken steps to modify the current processing machines through research and development considering that most types of millets have tough seed coats and need more processing; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) & (b) The millets are climate resilient, healthy and nutritious crops/products. In order to promote millet production, the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (DA&FW) is implementing a Sub-Mission on Nutri-Cereals (Millets) under National Food Security Mission (NFSM) from 2018-19. Under NFSM–Nutri Cereals, 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.

To create domestic & global demand of millets, Government of India had proposed to the United Nations for declaring the year 2023 as International Year of Millets (IYoM). The Resolution of India was supported by 72 countries and United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted the resolution and declared 2023 as International Year of Millets in March, 2021. The Government of India has already planned activities for celebrations of IYoM-2023. The action plan of IYoM-2023 focuses on strategies to enhance production, consumption, export, strengthening value chain & branding, creating awareness for health benefits etc.

All categories of farmers including small and marginal are free to register on e-NAM Portal and sell their produce through online transparent and competitive bidding method, which is encouraging them to join increasingly on e-NAM platform. Also Agricultural Produce & Livestock Market Committees (APMCs) help farmers in registering as sellers in e-NAM.

(c) & (d) Various institutes like Indian Council of Agricultural Research-Indian Institute of Millets Research (ICAR-IIMR), Council of Scientific and Industrial Research - Central Food Technological Research Institute (CSIR-CFTRI), National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship and Management (NIFTEM), ICAR-Central Institute of Post Harvest Engineering & Technology (CIPHET), ICAR - Central Institute of Agricultural Engineering (CIAE) etc. are strengthening the processing capacity alongside improving the processing efficiency by designing and retrofitting machinery. ICAR-IIMR in collaboration with NIFTEM is working on technological backstopping of micro-processing units under the scheme Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro food processing Enterprises (PMFME) by Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI).

Further, ICAR-CIAE has developed and commercialized the machineries for millet processing viz; Millet Thresher cum Dehusker, Improved Millet Mill, Millet Flaking Machine, Millet Popping Machine etc.

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