

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1543

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 12th DECEMBER, 2023

PROMOTING THE PRODUCTION OF MILLETS

1543. SHRI VELUSAMY P.:

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

- (a) the status of production of Millets (Shree Anna) in the country;
- (b) the objective behind the continuous promotion of production of Millets by the 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

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI ARJUN MUNDA)

(a): As per the latest data available for an complete agricultural year (July-June) including kharif, rabi and summer season, the all-India production of millets (Shree Anna) during 2022- 23 was 173.20 lakh tonnes comprising of 38.14 lakh tonnes of Jowar, 114.31 lakh tonnes of Bajra, 16.91 lakh tonnes of Ragi and 3.84 lakh tonnes of small millets. The details of millets production during 2021-22 and 2022-23 is as under:

S.No.	Nutri-Cereals (Shree Anna)	Production (in Lakh Tonnes)	
		2021-22	2022-23
1	Bajra	97.81	114.31
2	Jowar	41.51	38.14
3	Ragi	17.01	16.91
4	Small Millets	3.67	3.84
	Total	160.00	173.20

(b) & (c): To create domestic and global demand and to provide nutritional food to the people, Government of India had proposed to United Nations for declaring 2023 as International Year of Millets (IYM). The proposal of India was supported by 72 countries and United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) declared 2023 as International Year of Millets during March, 2021. The Government of India has taken a proactive multi-stakeholder engagement approach (engaging various central government Ministries/Departments, States/UTs, farmers, start-ups, exporters, retail businesses, hotels, Indian Embassies etc.) to achieve the objectives of IYM 2023 and taking Indian millets globally.

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. The Government of India is celebrating the year 2023 as 'International Year of Millets' to make it peoples' movement so that the Indian millets, recipes, value added products be promoted globally. 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.

A key event organized towards International Year of Millets was the Global Millets (Shree Anna) Conference, held from 18th – 19th March 2023 at IARI Pusa campus, New Delhi which was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister. 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.

The Indian Institute of Millet Research (IIMR), Hyderabad is also providing training to the farmers, women farmers, home makers, students and young entrepreneurs on manufacturing of value-added millet food products, daily recipes etc., and supporting them to establish self-enterprise. The institute has also developed value-added technologies 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.

During 2014 to 2023, a total of 229 Millets varieties comprising 67 of Sorghum, 68 of Pearl millet; 19 of Little millet; 7 of Proso millet; 11 of Kodo millet; 40 of Finger millet; 10 of Foxtail millet, 1 of Brown top millet and 6 of Barnyard millet have been released by Central Variety Release Committee (CVRC) for cultivation in different agro-ecologies of country.

The new Regional Research Centre for Bajra at Gudamalani, near Barmer, Rajasthan has been inaugurated on 27th September, 2023. 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.

Millets are considered to be the next super foods or Nutri-cereals as they are gluten free, non- allergenic and good sources of proteins, carbohydrates, dietary fibre and essential amino acids. Most of the millets are non-acid forming, non-glutinous, highly nutritious, and easily digestible foods. Millets are rich sources of minerals like calcium, iron, zinc, phosphorus, magnesium, and potassium. It also contains appreciable amounts of dietary fibre and vitamins such as folic acid, vitamin B6, β - Carotene, and niacin. Therefore, regular consumption of millets can help to overcome malnutrition

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. 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.

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. In continuation to the efforts towards mainstreaming millets, a 'Millets Experience Centre (MEC)' has been opened at Dilli Haat, INA, New Delhi with an aim to raise awareness on Millets and encourage its adoption among general public.

To encourage consumption of Shree Anna among government employees, all Government offices have been advised to include Shree Anna snacks in departmental trainings/meetings and Shree Anna based food items in departmental canteens.

In order to increase the production & 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 Nutri-Cereals (millets) such as Sorghum (Jowar), Pearl Millet (Bajra), Finger Millet (Ragi/Mandua), Minor Millets i.e., Foxtail Millet (Kangani/Kakun), Proso Millet (Cheena), Kodo Millet (Kodo), Barnyard Millet (Sawa/Sanwa/ Jhangora), Little Millet (Kutki) and two Pseudo Millets Buck-wheat (Kuttu) and Amaranthus (Chaulai) are covered under NFSM programme.

The Government of India also provides flexibility to the states for state specific needs/priorities under Rashtirya 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.

(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.
