

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

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 68
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08/12/2023

INITIATIVE FOR PROMOTION OF FOOD PRODUCTS FROM MILLETS

*68. SMT. KANTA KARDAM:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware of the fact that there is no need to invest much in millet cultivation as it is cultivated at a very low cost; and
- (b) if so, the details of the initiatives proposed by Government to promote food products produced from millets so that global diseases could be controlled?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) & (b): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) & (b) OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 68 DUE FOR REPLY ON 08/12/2023 REGARDING “INITIATIVE FOR PROMOTION OF FOOD PRODUCTS FROM MILLETS”.

(a) & (b): Millets (Shree Anna) are drought tolerant, photo-insensitive and climate resilient crops and are traditionally grown in rainfed areas of the country. These crops require less agricultural inputs and can withstand diverse agro climatic conditions compared to other major cereals.

Consequent to the declaration of year 2023 by United Nation’s General Assembly (UNGA) as International Year of Millets (IYM), 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 accepted globally. 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.

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 rich in nutrients, dietary fiber and carbohydrates in millets are complex in nature with good amount of non-starch polysaccharides. Millets also have phytochemicals like polyphenols, phytates, carotenoids, tocopherols etc., which are termed as ‘nutraceuticals’. Thus, millets are best suited grains for population with lifestyle disorders such as diabetes etc. Because of the presence of these nutraceutical components, millets exhibit excellent antioxidant and antimicrobial properties.

The ICAR-Indian Institute of Millets Research (IIMR), Hyderabad is 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.

In order 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 addition, Millets were also 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.

Further, the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (DA&FW) is implementing a Sub-Mission on Nutri-Cereals (Millets) under National Food Security Mission (NFSM) to increase production and productivity of millets (Shree Anna) 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 Government of India also provides flexibility to the states for state specific needs/priorities under Rashtriy 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 Centre of Excellence for sharing best practices, research and technologies at the national and international level.

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 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.
