

Shree anna: An initiative to make India a Global Leader

Abhay Tiwari¹, Alka Yadav², Dharmendra Kumar Gautam³ and Prashant Kumar⁴

Introduction

By adopting the policy of global leadership, India is making its own identity globally by telling its culture and tradition. It is celebrating the current year 2023 as the Year of Millets for the purpose of supplying food grains and staying healthy in the world.

Millets are a diverse group of small seeded grasses that are widely grown around the world as cereal crops or grain for fodder and human food. Millets are a group of cereal grains belonging to the Poaceae family, sometimes referred to as the grass family.

Millets are referred to as Shree anna in all India because of their cultural and historical significance. The term Shree anna, Shree means divine 'grace' and anna means 'food-grain', especially rice so Shree Anna means a food grain with divine grace. Millet is a good source of protein, fiber, key vitamins and minerals.

Type of Millet and their importance: -

The millets commonly grown in India include jowar, Bajra, ragi, kangn kodo, china, kutki etc. That details given below-

Foxtail millet-

Foxtail millet is also adapted to moderate climates. It produces long, cylindrical or lobed, bristly, condensed panicles.



Barnyard millet-

Barnyard millet is important in the tropics and subtropics of India.

Kodo millet-

Kodo millet is harvested as a wild cereal in Western Africa and India, where it grows abundantly along paths, ditches and low spots.

Sorghum millet-

Sorghum bicolor, commonly called sorghum and also known as great millet, broomcorn, guinea com, durra, imphee, jowar,

Abhay Tiwari¹, Alka Yadav², Dharmendra Kumar Gautam³ and Prashant Kumar⁴

¹Department of Agronomy, College of Agriculture, T. D. PG College Jaunpur

²Department of Plant Pathology, College of Agriculture, T. D. PG College Jaunpur

³Research Scholer Department of Fruit Science, Acharya Narendra Deva University of Agriculture and Technology, Kumarganj, Ayodhya, 224229 (U.P.) India.

⁴College of Agriculture, Banda University of Agriculture and Technology, Banda

or milo, is a grass species cultivated for its grain.

Pearl millet-

Pearl millet is the most widely grown of all millets. It is also known as bulrush millet, babala, bajra, cumbu dukhn, gero, saije, sanio or souna.

Finger millet-

Finger millet known as ragi in India, is another important staple food in Eastern Africa and in Asia.

Common millet-

Proso or Common millet is grown in temperate climates.

Little millet-

Little millet is widely grown in India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, eastern Indonesia and western Myanmar.

Kodo millet-

Kodo millet is harvested as a wild cereal in Western Africa and India, where it grows abundantly along paths, ditches and low spots.

Buckwheat millet-

Buckwheat Millet is commonly known as Kuttu. Its flour is used in Navratri fasting in almost every house.

History of millet

Millet was grown and consumed as necessary food for thousands of years with evidence of their use dating back to ancient civilization in China, Africa and India. Millet

is one of the oldest crop that evidence of consumption by the Indus valley civilization in 3000 BC. In consumption to cultivated many varieties first in India. Millet are cultivation in more than 130 countries and it is traditional food of Asia and Africa more than 500 million peoples.

International Millet year celebration

In **3 March 2021** United Nations general assembly proposal for international year of millet in 2023 this proposal submitted by India and support by 72 countries.



Opening ceremony of **International Year of Millet 2023** held in **Rome**.

Under the leadership of India, the whole world in celebrating the year 2023 as an international year of Millets, it was formally launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at International conference in New Delhi on 18 March 2023.

Objective-

- Speeding awareness about millets food security and nutrition.
- Proving system production and quality.
- Draw focus on enhanced investment in research and development and tension service to achieve the other aims.
- Issue of stamps and coins.

Indian government view on millet-

The Prime Minister said, “people in Karnataka understand the importance of the thick food grains (millets). That is the reason that you all call it Shree Dhannya. The country is taking for words Millets by respecting the sentiment of the people of Karnataka.” Now the millets will be known as Shree anna across the country. Shree anna means the best among all the food grains.

Indian Prime minister Narendra Modi revealed the rationale behind terming millets as “Shree Anna” as announced by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitaraman in her budget speech Feb 2023 “Coars grains are being called “Shree Anna”. Over time, most people have limited themselves to cereals such as wheat and rice and the use of coarse grains has decreased significantly, while India produces many types of coars grains. Thick grains very beneficial for health.

Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar said, “that the millets crop is rainfed which can be grown with less expenditure and consumes less water. Poor farmer can produce it in barrer land. The more the use of millets increasing the more nutrient will be available in the food which will be benefit people. In 10 April 2018 Agriculture Ministry declared ‘nutritious cereals’ and celebrate National Millets Year of India.

Health benefit of millets-

Millets are rich in nutrients and plant compounds. According to ICAR -Indian Institute of Millets Research to millets have 7-12% protein, 2-5% fat, 65-75% carbohydrate,15-20% fibre. Therefore, they may offer multiple health benefits-

- **Good for heart-** Millets are loaded with impressive profile of antitoxins that are play a crucial role in lowering LDL cholesterol, total cholesterol and helps to maintain the body vessels healthy and clears off the clots there are the control risk of heart disease and stroke.
- **Bottles cancer cells-** Millets such as foxtail and proso varieties are proven by research to be effective inhibiting the growth of cancerous cell in various tissue.
- **Promotes digestive-** The presence of a good amount of dieter fibre in millers working well to improve the digestive system and function.
- **Helping in reducing weight-** It include Shri Anna indirect sothat in a way it was for natural fat burning and give good shape to body also helping in keeping full energy.
- **Strengther bones-** calcium is found in abundance in coars cereals such as

jower, bajara. It is very beneficial for bone health. Also, it relieves the problem of joints pains.

Geographical condition is required to millet cultivation-

Millets are hardly climate resident crop that can grown in wide range of geographical condition. However, there are few key conditions that are ideal for their condition. Some of the geography condition required to cultivation millets

Climate- Millet are typically grown in area with hot and dry climate, although they can also be grown in area with moderate rainfall. Millet requires temperature between 25 to 35°C and can tolerate condition. Millets are often grown as catch crop where other crops have failed due to unfavorable weather.

Soil- Millet prefer will drainage soil with good organic matter content they can grow in wide range of soil types including Sandy, loamy and clay soils and pH between 6 to 7.6.

Sunlight- Millets are required full sunlight for optimal growth and development.

Water ability- Millets are relatively drought tolerant and can grown in area with low rainfall the annual rainfall required 200 to 600 mm rainfall. However, they do require some moisture during growing season specially during the critical stage of growth.

Important of millet the environment and climate change

Millet is a climate-resilient food crop that can adapt to various ecological conditions, reduce irrigation requirements, and improve growth and productivity. It is less susceptible to environmental stress and can withstand climate change better than most other crops. Millet's fibrous roots improve soil quality, control water flow, and promote conservation in erosion-prone areas. As a C4 grain, millet converts more carbon dioxide into oxygen, helping to mitigate climate change. With a carbon footprint of 3,218 kilograms per hectare, millet contributes significantly to reducing carbon dioxide emissions and curbing climate change.

Measures being taken to promote Millet: A multi-pronged strategy APEDA

The APEDA is also working in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare to increase cultivation area, production and productivity of millets, including bajra, jowar and ragi.

Millets as Nutri-cereals

In view of the nutritional value of the millets, the government has notified millets as nutri-cereals in April, 2018. The millets are a rich source of protein, fibre, minerals, iron, calcium and have a low glycemic index.

International Year of Millets

In March, 2021, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) has declared 2023 as International Year of Millets.

Intensive Millets Promotion (INSIMP): Launched in 2012 as a part of the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), to advance equipment and technology related to millet harvest and increasing productivity of inefficient areas

Rainfed Area Development Programme

Developing and identifying new areas receiving adequate rainfall for millet farming as a part of the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY).

MSP of nutri-cereals

Next, the government hiked the MSP of nutri-cereals, which came as a big price incentive for farmers. As we compare the data on MSPs for food crops from 2014-15 against 2020, we see that the MSP for ragi has jumped a whopping 113 per cent, followed by bajra and jowar at 72 per cent and 71 per cent respectively. MSPs have been calculated so that the farmer is ensured at least a 50 per cent return on their cost of production.

National Food Security Mission

Millets are being promoted under the National Food Security Mission (NFSM) to help provide good nutrition to those who are unable to afford it.



To provide a steady market for the produce, the government included millets in the public distribution system.

Efforts by Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare

Next the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare is running a Rs 600-crore scheme to increase the area, production and yield of nutri-cereals.

With a goal to match the cultivation of nutri-cereals with local topography and natural resources, the government is encouraging farmers to align their local cropping patterns to India's diverse 127 agro-climatic zones.

Building Value Chains

Provision of seed kits and inputs to farmers, building value chains through Farmer Producer Organisations and supporting the marketability of nutri-cereals are some of the key interventions that have been put in place.

“Millet in Minutes” products:

Recently APEDA launched a variety of “Millet in Minutes” products under the category of Ready-to-Eat (RTE) such as Upma, Pongal, Khichadi, Noodles, Biryani, etc, this is a breakthrough in the food sector as it's the first RTE millet product in the market to cater fast-paced world at their convenience in a healthy way. All the millet products launched by APEDA are gluten-free, 100% natural and patented. All the RTE products are vacuum processed without any additives,

fillers and preservatives. Nutrition value is retained as original with a shelf-life of 12 months in ambient temperature.

Nutri-Gardens and Behaviour Change Campaign

The Ministry of Women and Child Development has been working at the intersection of agriculture and nutrition by setting up nutri-gardens, promoting research on the inter-linkages between crop diversity and dietary diversity and running a behaviour change campaign to generate consumer demand for nutri-cereals

Let's Millet Campaign in Bengaluru

In 2018, the #LetsMilletCampaign in Bengaluru saw the avant-garde use of millets in dishes such as risotto and pizza by restaurateurs.

Cultural associations and festivals

Cultural associations and festivals, such as the North-East Network in Nagaland organized in 2020 and Mandukiya in Vishakhapatnam celebrated annually in June/July, has helped promote the growth of millets.

Integrated Cereals Development Programmes in Coarse Cereals

The government also initiated the 'Integrated Cereals Development Programmes in Coarse Cereals' under Macro Management of Agriculture.

Conversion of Fallow Lands

Efforts by Indian Institute of Millet Research

The Indian Institute of Millet Research, the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics and the government of Karnataka are going to collaborate along with more partners to promote millets in India.

The Future of Millets in India

The future of millets in India looks promising, with growing interest in this crop both domestically and globally. The Indian millets Industry will continue to expand as a result of a number of causes, including:

- **Health and Wellness Trend:** With a growing focus on health and wellness, there is an increasing demand for nutritious and sustainable food options, making millets a popular choice
- **Government Support:** The government of India is providing support for the millets sector through various initiatives, such as promoting their use in government-run food programs and providing subsidies and incentives for farmers
- **Growing Export Market:** The global demand for millets is growing, and India has the potential to become a major exporter of these crops.
- **Diversification of Agriculture:** The cultivation of millets can help diversify

the agricultural sector and reduce the dependence on a few staple crops, reducing the risk of crop failures and market Volatility.

Conclusion

In world, after the corona pandemic, people are competing to increase the unity system so that they can protect their health. India wants to make Vishwa Guru by using disaster as an opportunity, so after yoga it is now telling the importance of 'Shree Anna' to the whole world. India is promoting its culture in G-20 meeting with '**Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam**' theme. India wants to tell the whole world in various factors that through Shree Anna will improve health, people's food supply and farmers' income will increase

