

Millets Production and Consumption in India

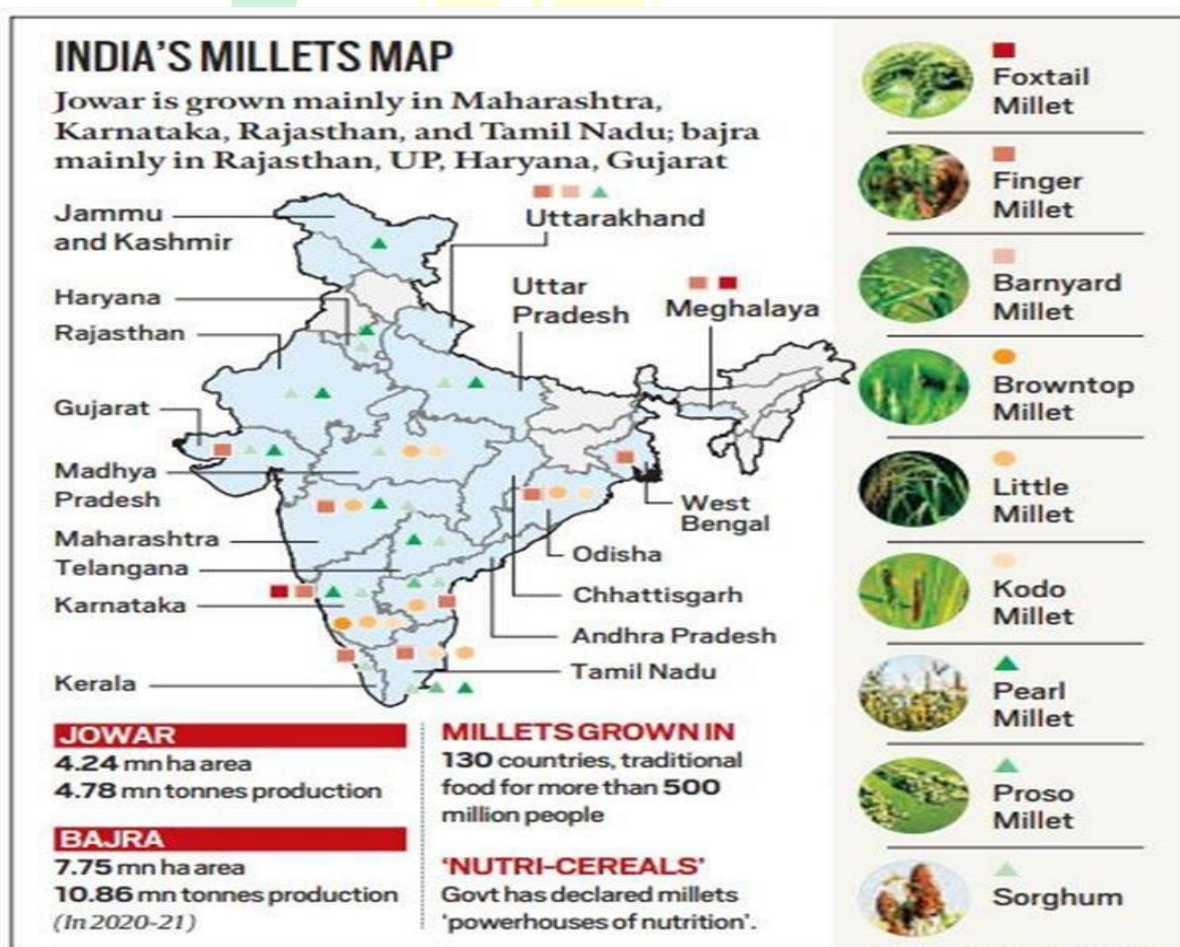
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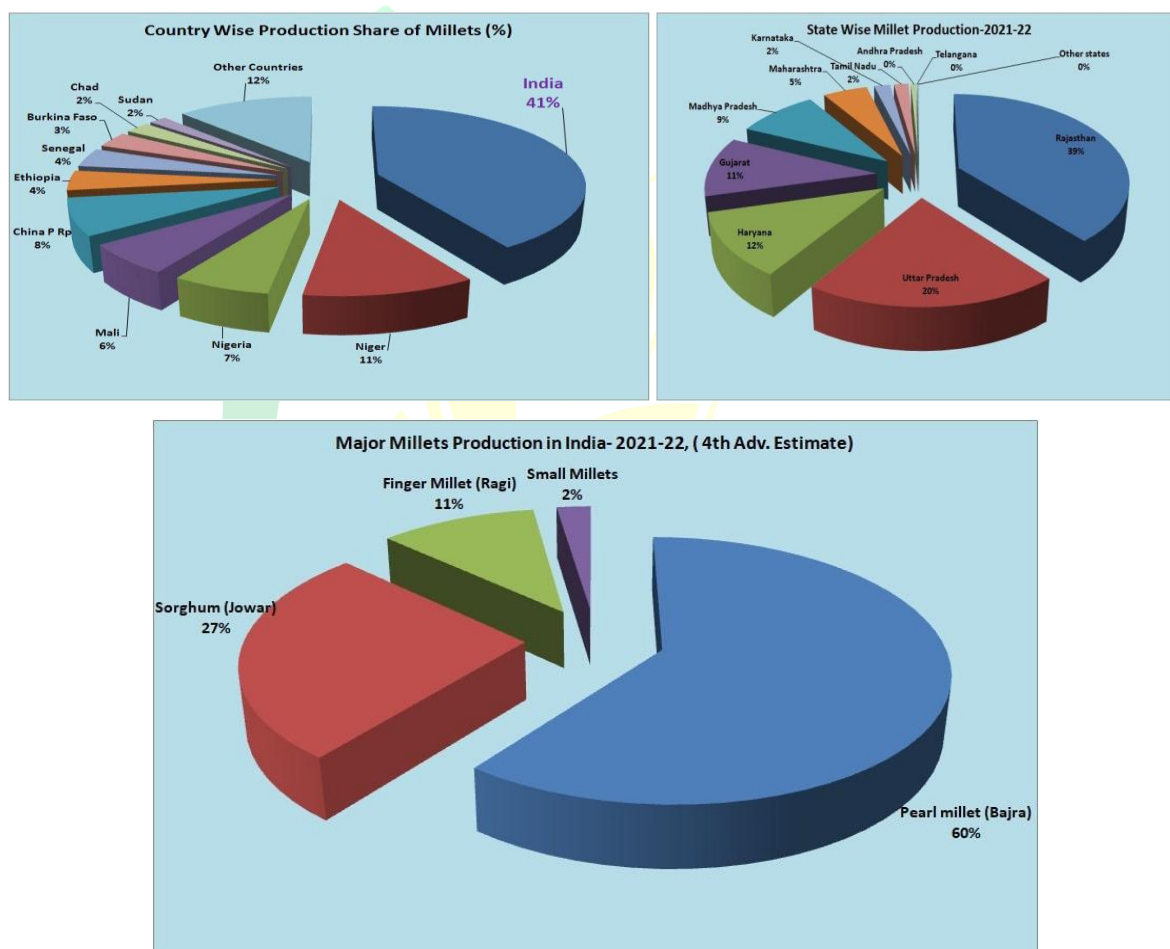
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Introduction

Millets are a group of cereal grains that belong to the *Poaceae* family, commonly known as the grass family. Millets are a group of small, round whole grains grown in India, Nigeria, and other Asian and African countries. They're also able to survive in harsh environments and less fertile soil. Millets are now grown in more than 130 countries, and are the traditional food for more than half a billion people in Asia and Africa. In India, millets are mainly a kharif crop. During 2018-19, three millet crops — bajra (3.67%), jowar (2.13%), and ragi (0.48%) — accounted for about 7 per cent of the gross cropped area in the country.



India is the largest producer of millets in the world with a share of 41 per cent. The major millets producing states in India are Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. Currently, together these ten states accounts for around 100 per cent in Millets production in India. Three states namely Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Haryana accounts for more than 81 per cent share in total millet products. Rajasthan contributes half of the total millet production in India's total millets production.



Millets have a vast potential to expand dietary diversity. However, our country's cultivation and consumption are witnessing a sharp decline, owing to demand and supply-side constraints. The per capita consumption of millets fell drastically from 32.9 kg to 4.2 kg from 1962-to 2010 (Source: Assessing Millets and Sorghum Consumption Behaviour in Urban India:A Large-Scale Survey, 2021).

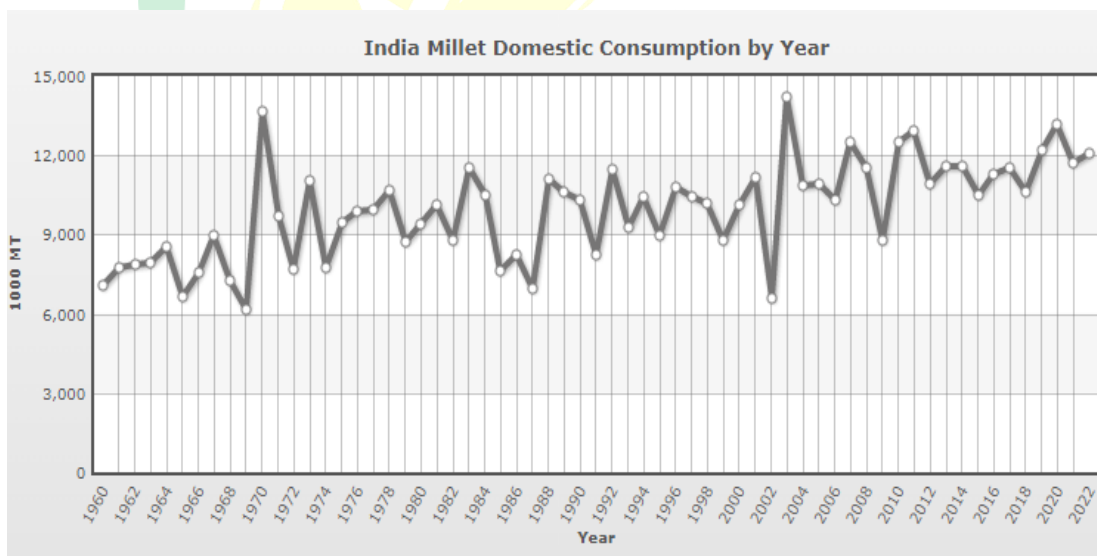
The responsible demand-side factors include:

- Increasing urbanization and per capita incomes are changing consumer tastes and

- Preferences.
- Poor social status and inconvenience/ lack of traditional knowledge to prepare millets
- Especially sorghum.
- Lower shelf life of milled grains.
- Rice and wheat are included at a larger scale in the PDS.
- Millets haven't been uniformly included in the PDS.

Supply-side factors include:

- Lack of industrial demand for value-added millet products discourages farmers from
- Cultivating millets.
- Low profitability.
- The Green Revolution has favored the production of rice and wheat, including output price incentives and input subsidies.
- Lack of access to quality seeds.
- Inadequate infrastructure such as processing technologies, and unique milling equipment to address the total value chain.



(Anonymous 2021-22)