

Chhattisgarh Millet Mission

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Introduction

Government of India had proposed to United Nations for declaring 2023 as International Year of Millets (IYOM). The proposal of India was supported by 72 countries and United Nation's General Assembly (UNGA) declared 2023 as International Year of Millets on 5th March, 2021. Now, Government of India has decided to celebrate IYOM, 2023 to make it peoples' movement so that the Indian millets, recipes, value added products are accepted globally. In order to promote millets, Chhattisgarh state is the only state where Kodo, Kutki and Ragi are being procured at Minimum Support Price (MSP) Kodo-Kutki is being procured at Rs 3,000 per quintal while ragi is being procured at Rs 3,377 per quintal to help the tribals and other farmers of the state. Chhattisgarh Government signed MoU with Indian Institute of Millet Research, Hyderabad under 'Millet Mission' and this initiative is aimed at giving the farmers right price for small cereal crops, provide input assistance, procurement arrangements, processing and ensure that the farmers get benefit of the expertise of experts.

Chhattisgarh Millet Mission

Chhattisgarh Millet Mission started in 14 millet producing districts, these districts include Kanker, Kondagaon, Bastar, Rajnandgaon, Dantewada, Bijapur, Sukma, Narayanpur, Rajnandgaon, Kawardha, Gorela-Pendra, Marwahi, Balrampur, Korea, Surajpur and Jashpur districts. Two processing units have been set up at Kanker and Dugukondal. Seed banks for small grain crops will be established in Bastar, Surguja, Kawardha and Rajnandgaon. Millets are produced in 85 development blocks of 20 districts of Chhattisgarh. 170.30 crore rupees will be spent by the state government in five years in the millet mission.

Value addition will provide employment

- Being a healthy option for nutrition and health, the demand for millets is continuously increasing in the global market, in view of this, state government has given instructions to set up small scale processing units and packaging units in villages



producing millets, so that value addition can be done. Farmers producing through this medium can get even more benefits. Millet collection, processing and value addition will provide employment to farmers, women groups and youth.

Promotion being given to remove malnutrition

- The intention of the state government is to increase millet production so that maximum use of these crops is done to remove malnutrition among children. Instructions have also been given to use the millet purchased at the support price in the mid-day meal programme, public distribution system, nutritional food program of Anganwadi. These crops are being procured in all the primary forest societies. The production of these crops will increase further in the coming times due to the encouragement given by the state government to the farmers for their cultivation.
- Under the Chhattisgarh Millet Mission, a target has also been set to increase the productivity of millets from 4.5 quintals per acre to 9 quintals per acre, doubling the per acre yield. Chhattisgarh was honoured as the best-emerging state for the promotion of millets during the 'Poshak Annaj Award-2022' organised by the Indian Institute of Millet Research (IIMR), Hyderabad, and Union ministry of agriculture in Hyderabad recently. In the state, millets are being procured by women self-help groups (SHGs) working under Chhattisgarh State Minor Forest Produce Cooperative Federation in local procurement centres at support price. Around 12,000 collectors are active in the state. The collected millets are then sent to Van Dhan Vikas Kendras where women SHGs have to perform quality checks and send it for storage.

Farmers will get input subsidy

The state government has announced a support price to get the right price for the produce, as well as Rs 9,000 per acre to the millet crops farmers who take kodo, kutki and ragi crops under the Rajiv Gandhi Kisan Nyay Yojana and Kodo-Kutki instead of paddy. And Rs 10,000 per acre input subsidy will be given to the farmers taking Ragi crop. The millet procured at the support price will be used in the mid-day meal programme, public distribution system, nutritional food program of Anganwadi.

Four new millet-based products have been developed in the state in collaboration with IIMR Hyderabad. These products are Millet Khichdi, Millet Kheer, Millet Laddu, and Ragi Porridge (Ragi malt). To accelerate the processing of millets, preparations are being made to

set up primary processing centres in 20 Van Dhan Vikas Kendras. To expand the scope of millet use, it is being used in Anganwadi centres as nutritious food for infants and in mid-day meals for students, as well as pregnant mothers. The effective role of millets (Kodo, Kutki and Ragi) in controlling malnutrition. The government has preparing an action plan for promoting millet-based industries in the Chhattisgarh. The malnourished children and anaemic women in the action plan of the Chhattisgarh Millet Mission. The area under cultivation of millets in the state has increased from 69,000 hectares to 188,000 hectares.



Fig-1 & 2 (Kodo millet)



Fig- 3 (Ragi millet)