

Millet Conclave - 2022

A Curtain Raiser for International Year of Millets - 2023

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Organized by



सत्यमेव जयते



University of Agricultural Sciences, Raichur

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About Millet Conclave – 2022

Millets are commonly referred as Nutri-cereals were oldest crops cultivated for food and fodder for the peoples of dry and arid regions of India. Based archaeological report millets were domesticated for food during 4500 BC. The famous Poets of Karnataka, Purandara Dasa highlighted the popularity of Ragi in one of his compositions '**Ragi Thandheera**' in 15th Century and Kanaka Dasa has immortalized the goodness of Finger millet in his 'Ramadhanya Charithe' - an argument between two food grains Rice and Ragi in the court of Lord Sri Rama during 16th century.

Millets play very specific role in human nutrition because of their multiple qualities. Millet ranks as the sixth most important grain in the world, sustains 1/3rd of the world's population. They have high content of Calcium, Iron, Zinc and are superior in protective nutrients such as vitamins, minerals, dietary fibre, essential amino acids and phyto-chemicals. Hence are suitable for diabetic patients due to low glycemic index and maintain the normal Blood pressure level.

The global millet production was estimated at 86.3 million tonnes (FAO STAT-2021). India is the world's leading producer of millets (17.96 Million tonnes) and has the largest global share of around 21 per cent followed by Africa. In Karnataka, a large area is covered under small millets and are cultivated in 1.25 million ha producing 1.54 million tonnes with a productivity of 1230 kg/ha. Most of the area is located in the northern part of Karnataka. The millets popularly named as nutri-cereals namely, finger millet (Ragi), foxtail millet (Navane), Little millet (Savi/Samai/Kutki), Barnyard millet (Oodahe/Banti), Proso millet (Baragu/Cheena/French millet), Brown top millet (Korle) and Kodo millet (Haraka/Varagu) are cultivated in Karnataka.

Millets being small seeds, contain large proportions of husk and bran, which require dehushing and de-braning prior to consumption. Despite their nutritional superiority, utilization of millets is restricted due to non-availability of processed millets in ready to eat form confined to traditional consumers and to the people of lower strata.

Health benefits of Nutri-cereals

- High dietary fiber provides hunger sati faction and helps reduce obesity.
- Reduce the risk of diabetes & cardio vascular diseases.
- Beneficial in treating and prevention of gallstones and stomach ulcers and relieves constipation.
- Rich in anti-oxidants and hence reduce oxidative stress.
- Reduce the risk of Cancer and hypertension.

The Conclave will create a platform to interact with the stake holders to promote value in nutri cereals

About Raichur

Nestling between Tungabhadra and Krishna rivers Raichur is bestowed with major irrigation projects to cater the needs of the farming community. The region is being regarded as "Rice and Pulse bowls" of Karnataka. Historically, the city was ruled by great empires like Mouryas, Chalukyas, Bahamanis and Vijayanagara kings.

The city also harbours two thermal Power Stations (KPTCL and YTPS) which contribute around 40 per cent of power generation in Karnataka. The World heritage centre Hampi (the ruins of Vijayanagara kingdom) is around 150 km from the city and famous Golgumbaz of Bijapur, Badami and Aihole are within 200 km from the city. The religious temple, Raghavendra temple, Mantralaya is 45 km from the city. Raichur is well connected by road, train and air port (Shamshabad) from all the metropolitan cities.



About UAS, Raichur

University of Agricultural Sciences at Raichur was established in November 2008 with the jurisdiction of Kalyana Karnataka (KK) region comprising of seven districts of North Eastern dry zone of Karnataka state viz., Bidar, Kalaburagi, Yadgir, Raichur, Koppal, Vijayanagar and Ballari and with a motto of greening the life of farming community through education, research and extension.



In this context, UAS, Raichur, has been working towards providing agricultural education to sensitize the farming community with scientific innovations to uplift the socio-economic status of the farming community through strong extension linkages.

The University offers under graduate and post graduate programmes in Agriculture at Raichur and Bheemarayanagudi Kalaburagi, Gangavathi and Agricultural Engineering degree programme at Raichur campuses aiming at training manpower for leadership in research and managerial professionals. The University of Agricultural Sciences, Raichur is in forefront in developing new nutri-cereals varieties such as Foxtail Millet: SIA-2644, Sri Laxmi and HN-46, Little Millet : HS-1 Hagari Same, Proso Millet : Hagari Baragu (HB-1), Brown top millet: Hagari Brown top (HBr-2) apart from development of new varieties seed production and processing activities are also taken up. The department of processing and food engineering is developing various value added products of nutri-millet like Mr. Millet Bread, Millet Biscuits and Millet based recipes to boost the immunity.

Aim of the Conclave

With growing concerns of life style diseases coupled with 'refined' diet culture, the modern consumers are slowly, but increasingly looking at the nutrient rich millets as a suitable alternative food grains and the demand for the same is gaining momentum. With the COVID -19, both urban and rural consumers are showing keen interest towards millets for improving the immunity and nutrition.

Realizing the health benefits of millets viz. gluten free, low fat and low carbohydrates, efforts have been made to increase production, productivity and income of millet growers under various schemes of the Central and State Governments. 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 (IYoM-2023). The proposal of India was supported by 72 countries and United Nation's General Assembly (UNGA) declared 2023 as International Year of Millets on 5 March,2021.

Objectives

- To create awareness about Nutri-cereals.
- To impart technical knowledge to farmers and FPOs
- To encourage entrepreneurship in millet processing and value addition.
- To provide a sustainable platform for marketing of millets and millet based foods.

Major themes

- Millets in Indian Economy with specific reference to production technologies.
- Processing and value addition in millets.
- Marketing of millets / products – challenges and opportunities.
- Review and learnings from existing policies to enable a robust plan for the International Year.
- Millet opportunities - An Industrial insight.

The proposed workshop provides a platform for bringing farmers, processors, traders and consumers together. The nutritional and health benefits of millets have created a surge in demand for a variety of Nutri-cereals.

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**Raichur city is well connect with Railway and the nearest Airports are
International Airport, Hyderabad and Airport, Kalaburagi**

