

NATIONAL AND STATE LEVEL POLICIES TO PROMOTING MILLETS PRODUCTION

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Abstract :

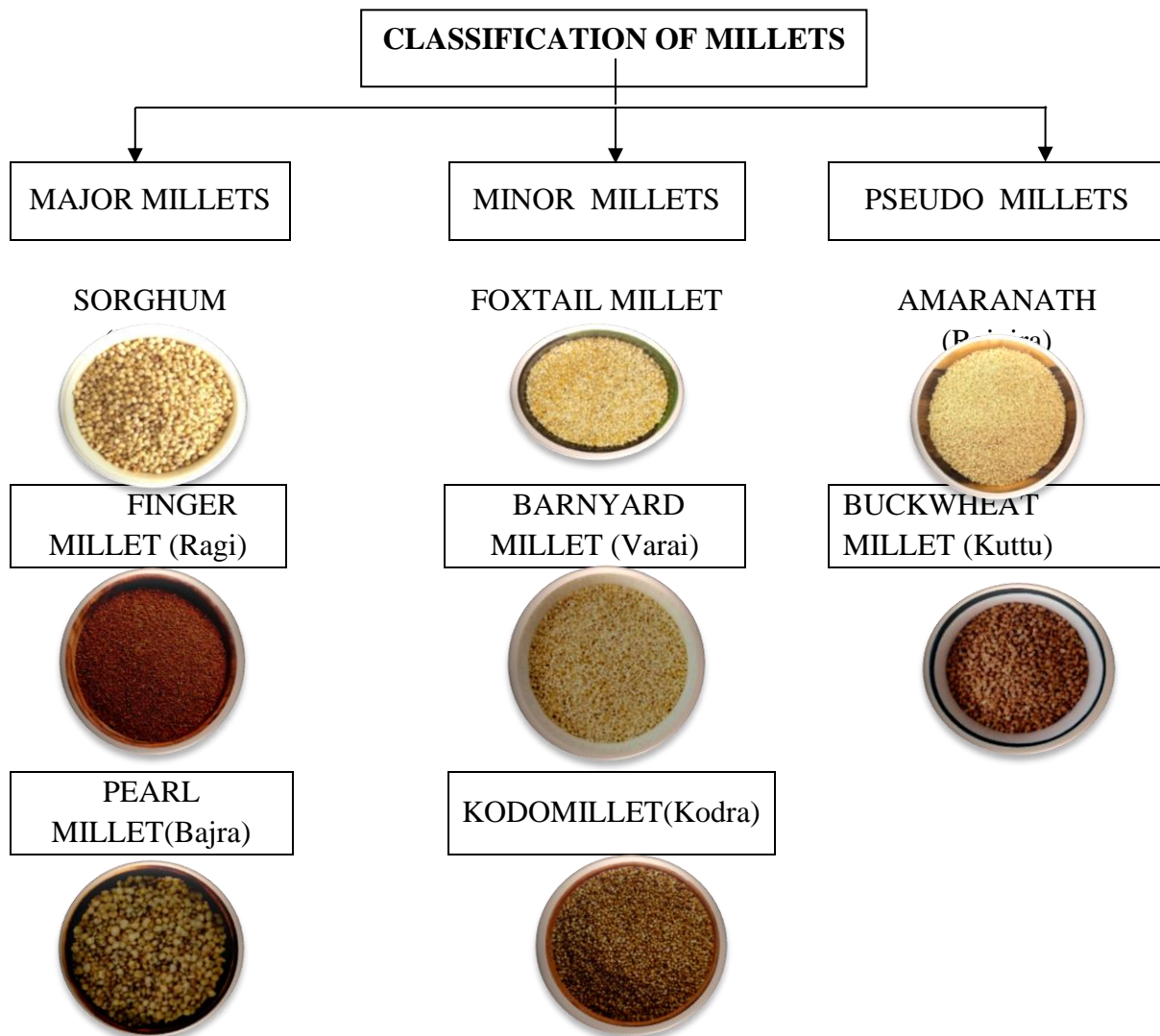
Milletts are small-seed cereals comprising Sorghum (Jowar), Pearl Millet (Bajra), Finger Millet (Ragi/Mandua), Minor Milletts i.e. Foxtail Millet (Kangani/Kakun), Proso Millet (Cheena), Kodo Millet (Kodo), Barnyard Millet (Sawa/Sanwa/ Jhangora), Little Millet (Kutki) and two Pseudo Milletts (Black-wheat (Kuttu) and Ameranthus (Chaulai). Traditionally, rural residents, particularly those in arid and semi-arid areas, have consumed milletts. Because milletts are a nutritious powerhouse, the Indian government declared them to be nutri-cereals in 2018. Additionally, millet has anti-diabetic effects, low GI, and lowers postprandial blood glucose and glycosylated hemoglobin levels. Therefore, by addressing numerous macro and micro deficiencies and lowering undernutrition, they have a significant potential to contribute to the food and nutritional security of the nation. Milletts are also a crop that is resistant to climate change. Milletts are incredibly nutrient-dense foods that are strong in protein, fiber, minerals, and vitamins. They are also low in glycemic index and gluten-free, making them an excellent option for those with diabetes or gluten intolerance. Due to milletts' high nutritional content and climate-resilient qualities, there has been a resurgence in interest in recent years. In order to encourage millet production and consumption in India, the Indian government has also initiated a number of measures.

Keywords: NITI AAYOG, malnutrition, milletts, ICDS.

Introduction:

More than 5000 years of millet cultivation can be found in India, and it was a common meal in many prehistoric societies. Before wheat and rice, it is said that millet was the first grain to be grown in India. The term "poor man's food" refers to millet since it was once thought to be a food for the poor. Milletts are small-seeded resilient crops that can thrive in regions with poor soil fertility and moisture, such as arid zones or areas that receive rain. Milletts are grown in mountainous, rain-fed, tribal, and low-fertile environments. These states include Telangana, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Andhra Pradesh. Milletts can be harvested in 65 days due to their

short growing season. Around 131 nations grow millet.



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NATIONAL MILLETS MISSION (NMM) :

NMM was established in 2007 as part of the National Food Security Mission to encourage millets' production and consumption. In order to promote millets as a source of secure nutrition, the Indian government designated 2018 as the nation's year of millets. The Indian government asked the UN in 2018 to designate 2023 as the International Year of Millets. 72 nations agreed with India's request, and the UNGA proclaimed 2023 the International Year of Millets. Millets were a part of the National Food Security Mission (NFSM), which was formally recognized to be "Nutri-cereals" in 2018.

INITIATIVE FOR NUTRITIONAL SECURITY THROUGH INTENSIVE MILLETS PROMOTION :

The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare's Initiative for Nutritional Security

through Intensive Millets Promotion (INSIMP) was one of the carefully thought out projects, with a Rs. 300 crore outlay in 2011–12 for increasing millets cultivation, processing, and value addition in the nation.

COMPREHENSIVE REVIVAL OF MILLETS CULTIVATION BY TRIBALS IN NORTH COASTAL AREAS AND PARTS OF RAYALASEEMA, ANDHRA PRADESH:

In 2016, the Andhra Pradesh State Government launched a program on Comprehensive Broadening of Tribal Millets Cultivation in North Coastal Andhra and Parts of Rayalaseema. A comprehensive initiative on the revival of millets in Andhra Pradesh seeks to transform tribal and rain-fed regions into millet hubs that may be able to provide millets, spur demand, and establish a foothold in the grain industry.

CHHATTISGARH MILLET MISSION :

In September 2021, the Chhattisgarh government announced Mission Millet Chhattisgarh in an effort to establish the state as India's millet hub. Its main goal is to encourage the growing of Kodo millet, small millets, and finger millet throughout the State, with an emphasis on 85 Blocks in 20 Districts.

BHAVANTAR BHARPAYEE YOJANA, HARYANA :

In order to encourage farmers to plant millet in the State, the Haryana government would offer the minimum support price to those who sign up for the "meri fasal mera byora" program for the Bajra crop beginning in the Kharif season of 2021.

PROMOTING KODO AND LITTLE MILLETS IN MADHYA PRADESH :

Under the Center's Nutri Cereal Scheme, Madhya Pradesh is promoting millets, especially Kodo and Little millet.

PROMOTION OF MILLETS THROUGH NFSM-NUTRI CEREALS MISSION, NAGALAND :

One of the crucial crops farmed in Nagaland is millet (also known as foxtail), which is grown for its husk, which is used as animal feed. It is grown throughout Nagaland's districts. Foxtail has been chosen under NFSM Nutri-Cereals to promote and improve area, production, and productivity. This objective includes the display of NFSM Nutri-Cereals, seed distribution, seed production, integrated nutrient management, integrated pest management, and training.

ODISHA MILLETS MISSION :

Odisha Millet Mission (OMM), a unique program for millets promotion in tribal areas, was created by the state government of Odisha in 2017 with the goal of enhancing millets production, processing, consumption, marketing, and participation in government programs.

To promote millets (Ragi) as a key crop in the farming system, the Odisha Millet Mission (OMM) was established in 2017. Inclusion of ragi laddu in this program for the ICDS in Sundargarh and Keonjhar, Odisha.

The "Special program for promotion of millets in tribal areas" project of the Odisha government seeks to resurrect millets in farms and on plates while taking into account the crops' high nutritional content and resistance to climate change. In the tribal districts, ragi or finger millets, which provide higher levels of calcium, iron, and protein than polished rice, are widely grown.

PROMOTION OF TAPTAPANI FARMERS PRODUCER ORGANISATION FOR MILLET PROMOTION IN ODISHA :

For the purpose of promoting millets, maize, and vegetables, a proposal was made to NABARD to establish an official FPO, the Taptapani Farmer's Producer Company Limited, in Chandiput, a gram panchayat in Mohana block of the tribal-dominated Gajapati district of Odisha.

CONVERGENCE BETWEEN ODISHA MILLETS MISSION AND SHG MISSION SHAKTI :

One of the main interventions to encourage millet intake has been the convergence of the Odisha Millets Mission and SHG Mission Shakti, where the creation of creative recipes and the training of female SHGs on these have been key components.

TAMIL NADU MILLETS MISSION :

The National Agriculture Development Program (NADP)'s Tamil Nadu Millet Mission was established in 2014–15 with the goal of reviving the cultivation of the forgotten millets by providing incentives for their production and distribution, holding frontline demonstrations, and training farmers in farming and millets' value addition.

MISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DRY LAND AGRICULTURE, TAMIL NADU :

In order to increase the output and productivity of millets, pulses, and oilseeds, the Agriculture Department of Tamil Nadu created the initiative on Sustainable Dry Land Agriculture (MSDA) initiative in 2016. The Mission included a wide range of topics, including the establishment of dry land clusters, village clubs, comprehensive land development, value addition, strengthening FPOs, custom employment centers, animal husbandry, etc.

ORGANIC PRODUCTION AND CERTIFICATION OF THE MILLETS, UTTARAKHAND :

Farmers primarily cultivate regional crops such as finger millet, barnyard millet, amaranthus, etc. in the State's mountainous regions. According to the State Government, the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY)-Organic programme, Paramparagat Krishi Vikas

Yojana (PKVY), in 1657 clusters (33140 hectare), and Namami Gange programme, in 620 cluster (12400 hectare), are all centrally sponsored schemes that are used to produce and certify organic millets.

PROCUREMENT AND PROCESSING FOR VALUE ADDITION OF MILLETS, UTTARAKHAND :

The Uttarakhand State Co-operative Federation Ltd. (UCF) has set a goal to purchase Finger Millet (Mandua) and MT Barnyard Millet (Jhingora) as part of the State Millet Mission and in accordance with a directive from the State Department of Agriculture, in addition to setting up and installing a Multi Grain Processing facility for primary and secondary processing of traditional small millet varieties.

INCLUSION OF MILLETS IN TAKE HOME RATION IN CHANDIGARH :

Millets (Bajra and Jowar) are a great source of protein, fiber, iron, and carbs. They also help you get your recommended daily allowance of phosphorus and magnesium. In light of this, the Women and Child Development Department has launched an initiative to encourage millet (bajra and jowar) consumption by including it in the Take Home Ration for the beneficiaries of all 450 Anganwadi Centers under the Integrated Child Development Scheme. This initiative aims to improve the health of Anganwadi children, pregnant women, lactating mothers, and adolescent girls. The advantages of this superfood are made known to the Anganwadi staff so they can inform the recipients.

INTRODUCTION OF FINGER MILLETS (RAGI) IN SUPPLEMENTARY NUTRITION PROGRAMME IN CHHATTISGARH :

The Chhattisgarh State Government added finger millets (ragi) into the Supplementary Nutrition Program (SNP) in 2018 as part of the Mukhyamantri Suposhan Yojna. Under the Take Home Ration program, ready-to-eat food packets containing ragi, wheat, soyabean, bengal gram, sugar, groundnut, and fortified soya bean oil are given to children between the ages of 6 months and 6 years, pregnant women, nursing mothers, severely undernourished children, and adolescent girls between the ages of 11 and 14 years.

INCLUSION OF KODO-KUTKI MILLETS THROUGH TEJASWINI RURAL WOMEN EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMME IN ICDS, MADHYA PRADESH :

Madhya Pradesh has taken steps to promote millets-based meals in Anganwadi Services and POSHAN Abhiyaan in order to improve the diets of mothers and children. Children aged 3-6 are being fed millets-based dishes in two districts of Dindori and Mandla.

LOCAL TRADITIONAL RECIPES AS HOT COOKED MEALS AND MILLET IN COMPLEMENTARY WEANING FOOD IN ICDS, TAMIL NADU :

To encourage children to pursue school while also making up for the lack of resources brought on by poverty, the State of Tamil Nadu developed the ground-breaking nutritious meal

program. Ragi millet is one of the key ingredients in the weaning diet that is given to infants aged six months to two years, pregnant women, and nursing mothers.

INTRODUCTION OF MILLETS IN ICDS, TELANGANA :

In order to reduce stunting, wasting, anemia, and underweight among the target population of children provided hot cooked meals through the ICDS program, the Telangana government launched a policy to resurrect the consumption of millets. The District Administration is implementing this initiative in Vikarabad (2017–19) and Adilabad (2019–20), along with technical partner WASSAN (Watershed Support Services and Activities Network), for children between the ages of 3 and 6 as well as their mothers and community members.

GIRI POSHANA OR NUTRI-FOOD BASKET (NFB): NUTRITIONAL INTERVENTIONS TO IMPROVE DIETARY DIVERSIFICATION IN THE TRIBAL HOUSEHOLDS OF TELANGANA :

An innovative strategy to enhance nutrition among the tribal people in the Integrated Tribal Development Agency (ITDA) areas of Utnoor, Bhadrachalam, and Eturnagaram, Telangana, is called Giri Poshana (scale up of Nutri-Food Basket Project). The goal of this program is to promote dietary diversity and nutritional outcomes (stunting, wasting, underweight, and anemia) by providing food products as supplements to current diets.

DECENTRALIZED INCLUSION OF MILLET BASED RECIPES AS HOT COOKED MEALS THROUGH ICDS SCHEME IN ASPIRATIONAL DISTRICTS OF TELANGANA (KB ASIFABAD, B KOTAGUDEM, JS BHUPALAPALLY/ MULUGU DISTRICTS) WITH THE SUPPORT OF NITI AAYO :

A very thorough program for the decentralized inclusion of millets was supported by NITI Aayog, and millets-based hot cooked meals were offered in the ICDS of Aspirational Districts. The implementation process began in September 2020. Because the Food and Civil Supplies Department was unable to provide millets for this initiative, the District came up with a more decentralized strategy.

SHREE ANNA YOJANA :

According to the government, the Shree Anna Yojana has been started to encourage the nation's production of coarse grains. In accordance with this plan, the government will give farmers financial and agricultural support so they can produce large amounts of grain. According to the government's plan, the nation's production and cropland will both expand. The national government is getting ready to turn our nation into a major producer of food grains. The Indian Millet Research Institute in Hyderabad will become a significant millet research hub for this.

MINIMUM SUPPORT PRICE SCHEME :

The government sets a minimum support price (MSP) at which certain agricultural goods must be sold in order for farmers to be paid directly, even if the open market price is less than the cost of production.

PM CROP INSSURANCE SCHEME :

The prime minister, Shri Narendra Modi, introduced the government's crop insurance program on February 18, 2016. This program offers financial assistance to farmers who have crop damage or crop loss. This program covers all types of crops, including millets.

Conclusion:

In India, use of millets as a direct food source has considerably decreased as a result of policies centered on food security driven by the Green Revolution starting in the 1960s. Nutritional security was not a top priority on the path to achieving food security, which has led to Considering the current levels of both non-communicable disease (NCD) and malnutrition.

The benefits of using millets in public-funded programs, the transforming role they play in preventing lifestyle diseases, and the growing recognition of the enormous potential for export markets, Due to their high nutritional content, they are particularly being projected as immune boosters in the midst of the Covid-19 outbreak. Given that the world is reportedly interested in Indian cuisine, the government of India was given the task of stepping up its efforts to increase millets production and consumption area, diversify its processing equipment, and developing the private food processing ecosystem and serving the various market segments in both the local and international markets.

Acknowledgment:

- This paper is an out put of other research paper.

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