

“International Year of Millets-2023”
International conference on “Enhancing Productivity and Value Addition in Millets”
on 18th-19th March, 2023
Online Mode Inauguration for all Stakeholder

Under the celebrations of International year of millet Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated a two day International conference on Shree anna in New Delhi to create awareness on nutri-cereals (Shree anna). ICAR-NBAIR staff and other stakeholders including millet farmers, enthusiastic farmers, Agripreneurs virtually participated in the inaugural session at Dr.S.P. Singh research laboratory, ICAR-NBAIR, Hebbal.

Global conference on International year of millets was inaugurated by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. The Union Ministers Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar, Hon'ble Minister of State of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Shri Kailash Choudhary and Hon'ble Minister of Textiles, Minister of Commerce and Industry and Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Shri Piyush Goyal were present. Representatives from different countries were also present on the occasion.

The welcome address was given by Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar. He said that it was the effort of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi that the General assembly of United Nations accepted 2023 as the International year of millets and title in Shree Anna was given in 2018 to millets.

Underlining the consistent efforts of the Government to turn Shree Anna into a global movement, the Prime Minister informed that millets were declared nutri-cereals in 2018 and programme was carried out on all levels from making the farmers aware of its benefits to generating interest in the market. The Prime Minister noted that millets are primarily cultivated in 12-13 different states in the country where at-home consumption per month per person was not more than three kilograms whereas the consumption has increased to fourteen kilograms per month today. He also informed that the sale of millet food products has also seen a boost of roughly 30%. He also noted the inception of millet cafes apart from social media channels dedicated to recipes on millets. “Millets have also been selected in nineteen districts of the country under the ‘One District, One Product’ scheme”. Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi highlighted India's motto of One Earth, One Family, One Future for the G-20 Presidency, the Prime Minister underlined that considering the whole world as one family is also reflected in the International Millet Year. “India has always given priority towards the feeling of duty towards the world and the resolve to serve humanity”. Giving the example of Yoga, the Prime Minister said that India has ensured that the benefits of Yoga reach the whole world through International Yoga Day. He expressed delight that today yoga is being promoted in more than hundred countries of the world and more than thirty countries in the world have given recognition to Ayurveda as well. He also threw light on the International Solar Alliance and said that it is working as an effective platform for building a sustainable planet where more than hundred countries have joined the movement. “Be it leading the LiFE mission or achieving climate change goals ahead of schedule, India draws inspiration from its heritage, drives change in society, and brings it to the fore of global well-being”, the Prime Minister remarked as

he noted that a similar impact can be witnessed in India's 'Millet Movement' today. Giving examples of Shree Anna such as Jowar, Bajra, Ragi, Sama, Kangni, Cheena, Kodon, Kutki, and Kuttu that are prevalent in different regions of India, the Prime Minister said that millets have been a part of the lifestyle in India for centuries. The Prime Minister emphasized that India wants to share its agricultural practices and its experiences related to Shree Anna with the world while also learning from other countries. He specially requested the Agriculture Ministers of the friendly nations present here to develop a stable mechanism in this direction and emphasized that a new supply chain should be developed with shared responsibilities from field to market and from one country to another.

On the occasion a video message was given by representatives from different countries. Postcard ticket and Samarag coin was also released by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi which represents the International year of millets and inaugurated Global Center of excellence On Millets ICAR - IIMR- Hyderabad. During the Global Millets (Shree Anna) Conference, Honorable PM Shri Narendra Modi announced the publication of "Shree Anna - A Holistic Perspective". The book provides readers with an overview of the numerous kinds of millets available in India along with standards on millets created by the FSSAI. The Conference featured over 100 Indian millet exhibitors from various regions of the nation and approximately 100 international purchasers from nations such the USA, UAE, Kuwait, Germany, Vietnam, Japan, Kenya, Malawi, Bhutan, Italy, and Malaysia. There are many opportunities for participants to network and trade at this conference.

After the Inaugural session, Director Dr S. N. Sushil, ICAR - NBAIR, Bangalore addressed the stakeholders/ farmers and staff of ICAR-NBAIR, Bengaluru. Farmers and millet stakeholders also shared their views on the importance of millet and their culture practices. Mr. Satvik Bhat, a 15-year-old boy also attended the session along with his father. He also shared his views and told everyone how he helped his father in farming. After the session, Director ICAR- NBAIR, Bangalore, gave the participation certificate and memento to the millet farmers and stakeholders.



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Stakeholders, farmers and ICAR-NBAIR participated in inaugural of conference in Virtual mode



Mr Ragvendra Bhat , Millet farmer and Stakeholder sharing his views



Stakeholders and millet farmers felicitating the Director, ICAR- NBAIR with Millet Poem written by Mr K. V. Lakshmana Murty



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Mr Satvik Bhat , Youngest millet farmer helping his father

