



CII-ITC Centre of Excellence
for Sustainable Development



Confederation of Indian Industry

**National Conference
on
Millets: Ensuring Climate Adaptation, Nutrition and
Food Security**

18 January 2023 | 1530-1930 hrs
Kamal Mahal, ITC Maurya, New Delhi

Outcome Report

Agenda

1500 hrs onwards	Registration
1530-1630 hrs	<p style="text-align: center;">Millet-based Foods: Adaptation to Climate Impacts</p> <p>Climate change is now impacting agricultural production and food stability across multiple countries. Indian agriculture is experiencing the severity of climate crisis, so it is important to create strategic and scientific solutions by including millets among the farming and food options. The session will thereby focus on how millet-based products can help address climate adaptation issues and can therefore be termed as a Future Climate-Smart Food.</p> <p>Chair & Moderator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Amitabh Kant, G20 Sherpa <p>Panellist</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr S. Sivakumar, Chairman, CII Core Group on AgTech and Group Head, Agri & IT Business, ITC Ltd • Shri Manoj Ahuja, Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Government of India • Mr Aditya Bagri, Director, Bagrrys India Limited • Shri G. Kamala Vardhana Rao, Chief Executive Officer, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)
1630-1730 hrs	<p style="text-align: center;">Millet for Nutritional Security</p> <p>Malnutrition is an emerging challenge in the context of rising uncertainty of food supplies. Millets have a potential to assume significance not only for food security but also for nutritional security in India. Millets are very useful as it is a nutritious, climate change-ready crop with enormous potential for yielding higher economic returns in harsh conditions. It also has potential to eliminate micronutrient deficiency in developing countries and is a source of affordable staple food. This session will address the potential role of millet in promoting dietary diversification and balanced diets and suggest the way forward to use millets as nutritional security in India.</p> <p>Chair & Moderator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. B. Dayakar Rao, CEO, Nutrihub, and Principal Scientist, ICAR-IIMR <p>Panellist</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smt. Shubha Thakur, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare • Mr Prashant Parameswaran, Managing Director & CEO, Tata Consumer Soufull Pvt. Ltd. • Mr B Rajagopal, Co-Chairperson, CII National Committee on Nutrition and President, DSM India • Dr. Tarun Bajaj, Director, Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)
1730-1800 hrs	Networking Break
1800-1900 hrs	<p>Inaugural: Stepping into a Sustainable Future through Millets</p> <p>With 2022-23 being designated as the 'International Year of Millets' by the FAO (via India's intervention), recent budget 2022 announcement supports post-harvest value addition, enhancing domestic consumption and branding of millet products nationally and internationally. The session will address the role of millets in ensuring food security and the potential to invest in scaling production and consumption.</p> <p>Opening Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Sanjiv Puri, Vice President, Confederation of Indian Industry, and Chairman, Advisory Council, CII-ITC Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development and Chairman & Managing Director, ITC Limited <p>Address by Guest of Honour</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shri Narendra Singh Tomar, Minister of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Government of India <p>Concluding Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Seema Arora, Deputy Director General, Confederation of Indian Industry
1900-1930 hrs	Hon'ble Ministers to take a round of the exhibition of Millet based Agri Start-Ups, display of Ready-to-Cook and Ready-to-Eat millet-based products and live cooking of such products

Overview

Recent studies have highlighted that 75% of India's districts are climate hotspots and 27 out of 35 states and UTs are extremely vulnerable to climate change. Climate change poses a challenge to food security with its impact on food production, costs, and security. Millets are known for their climate-resilient features including adaptation to a wide range of ecological conditions, less irrigational requirements, better growth and productivity in low nutrient input conditions, and minimum vulnerability to environmental stresses. India celebrated the National Year of Millets in 2018 to create domestic and global demand and provide nutritional food to the populace. The Government of India had proposed to the United Nations for declaring **2023 as International Year of Millets (IYoM)**. The proposal of India was supported by 72 countries and the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) declared 2023 as the International Year of Millets in March 2021.

The National Conference on Millets: Ensuring Climate Adaptation and Food Security was aimed at highlighting the importance of the millet crop segment and aligned to the theme of 2023 as International Year of Millets (IYoM). The Conference brought to fore the role of millets in climate-smart agriculture, adaptation, and resilience thereby achieving the UN SDGs and enhancing food security. Further, the Conference highlighted on enhancing production, value addition, uptake of technology, export, competitiveness as well as awareness of nutrition and health benefits towards enhanced consumption.

The Conference had three sessions focusing on different challenges and opportunities in the area of millets to ensure climate adaptation, nutrition and food security. First session "Millet-based Foods: Adaptation to Climate Impacts" was focused on how millet-based products can help address climate adaptation issues, and the second session "Millets for Nutritional Security" addressed the potential role of millet in promoting dietary diversification and balanced diets and suggested the way forward to use millets to ensure nutritional security in India. The Inaugural session "Stepping into a Sustainable Future through Millets" addressed the role of millets in ensuring food security and the potential to invest in scaling production and consumption.

The Conference was organised in a physical mode witnessing approximately 115 participants along with 12 speakers from diverse sectors. The high-level Conference was represented by dignitaries like **Shri. Narendra Singh Tomar, Minister of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Government of India; Mr. Amitabh Kant, G20 Sherpa; Shri Manoj Ahuja, Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Government of India** along with CEOs, CSOs, and Heads of Institutions as a part of the speakers' panel. Participants at the Conference represented industries, ministries, embassy, government departments, academia, financial institutions, civil society, consultants, bilateral/multilateral agencies, research scholars, educational institutions, and many more. The Conference was organised with the support of partner organisations and exhibitors like CII FACE, ITC Ltd, TATA Consumer Soufull Pvt. Ltd Magnum Foods & Snacks Pvt. Ltd., and Golden Millets.

Millet-based Foods: Adaptation to Climate Impacts



L to R: Shri G. Kamala Vardhana Rao, Chief Executive Officer, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), Mr S. Sivakumar, Chairman, CII Core Group on AgTech and Group Head, Agri & IT Business, ITC Ltd Mr Amitabh Kant, G20 Sherpa, Shri Manoj Ahuja, Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Government of India, Mr Aditya Bagri, Director, Bagrrys India Limited

Mr. Amitabh Kant, G20 Sherpa, stated that India's G20 presidency has the potential to be a watershed moment in the country's rise as an international leader and voice of the Global South in the face of critical global food challenges caused by geopolitical issues. The millet mission has already been launched in eight Indian states, including Odisha, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, and others.

He added that G20 has adopted a three-pronged strategy in which millets will be included in all meals at over 200 extensive meetings with various ministries and secretariats, millet cuisine stalls will be set up at each meeting, and millets will be included in gift hampers for international delegates. Post-pandemic, millets fit well into the Indian health scenario, encouraging healthy eating and a healthy lifestyle while addressing malnutrition and obesity.

Challenges

- As millet crop yields are less the cost is higher for the farmer. To make millets a preferred crop, the yield needs to increase to raise profitability. This needs the right agricultural practices & technologies
- Post the pandemic, intent has to shift towards adoption of millets and also how to transition towards putting millets on our plates
- It is essential to have millet-based applications to create awareness on their nutritional value and positive environmental impacts
- Millets are nutritious and rich in micronutrients, particularly protein, and the challenge is to push the consumption of millets to a higher level in India
- A lot of work needs to be done upstream for the adoption of millets. Fork to Farm rather than Farm to Fork approach is needed to promote these ancient grains
- There is an absence of logistics and supply chains to create demand for millets
- There is lack of awareness among all age groups. This is much needed to make millets fashionable and have on our plates
- Stakeholders should work towards enhancing the taste of millet-based products to suit our palate so it can make space on our plate
- We have to work towards getting key barriers removed in mass consumption of millets like inconvenience related to preparation of millets-based products

Solutions

- India's G20 presidency is a chance to showcase millets and millet-based foods as a pathway towards building resilient, adaptive, and equitable food systems and become an international leader and voice of the Global South to counter critical global food challenges triggered by geopolitical issues
- Ensuring food security and nutrition will be among the top priority areas under India's G20 presidency
- India's G20 presidency has adopted a three-pronged strategy in which millets will be included in all meals at over 200 extensive meetings with various ministries and secretariats, millet cuisine stalls will be set up at each meeting, and millets will be included in gift hampers for international delegates. In India's G20 presidency no single meal or gift will be given without millets.
- In India, millets are primarily a kharif crop, requiring less water and agricultural inputs than other similar staples. Millets are important as they have the potential to generate livelihoods, increase farmers' income and ensure food & nutritional security all over the world
- Millets are traditional food of India and fit into the current scenario of healthy eating and healthy lifestyle. Problems like malnourishment and obesity can be tackled by incorporating millets as staple food and will improve nutritional standards for India
- India is spearheading the involvement of a multi-stakeholder's approach to promote millets
- Every Ministry in India has been given a mandate to promote millets in a big way. Indian ministries have already prepared an annual calendar for their canteens to include millets

- Odisha, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu have launched the millet mission. Odisha has procured millets for their mid-day meal, anganwadi and public distribution. All Poshan Abhiyan schemes should only provide millets
- The Ministry of Health has written to states, stating that millets should be served in jails as well. Millets melas (festivals) will be organised in 100 cities in India, and the Government has planned to start health clubs in schools too
- The Government of India has also shared the vision to make IYM 2023 a People's Movement alongside positioning India as the 'Global Hub for Millets'

Millets for Nutritional Security



L to R: Dr. Tarun Bajaj, Director, Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), Mr Prashant Parameswaran, Managing Director & CEO, Tata Consumer Soufull Pvt. Ltd., Mr B Rajagopal, Co-Chairperson, CII National Committee on Nutrition and President, DSM India, Smt. Shubha Thakur, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Mr B Rajagopal, Co-Chairperson, CII National Committee on Nutrition and President, DSM India

Challenges

- We have achieved food security but as a country we are far away from reaching nutritional security. The country is going through macro problems such as malnutrition, lifestyle diseases, obesity, and hidden hunger. Millets can be pitched for all the mentioned problems. As a responsible nation, the government should take care of food security as well as nutritional security where everyone will be benefitted
- Research & development has to take place if sustainable change has to happen. Popularizing millets is a very welcome change as they are rich in calcium, iron, magnesium but the natural way of providing these nutrients to people matters immensely
- Earlier farmers grew millets for their own consumption but now they must be grown for the entire nation. Millets to be accommodated in our diet and not completely replace wheat and rice.
- Organisations should maintain the same level of taste globally and in India. Millets should not be made a highly processed food

- As per today's scenario, production and consumption markets are disconnected and therefore the gap should be bridged through awareness
- 1 out of 3 children is stunted and 1 out of 5 has low BMI because they are malnourished at a very early age, and this affects physical as well as cognitive abilities. Also, 1 out every 2 women in the childbearing age group is anemic. We are facing an intergenerational cycle of malnourishment. Millets can be the solution to the malnourishment problem.
- Food is an emotional subject, which primarily comes from taste, texture, and other aspects like fulfillment and aftereffects. It is important to find a way to inspire people to consume it. There are 3 As, Awareness, Availability and Affordability, at the heart of promoting millets.
- There is a challenge of bringing millets to the to the middle class

Solutions

- Millets are smart foods for combating water and nutritional security
- The Indian Institute of Millets research based in Hyderabad has a Centre of Excellence which produces all the related technology such as nutrition science, food technology and others. The ICAR has the Nutri Hub which is a technology business incubator supporting start-ups working to promote millets in India. They are working with State Millets Missions and reviving millets in farms, increasing production & consumption and enhancing value chains
- The Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Government of India has formed task forces on Production & Productivity, Nutrition, Branding & Promotions, Health & Nutrition, and International Events & Promotion to cover the entire value chain of millets by involving all stakeholders
- In mainstreaming millets, there are four key themes for success – high quality products (taste first, health forward), at affordable price points, with ease of accessibility and ensuring that is cool to have millets
- To increase bio-fortified varieties of seeds, government of India is implementing schemes to give incentives to farmers as well as educating & training them
- Government has allotted month wise activities to the state ministries and embassies to promote millet-based diets along with various stakeholders
- With the increase in demand, the supply side will improve, which brings the price elasticity and ultimately farmers will be benefitted

Inaugural: Stepping into a Sustainable Future through Millets



L to R: Ms Seema Arora, Deputy Director General, Confederation of Indian Industry, Mr Sanjiv Puri, Vice President, Confederation of Indian Industry, and Chairman, Advisory Council, CII-ITC Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development and Chairman & Managing Director, ITC Limited, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar, Minister of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Government of India



L to R: Ms Seema Arora, Deputy Director General, Confederation of Indian Industry, Mr Sanjiv Puri, Vice President, Confederation of Indian Industry, and Chairman, Advisory Council, CII-ITC Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development and Chairman & Managing Director, ITC Limited

Shri. Narendra Singh Tomar, Minister of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Government of India stated that agriculture, with its allied sectors, it is undoubtedly the largest livelihood provider in India. According to the Economic Survey 2021-22 the agriculture sector experienced buoyant growth in the past two years, accounting for a sizeable 18.8% (2021-22) in Gross Value Added (GVA) of the country registering a growth of 3.6% in 2020-21 and 3.9% in 2021-22. Identifying the opportunity in the millet crop segment the Government of India has prioritized promotion of millets under “Sub Mission on Millets” under National Food Security Mission since 2018 following which several states also launched mission on Millets. With focus on increasing millet production 154 high yielding varieties including 9 bio fortified varieties of millets were introduced.

Shri Tomar stated that the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare's focus is on strengthening the quality seed chain, promoting smart technology, millet-based cropping systems towards crop diversification, creating the right ecosystem for millet-based farmer producer organizations (FPOs), start-ups, and entrepreneurs to flourish, creating awareness around health benefits, and procurement under government procurement.

Mr. Sanjiv Puri, Vice President, Confederation of Indian Industry, Chairman, Advisory Council of CII-ITC Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development and Chairman and Managing Director, ITC Limited, stated that millets are nutritious, resilient, & climate friendly, and they offer a comprehensive answer for sustained food security in the face of drought, water shortage, and climate change. Millets use 70% less water than rice, grow in half the time as wheat, and use 40% less energy to process than wheat. It has the potential to help achieve the sustainable development goals (SDGs)—mainly SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being), SDG 12 (Sustainable Consumption and Production), and SDG 13 (Climate Action).

Mr. Puri stated that to make the International Year of Millets (IYM) 2023 a "People's Movement," as well as position India as the "Global Hub for Millets," we need to promote innovation and incubation centres at the regional level across India. Private businesses can play a crucial role in increasing consumer demand and awareness.

Ms Seema Arora, Deputy Director General, Confederation of Indian Industry, during her concluding remarks stated that agriculture and food security were prominently featured at the UN Climate Change Conference COP27. One of the main messages at COP 27 was that improving the quality and quantity of climate finance contributions to the sector is critical for agri-food systems to adapt to climate change and become more sustainable.

She concluded by stating that ensuring food security and nutrition will be among the top priorities of India's G20 presidency, as well as an opportunity to showcase millets and millet-based foods as a pathway to building resilient, adaptive, and equitable food systems.

Glimpses of the Conference and Exhibition



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CII-ITC Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development is a not-for-profit, industry-led institution that helps business become sustainable organisations. It is on a mission to catalyse innovative ideas and solutions, in India, and globally, to enable business, and its stakeholders, in sustainable value creation. It's knowledge, action and recognition activities enable companies to be future ready, improve footprints profiles, and advocate policymakers and legislators to improve standards of sustainable business through domestic and global policy interventions.

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