



Closing Ceremony of International Year of Millets

[Source: PIB](#)

Recently, the [Food and Agriculture Organization \(FAO\)](#) hosted the closing ceremony of the [International Year of Millets \(IYM\) 2023](#) at the FAO headquarters in Rome.

- The [United Nations](#) declared **2023 as the International Year of Millets** following a **proposal by India**, supported by over 70 countries, to raise awareness about millets' benefits.
 - The year-long celebration highlighted millets' nutritional benefits, adaptability to adverse climates, and role in creating sustainable market opportunities.
- Millets are **small-grained, annual, warm-weather cereals** belonging to the **grass family**.
 - Jowar (Sorghum), Bajra (Pearl Millet) and Ragi (Finger millet) are the important millets cultivated in India.
 - Millets are the main crops in **semiarid tropics due to low rainfall and poor soil fertility**. They have higher nutrient content than major cereal crops and are tolerant to drought and extreme weather conditions.

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Millets

About

- Small-grained cereals also known as **coarse grains**
- Often referred to as **'Superfood'**
- Among the **first crops to be domesticated** - evidence of millet consumption dates back to the **Indus Valley Civilisation (3,000 BC)**

Climatic Conditions

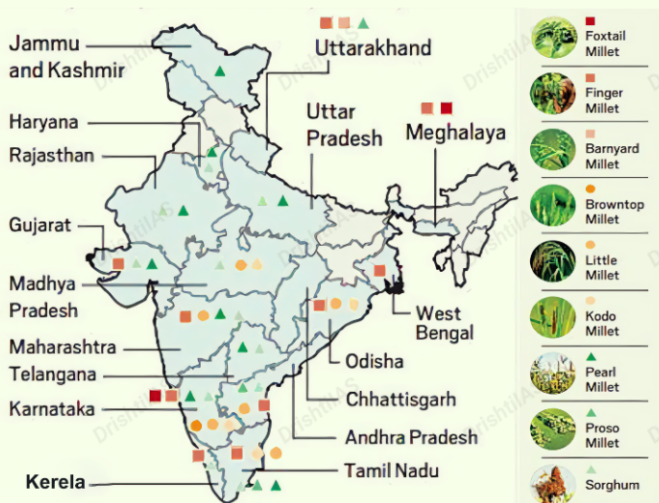
- **Mainly a Kharif crop in India**
- **Temperature:** 27°C - 32°C
- **Rainfall:** Around 50-100 cm
- **Soil Type:** Inferior alluvial or loamy soil

India and Millets

- **Global Largest Millet Producer:**
 - 20% of global production, 80% of Asia's production
- **Common Millets:**
 - **Ragi** (Finger millet), **Jowar** (Sorghum), **Sama** (Little millet), **Bajra** (Pearl millet), and **Variga** (Proso millet)
 - **Indigenous varieties** (small millets) - **Kodo, Kutki, Chenna and Sanwa**
- **Top Millets Producing States:**
 - Rajasthan (largest), Karnataka, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh
- **Govt. Initiatives:**
 - Initiative for Nutritional Security through Intensive Millet Promotion (INSIMP)
 - **'India's Wealth, Millets for Health'**
 - Millet Startup Innovation Challenge
 - **Hiked MSP** for Millets
 - Agriculture Ministry declared millets as **"Nutri Cereals"** in 2018

Significance

- Less expensive, **nutritionally superior**
- High protein, fibre, minerals, iron, calcium and a **low glycemic index**
- Help **tackle lifestyle problems and health** (obesity, diabetes etc.)
- Photo-insensitive, **resilient to climate change & water efficient**



International Year of Millets - Year 2023

Proposed by India, declared by UNGA



Read more: [India's Millet Revolution](#)

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