



Rise in Income of Uttarakhand Millet Farmers: Study

Why in News?

According to a study by the **Indian Institute of Management, Kashipur**, three out of four millet-growing farmers in Uttarakhand have seen a **10-20% increase** in their annual income owing to the push to [millet farming by the Centre and state government](#).

- The study is named "**Millet Production in Uttarakhand: An Empirical Analysis of its Socio-Economic Impact and Marketability Challenges**".

Key Points

- The study conducted on more than 2,100 farmers found that **many of them are still not aware of the increased demand** for millet-based products, and are **still growing it on a smaller scale** for personal consumption only.
- According to the study, 75% of farmers in the state who grow millets have seen an increase in income by 10-20% as the Centre and state government continue to push farming of the crop.
 - The study, however, did not specify the number of millet-growing farmers among the 2,100 who were surveyed.
 - It was conducted by four senior professors and five data collectors of the institute over a period of six months.
- The study was conducted to address the marketability challenges of millet production and identify effective strategies to increase its economic presence.
 - The sample size for the survey was collected from the **major hilly regions of the state, including Pithoragarh, Joshimath, Rudraprayag, and Chamoli**.

Related Initiatives Taken by the Government

- **National Millets Mission (NMM):** NMM was **launched in 2007** to promote the production and consumption of millets.
- **Price Support Scheme (PSS):** Provides **financial assistance to farmers** for the cultivation of millets.
- **Development of Value-Added Products:** Encourages the production of value-added millet-based products to increase the demand and consumption of millets.
- **Promoting Millets in PDS:** The government has introduced millets in the [Public Distribution System \(PDS\)](#) to make it **accessible and affordable** to the masses.
- **Promotion of Organic Farming:** The government is promoting organic farming of millets to increase the production and consumption of organic millets.

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

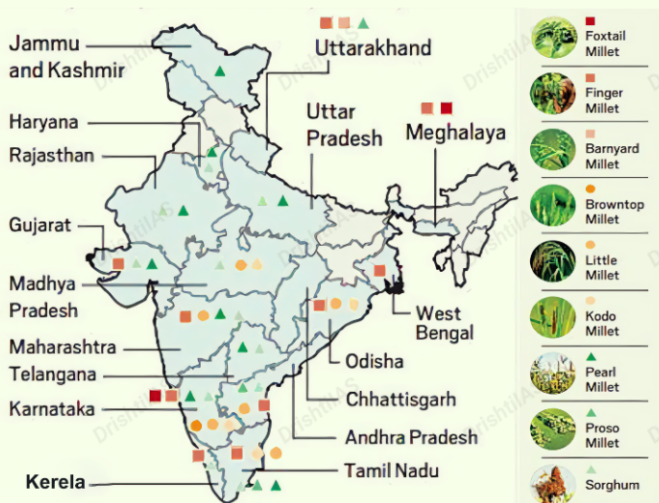
- **Mainly a Kharif crop in India**
- **Temperature:** 27°C - 32°C
- **Rainfall:** Around 50-100 cm
- **Soil Type:** Inferior alluvial or loamy soil

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



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