



भारतीय कृषि एवं खाद्य परिषद्  
INDIAN CHAMBER OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

# India Global Millets Forum

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Join India Global Millets Forum

[www.icfa.org.in/join-global-millets.php](http://www.icfa.org.in/join-global-millets.php)

## BACKGROUND

Millets, with their rich nutritional profile and adaptability to diverse climate, are gaining prominence in the global grains market. As of 2022-23, global millets production stands at 32.1 million metric tons. Millets such as pearl millet, finger millet, foxtail millet, and sorghum play a crucial role in enhancing nutritional diversity and addressing food security challenges, especially in regions prone to drought and climate variability. They are well-suited to semi-arid and drought-prone areas, thriving in conditions where other crops may struggle. This inherent resilience not only supports farmers' livelihoods but also contributes to environmental sustainability by conserving water and soil health. Moreover, millets nutritional profile, being rich in essential nutrients and gluten-free, aligns with global trends towards healthier and more diverse diets.

India, a leading producer of millets, plays a crucial role in the global millet trade. The top destinations in the current list of India's millet export are Libya, Tunisia, Morocco, UK, Yemen, Oman and Algeria. India is exporting millets to 139 countries across the globe. The export of value-added products of Indian millets are also spread across the world. Additionally, promoting millet cultivation can lead to economic opportunities for farmers, support sustainable agricultural practices, and preserve traditional knowledge and cultural heritage associated with millet farming. Thus, there is a need for a global platform that advocates for the recognition and utilization of millets to address global challenges related to nutrition, sustainability, food security, economic development, and cultural preservation.

The launch of the Global Millets Forum signifies a strategic step towards addressing critical challenges, emerging opportunities, and fostering the growth and prosperity of the millets sector on a global scale. Through focused initiatives such as advocacy, research, market development, and stakeholder engagement, the forum aims to create a conducive environment for sustainable millet agriculture worldwide. By aligning goals of enhancing food security and nutrition globally, the Global Millets Forum is poised to play a pivotal role in promoting the resilience and nutritional richness of millets for a healthier and more sustainable future for everyone.



## ABOUT GLOBAL MILLETS FORUM

The establishment of the Global Millets Forum represents a significant milestone in sustainable agriculture worldwide. This forum is set to become a central hub for all stakeholders involved in the millets sector, including farmers, researchers, policymakers, processors, distributors, and consumers. Millets hold immense importance not only for their nutritional value and environmental sustainability but also for their potential to revolutionize global food systems. By uniting diverse stakeholders under one platform, the Global Millets Forum aims to amplify the voice of the millet industry, advocate for policy reforms, drive research and innovation, promote market access, and foster international collaborations. In doing so, the forum seeks to unlock the full potential of millets, paving the way for a more resilient, nutritious, and sustainable future for generations to come.

### OBJECTIVES:

- To enhance global trade competitiveness, launch trade facilitation programs, organize international millets expos, and establish bilateral trade agreements to expand the global presence of millet-based products and enhance market access for millet-producing regions worldwide.
- To promote agricultural efficiency and productivity, the forum will implement technology adoption schemes tailored to millet farming, support precision agriculture practices, and facilitate access to high-quality millet seeds and inputs, empowering farmers to enhance their yields sustainably.
- To facilitate innovation and research, partner with academic institutions and research organizations to improve millet cultivation, processing, and utilization. The emphasis is on improving millet yields, reducing post-harvest losses, and enhancing the nutritional quality of millet-based products.
- To expand market reach both domestically and internationally and develop strategic market initiatives aimed at increasing consumer awareness, promoting millet-based products, and creating robust supply chains. This will create a well-connected and informed community focused on advancing the millets sector.
- To build stakeholder capacity, conduct training sessions, workshops, and seminars to upgrade the skills of farmers, traders, and other stakeholders within the millets industry on a global scale.



## VISION

The Global Millets Forum envisions a future where millets take center stage in the global agricultural landscape. Our vision is anchored in sustainability, resilience, and nutritional excellence, aiming to position millets as a cornerstone of sustainable food systems worldwide. We aspire to enhance the global recognition and consumption of millets, ensuring that they become integral to diets across cultures while upholding the highest standards of agricultural innovation. The forum aims to facilitate seamless trade of millets and millet-based products globally by addressing policy, trade barriers, technological advancements, and regulatory challenges.



## MISSION

The Global Millets Forum advances the growth and global competitiveness of the millets sector worldwide. Through strategic advocacy, innovation, and collaboration, the forum focuses on advocating for conducive policies, promoting sustainable agricultural practices, facilitating global market access for millets, supporting innovation and technology adoption in millet farming and processing, and fostering capacity-building and stakeholder engagement across the millets value chain.



## ACTIVITIES

The Global Millets Forum will transform its objectives into actionable initiatives, the forum will embark on the following activities:

- ❖ Organize technical seminars, conferences, summits, and trade expos globally to promote the millets industry and foster knowledge exchange and collaboration among stakeholders.
- ❖ Collaborate and establish partnerships with major national and international organizations to promote millet exports, investments, and technological advancements in the sector.
- ❖ Engage in policy advocacy by working closely with governments, industry leaders, academia, research institutions, and service agencies to create a favorable policy environment that supports millet trade and sustainability initiatives.
- ❖ Disseminate knowledge through publications such as magazines, newsletters, outlook reports, and other media platforms to provide valuable insights, technical information, and trade-related updates, positioning the global millets industry on the international stage.
- ❖ Organize trade delegations from key potential countries to various millet-producing regions and facilitate bilateral trade agreements, business collaborations, and knowledge sharing on emerging trends and innovative technologies in the millets sector.

## MILLETS — THE FUTURE FOOD

The Government of India's consistent and concerted endeavors to create awareness, increase production and promote millets have been highly fruitful. India has shared the vision to make International Year of Millets 2023 a 'People's Movement' alongside positioning India as the 'Global Hub for Millets'. At the behest of the Government of India, United Nations declared 2023 as the International Year of Millets (IYOM 2023). The initiative of the Indian government is of celebrating IYOM 2023, it is done by making the population aware of the millet benefits and increasing the acceptability of the value added of millet across the country and world. Millets are 1. Climate Smart 2. Nutrition Smart 3. Health Smart foods. India accounts for almost 20% of the World's production, but in some millets, such as Bajra, its share is above 40%.

The international year of millet gives a thriving opportunity to

- ❖ Increase the contribution of millet to food security.
- ❖ Increase the production of millets and product innovations
- ❖ Ensuring efficient processing, transport, storage, and consumption.
- ❖ Sustainable production and quality of millet with the involvement of all stakeholders.
- ❖ Increased exports opportunities to making Millets a globally favourite food

These millets are also known as "coarse cereals" or "cereals of the poor". The earliest evidence for these grains has been found in Indus civilization and was one of the first plants domesticated for food. Indian Millets are nutritionally superior to wheat and rice as they are rich in protein, vitamins and minerals. They are also gluten-free and have a low glycemic index, making them ideal for people with celiac disease or diabetes. Millets are known as smart foods. These are climate smart, nutrition rich and can be grown in adverse conditions.

India is among the top 5 exporters of millets in world. World export of millet has increased from \$400 million in 2020 to \$470 million in 2021 (ITC trade map) India exported millets worth \$64.28 million in the year 2021-22, against \$59.75 million in 2020-21. The current share of Millet based value added products is however negligible. But, the global market is set to grow rapidly with the right awareness created, and India has big time opportunity.



## GOVERNMENT'S INITIATIVES:

- The Government has taken several steps for promotion of Millets. To create domestic and global demand and to provide nutritional food to the people, The National Year of Millets was celebrated in 2018.
- In view of the nutritional value of the millets, the Government also notified Millets as nutri-cereals in April, 2018 and Millets were included under the POSHAN Mission Abhiyan.
- Over 500 Startups are working in Millet value chain while the Indian Institute on Millet Research, has incubated 250 Startups under RKVY-RAFTAAR. More than Rs.6.2 crores has been disbursed to over 66 Startups while about 25 Startups have been approved for further funding.
- The government has hiked the Minimum Support Price of Millets, which came as a big price incentive for farmers.
- Further, to provide a steady market for the produce, the government has included millets in the public distribution system.
- Input Support: The government has introduced provision of seed kits and inputs to farmers, building value chains through Farmer Producer Organisations and supporting the marketability of millets.
- The Indian policymakers refocused their attention towards millet farming systems and enacted policies to create an enabling environment for the farmers. With respect to millets production, some of the existing schemes by the Government of India include:
- Integrated Cereals Development Programmes in Coarse Cereals ICDP-CC based Cropping Systems Areas under Macro Management of Agriculture -MMA.
- Initiative for Nutritional Security through Intensive Millet Promotion - INSIMP a part of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana” - RKVY which is the only comprehensive initiative to support millet production.
- Rainfed Area Development Programme - RADP: a component of the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana -RKVY.

There has been long felt need for a convergence platform for millets, which could bring on key stakeholders on board to work with end to end approach, from addressing quality and production related issues to technology and investments, supply and value chain development to processing, marketing and exports. There is also need to create awareness among the producers and the consumers, as also among the hotels and restaurants, besides policy push and institutional support system. Keeping this in view, ICFA proposes to launch Global Millets Forum to bring all stakeholders on board to work in a focussed manner on overall development of Millets, as the Future Food.

# MEMBERSHIP

## 1) Patron Membership :

### (Limited to 5 patron members only)

- ❖ Will be having one guaranteed member seat to the executive committee.
- ❖ Patron member logo will be displayed on all communication of GMF.
- ❖ Patron member nominee will be invited to all meetings with dignitaries (govt., international bodies, international delegations -inbound/outbound).
- ❖ Opportunities to represent GMF as official representative for trade show/conferences.
- ❖ Free access to all the events organized by ICFA.
- ❖ Invitation for general body meeting to be held annually.
- ❖ Invitation to join physically/virtually for all meetings to discuss recommendation for various policies and other initiatives to be taken up by GMF.
- ❖ At least one meeting will be held in each quarter as well as multiple webinars.
- ❖ Publication of all members in directory.
- ❖ One vote for selection of office bearer after first term of 5 years.

## 2) Corporate Membership :

- ❖ Corporate member logo will be displayed on events and meetings held by GMF.
- ❖ Free access to all the events organized by ICFA.
- ❖ Corporate member nominee will be invited on rotation basis to all meetings with dignitaries (govt., international bodies, international delegations -inbound/outbound)

- ❖ Invitation for general body meeting to be held annually.
- ❖ Invitation to join physically/virtually for all meetings to discuss recommendation for various policies and other initiatives to be taken up by GMF.
- ❖ At least one meeting will be held in each quarter as well as multiple webinars.
- ❖ Publication of all members in directory.
- ❖ One vote for selection of office bearer after first term of 5 years.

## 3) Ordinary Membership :

- ❖ Invitation for general body meeting to be held annually.
- ❖ Invitation to join physically/virtually for all meetings to discuss recommendation for various policies and other initiatives to be taken up by GMF.
- ❖ At least one meeting will be held in each quarter as well as multiple webinars.
- ❖ Publication of all members in directory.
- ❖ One vote for selection of office bearer after first term of 5 years.



