

Policy recommendations to promote India as a Global Hub of Millets in the International Year of Millets

SANKHYA (संख्या)

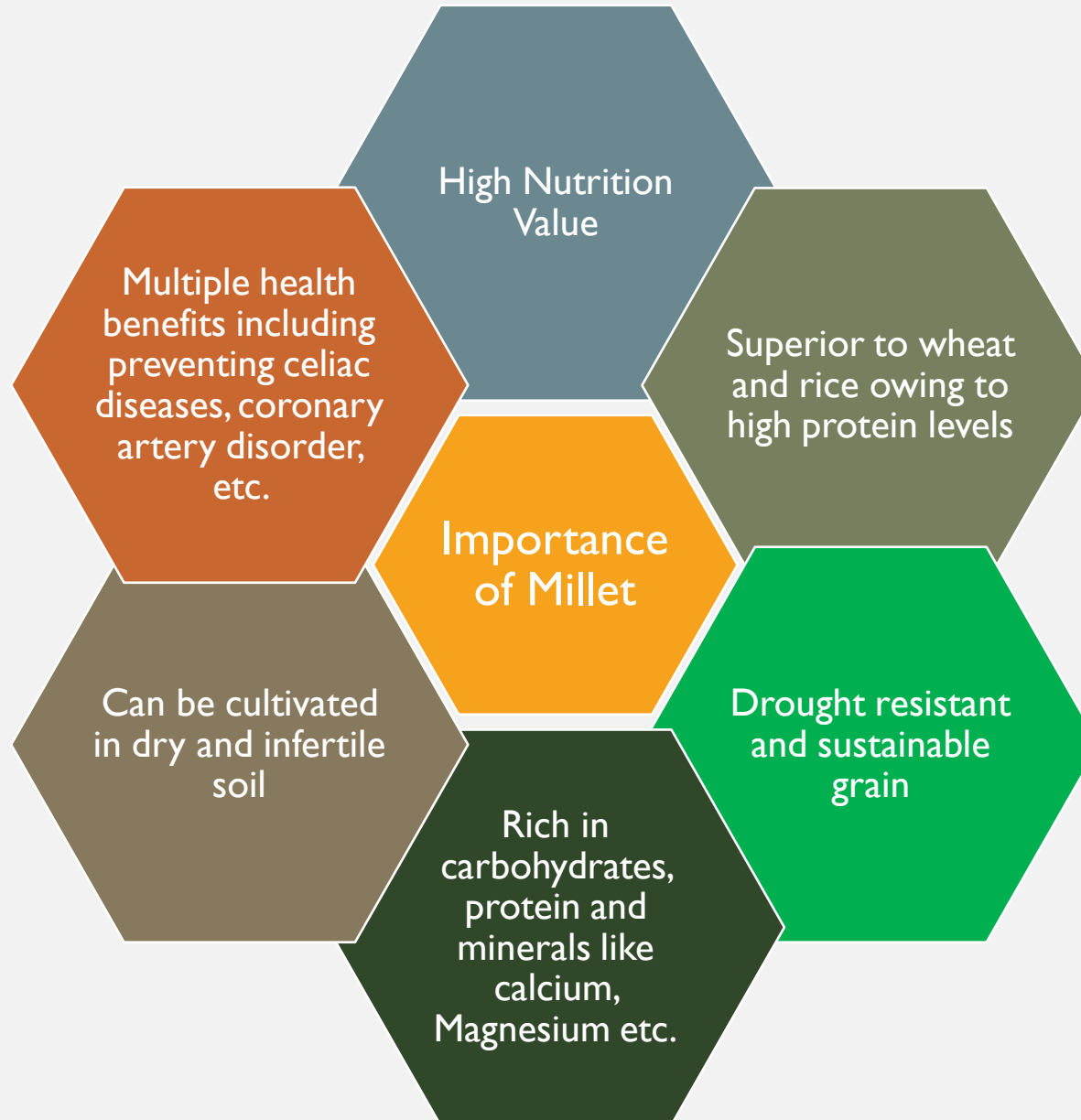
“There cannot be a good plan for economic progress without adequate data and there cannot be adequate data without a good plan for collecting them...”

P.C Mahalanobis, Member, First Planning Commission of India & Scientist

WHY MILLETS ?



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UNION BUDGET AND ECONOMIC SURVEY OF 2023

- India is the largest producer and second largest exporter of Millets
- India alone produced 80 per cent of Asia's production of millet
- 20 per cent of the global production of millet.
- The global average yield of 1229 kg/ha
- India's average yield of millet is 1239 kg/ha

Findings from the Economic Survey

Food Safety and Standards Association of India (FSSAI) has indicated the intent to formulate guidelines so as to incorporate millets in the menu of educational institutions and government canteens.

The Indian Institute of Millet Research, Hyderabad shall be supported as the Centre of Excellence at the international level with global best practices, research and technologies.

New tariff lines are proposed to be incorporated in the first schedule of the Customs Tariff Act 1975 which shall help in better identification of millet-based products

Union Budget proposals and implementation plans for promoting year of millets

KEY POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS TO PROMOTE INDIA AS A MILLET HUB

Develop robust market information system

The government may develop a comprehensive and reliable market information system which can help farmers and processors to make informed decisions and improve their market linkages.

Capacity Development

The government could organize training programs and skill development courses for farmers, processors, and other stakeholders in the millet value chain to provide them with knowledge and skills to enhance their productivity and efficiency.

Employ nutri-cereal ambassadors

To revitalise use of millets in the diet of Indian population, employ digital influencers and celebrities as nutrition ambassadors to promote millet based dishes.

Millet based recipes in PDS

Although millets are included in the Public Distribution System (PDS), the consumption of it is far less than rice and other staples. Hence, millet based recipes in the form of pamphlets may be distributed via PDS.

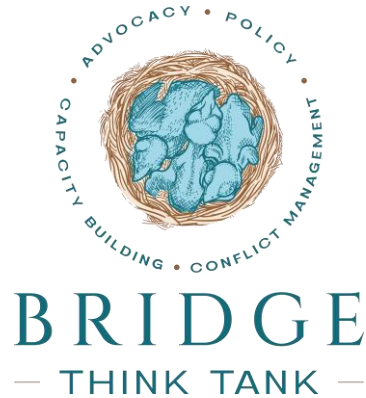
Tax exemption for millets

The international year of millets may be promoted by giving tax holiday for millet producers and entrepreneurs.

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questions*

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Sankhya* is an initiative of Bridge Policy Think Tank to create interface snapshots in statistics and policy analysis while promoting critical thinking and analysis.

** Sankhya means numbers and is also a school of rationalist Indian philosophy. According to Sankhya philosophy reliable knowledge comes from only three pramanas (proofs)- pratyakṣa ('perception'), anumāṇa ('inference') and śabda (āptavacana, meaning, 'word/testimony of reliable sources').*