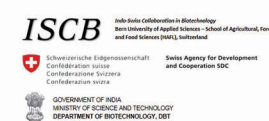




Dialogue on Millets, Monsoon and Market



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MSSRF | Chennai | India





Dialogue on Millets, Monsoon and Market

Minor millets have traditionally been cultivated in the drylands, predominantly by poor and marginal farmers and in many cases by tribal communities. Growing interest to revive millet cultivation is driven by nutrition, health and resilience considerations. These cereals grow well in drylands and at high temperatures; they have been supporting millions of vulnerable and marginalized women and men farmers struggling with poor soil, low moisture and scarce external inputs. Their hardiness and good nutritional profile are important assets for adapting to climate change. Considering the importance of millets, the Government of India along with other country Governments has urged the UN to declare 2018 as the 'International Year of Millets'. Greater consumption of millets would be a bold contribution towards both food and nutrition security in many countries, and helping us towards achieving the Zero Hunger Goal. In this context, there is a need for a collective sharing of lessons and coordinated actions on the promotion of these species, to better conserve their diversity (in situ/on farm and ex situ), increase their productivity, double the income of local farmers, empower vulnerable groups through use enhancement activities and ultimately contribute to ending hunger in the region.

Towards this Mission, M.S.Swaminathan Research Foundation is organizing an Interdisciplinary Dialogue on Millets, Monsoon and Market, during April 15-17, 2018 at MSSRF, Chennai in partnership with many national and international agencies.

The following are the expected outcome of the Interdisciplinary Dialogue:

- Global and National Scenario, Priorities, Issues and Challenges in the context of Millets as climate smart and nutri-cereals for the future analysed
- The role of Millets in achieving the Zero Hunger Challenge of the UN Secretary General, with particular reference to hidden hunger discussed
- Strategies for bridging the demand – supply gap by addressing the sustainable and equitable production, processing and value chain development for millets developed
- Ways and means for introducing millets in mainstream food and nutrition programmes to better address hidden hunger through their greater consumption
- “Millet BioValleys” for conservation, cultivation, value addition, biomass utilization and additional jobs creation and income generation for small farm holders identified and declared

The Interdisciplinary Dialogue on Millets will be attended by leading researchers, policy makers, local practitioners and private sector who will share lessons learnt and debate on the way forward within the framework of Conservation, Cultivation, Consumption and Commerce of Millets, as per following dedicated Sessions:

- 1.Millet Diversity and Conservation Practices
- 2.Climate Smart Millets: Issues and Prospects in Productivity Enhancement
- 3.Post Harvests Processing in Millets: Gaps and Needs
- 4.Integrated Value Chain Development for Millets
- 5.Strengthening Nutrition Security through Millets
- 6.Voices of Farmers and Representatives of Federations
- 7.Industry Perspectives on Small Millets – Business Opportunities and Bottlenecks
- 8.Global Champions – Voicing on Millets Round the Table Discussion
- 9.Policy Environment related to Millets

