



International Conference on
Mighty Millets
for Food, Nutrition & Health Security



August
6 to 8, 2023

MSSRF,
Chennai



M S Swaminathan Research Foundation,
August 6-8, 2023

Background Note

To unleash the potential of climate smart millets to improve food and nutrition security, the United Nations General Assembly in its 75th session in March 2021 declared the year 2023 as the International Year of Millets 2023 (IYM 2023). This focus is necessary to increase millet production and popularize consumption of these ancient food grains. The IYM 2023 consolidates and pushes for global cooperation to promote millet different ways. Millets, a traditional food for more than half a billion people across Asia and Africa, currently cultivated in more than 130 countries. India is one of the largest producers of millets and is leading the IYM 2023 celebrations worldwide.

With Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision of "*Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam*" (The World is One Family), the IYM 2023 is an occasion for India to promote Millets as Nutri-cereals globally and place them prominently on the world food map. The Director General, FAO Mr. Qu Dongyu said that the IYM2023 would provide us with a unique

opportunity to give visibility to crops that have great potential to strengthen global nutrition, food security, agro-biodiversity, decent jobs and economics to improve the lives and livelihoods while accelerating Climate Action.

Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has also shared his vision to make IYM 2023 a "People's Movement" and position India as the 'Global Hub for Millets'. Recognizing the enormous potential of millets, that also aligns with several UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Government of India has prioritized and rebranding these millets as "Shree Anna".

Millets are largely cultivated under rainfed systems and in most part of India, under de-fault organic systems. In India, millets are primarily a *Kharif* crop, requiring less water and agricultural inputs in comparison to other similar staples. Millets are dual purpose crops, cultivated both for food and fodder, thus providing food/livelihood security to millions of households and contributing to

farm income. Millets, being a C4 crops, contribute to mitigating climate change and have a relatively lower carbon footprint.

Millets are considered as 'Smart Food' due to its nutritional status. They are wholesome grains, rich in dietary fibre packed with protein, antioxidants (like phenolic flavonoids), nutrients (calcium, iron etc) and other minerals. In addition, they are gluten-free, and highly preferable by people with celiac disease or following a gluten-free diet. They have numerous health benefits, including lowering blood sugar and cholesterol levels, controlling lifestyle diseases.

The IYM 2023 will raise awareness about the contribution of millets to Food, Nutrition and Health Security; motivate stakeholders to increase production, improve quality of millets; and increase investment in research and development. With this context, to create mass awareness on the diversity of millets, their invaluable nutritional properties, environmental benefits and their important role towards a healthy society, **M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation** is organizing an International Conference on **Mighty Millets for Food, Nutrition, and Health Security** on 6-8 August 2023 with the following objectives:

- To explore the innovative Research and Development initiatives in millets and facilitate networking and partnerships nationally and internationally
- To increase awareness on millets as a supplement/alternate to rice, wheat and maize; their nutritional benefits and culinary practices
- To understand the unique nutritional properties of the various millet species
- To explore opportunities for improving the livelihood of small and marginal farmers who are the major cultivators of millets in rainfed lands.
- To understand the role of millets in adaptation to climate change.
- To provide a platform for millet farmers to exhibit value-added millet products
- To provide an opportunity for private companies, entrepreneurs, and start-ups to network with scientists and farmers in developing more value-added products from millets

PROGRAMME



August 6, 2023 - Sunday



Inaugural Session and Setting the Stage

Milletts as climate-smart nutri-cereals for the future: Science, Innovation and Social Impact

9.45 - 11.00 pm		
9.45 – 9.50 am	Invocation	Ms. Amritha Murali , Chennai
9.50 – 9.55 am	Welcome	Dr. Soumya Swaminathan Chairperson, MSSRF
9.55 – 10.02 am	MSSRF's Annual Report Presentation	Dr. G.N. Hariharan Executive Director, MSSRF, Chennai
10.02 – 10.05 am	Opening Remarks	Prof. M.S. Swaminathan , Founder Chairman, MSSRF
10.05 – 10.13 am	Special Remarks	Mr. Konda Reddy Chavva Assistant FAO Representative, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, FAO-India
10.13 – 10.21 am	Special Remarks	Dr. Ruth DeFries Professor, Ecology and Sustainable Development, Columbia University, New York
10.21 – 10.29 am	Special Remarks	Ms. Elisabeth Faure Representative and Country Director of UN World Food Programme, India
10.29 – 10.32 am	Millet Farmers' Perspective	Ms. Vennila Sivakumar Director, KHAAbPCOL, Kolli Hills, Nammakkal, Tamil Nadu
10.32 – 10.35 am	Millet Farmers' Perspective	Mr. Laichan Sukia Farmer, Machhara Village, Umiri Panchayat, Koraput, Odisha
10.35 – 10.50 am	Inaugural Address & Release of MSSRF Annual Report	Thiru. R. Sakkarapani Hon'ble Minister for Food and Civil Supplies, Government of Tamil Nadu
10.50 – 10.55 am	Vote of Thanks	Dr. E.D. Israel Oliver King Director, Biodiversity, MSSRF, Organising Secretary
10.55 – 11.00 am	National Anthem	
11.00 – 11.15 am	Tea/Coffee Break	

Rapporteur: Dr. Gayatri Venkataraman, Ms. Anbuvahini

Millet Exhibition & Jamsetji Jamsetji Tata National Virtual Academy Fellows



Millet Exhibition

<p>11.15 – 12.15 pm</p> <p>Coordinators: Dr. Sivan Kalyani Velu Dr. S. Velvizhi Ms. Sangeetha Rajeeesh Mr. P. Yuvaraj Mr. Neeranjan Gauda</p> <p>Rapporteur: Dr. S. Jegan Mr. Prajeesh</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Inauguration of Millet Exhibition & Visiting Pavilion</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Thiru. R. Sakkarapani Hon'ble Minister for Food and Civil Supplies, Government of Tamil Nadu</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Leading Millet FPOs, Millet processing & product development companies, the ICAR- Indian Institute of Millet Research (IIMR), Millet seed sector, and Custodian Millet Farmers will participate</i></p>
<p>12.15 – 1.15 pm</p>	<p>Lunch</p>
<p>1.15 – 1.40 pm</p> <p>Coordinators: Ms. Sangeetha Rajeeesh</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Special Felicitations</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Dr. Juan Lucas Restrepo Director General, Alliance of Bioversity International and the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), Rome (Video)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Dr. Jacqueline d'Arros Hughes Director General, ICRISAT, Hyderabad (Video)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ambassador Kenneth M. Quinn President Emeritus, The World Food Prize Foundation, USA (Video)</p>

Recognizing Jamsetji Tata National Virtual Academy Fellows

<p>1.40 – 3.00 pm</p> <p>Coordinators: Dr. R. Rajkumar Dr. R. Rengalakshmi Dr. V.R.Prabavathy Dr. R. Gopinath Dr. E.D.I.Oliver King</p> <p>Rapporteur: Mr. V.V. Sivan Ms. C.S.Dhanya</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Jamsetji Tata National Virtual Academy Fellows in presence of Dr. Soumya Swaminathan Chairperson, MSSRF</p>	
	<p style="text-align: center;">will be honoured by</p>	
	<p style="text-align: center;">Dr. Trilochan Mohapatra Chairperson, Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority, Government of India</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Mr. C. Achalender Reddy, IFS (Retd.) Chairperson, National Biodiversity Authority, Government of India</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Millet Custodian Farmers and Lead Value Chain Actors will be recognized as Jamsetji Tata National Virtual Academy Fellows</i></p>	



Cultivating Creativity Workshop & Public Forum on 'One Health for All'

Workshop on Cultivating Creativity

3.00 – 4.30 pm

Workshop on
**Cultivating Creativity - Uniting Stakeholders to Innovate Solutions
 for Millet Challenges**
 facilitated by
MSSRF, Rainmatter Foundation & Locavore

To bring together diverse stakeholders, including tribal representatives, FPOs, entrepreneurs, B2B and B2C consumers, to brainstorm and collaboratively innovate solutions for the challenges surrounding millets.

Coordinators: Mr. G. Girigan, Ms. Marisha Thakur,
 Mr. Thomas Zacharias, Dr. E.D.I. Oliver King

Rapporteur: Ms. Anbuvahini, Dr. D.J. Nithya, Mr. Prashant
 K Parida, Ms. C.S. Dhanya

4.30 – 5.30 pm

Transfer to Central Leather Research Institute (CLRI), Adyar, Chennai & High Tea

Public Forum on 'One Health for All'

at Triple Helix Auditorium of Central Leather Research Institute (CLRI)

'One Health' is a collaborative, multi-sectoral and transdisciplinary approach – working at the local, regional, national and global levels – with the goal of achieving optimal health outcomes, recognizing the connection between people, animals, plants and their shared environment. There is a need for convergence and collaboration between different ministries and departments, private, and civil society partnerships and multi-sectoral interventions in order to achieve better health for all. The 'One Health' approach will allow us to address the health threats holistically and overcome challenges like antimicrobial resistance, zoonotic and vector-borne diseases, food safety and food borne diseases, as well as malnutrition (including over nutrition). Various stressors like animal trade, agricultural practices, livestock farming, extractive industries, climate change, habitat fragmentation and encroachment into wild areas pose risks including chances of future pandemics. The panellists will deliberate on various dimensions and actions needed to achieve the goal of 'One Health for All'.

5.30 – 7.00 pm

Moderator:

Dr. Vinod Kumar Paul

Member, NITI Aayog, Government of India

Dr. Jaya Shreedhar

Senior Health Media Advisor

Ms. Elisabeth Faure

Representative and Country Director of UN World Food Programme, India

Public Forum on 'One Health for All' & Professor C. Gopalan Memorial Lecture



<p>Moderator:</p> <p>Dr. Jaya Shreedhar Senior Health Media Advisor</p> <p><i>(Each panelist will speak about 7 minutes followed by moderated discussion)</i></p> <p>Coordinators:</p> <p>Dr. G.N. Hariharan, Mr. Sriniraman, Ms. Sangeetha Rajesh, Dr. N. Parasuraman</p> <p>Rapporteur:</p> <p>Dr. Gayatri Venkataraman, Ms. Anbuvahini, Dr. D.J. Nithya</p>	<p>Dr. Carlo Fadda Research Director – Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture Initiative Lead, Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT, Rome</p> <p>Dr. Soumya Swaminathan Chairperson, MSSRF</p> <p>Mr. Konda Reddy Chavva Assistant FAO Representative, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, FAO-India</p> <p>Dr. V. Mohan Chairman & Chief of Diabetes Research, Dr. Mohan's Diabetes Specialities Centre, Chennai</p> <p>Dr. Kamini Walia Senior Scientist, Indian Council of Medical Research</p> <p>Dr. Praveen Malik Chief Executive Officer, Agrinnovate India Limited</p> <p>Dr. J. Radhakrishnan, IAS Additional Chief Secretary/Commissioner, Chennai Corporation, Government of Tamil Nadu</p>
--	---



August 7, 2023 - Monday

Professor C. Gopalan Memorial Lecture

9.00 - 10.00 am

Chair:

Ms. Elisabeth Faure

Representative and Country Director of UN World Food Programme, India

Memorial Lecture by

Dr. Vinod Kumar Paul

Member, NITI Aayog, Government of India

Coordinators: Dr. V.R. Prabavathy, Dr. G.N. Hariharan

Conference Keynote Address & Session I



Conference Keynote Address

10.00 – 10.15 am

Chair:

Dr. Soumya Swaminathan

Chairperson, MSSRF

Conference Keynote Address

Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani

Hon'ble Union Cabinet Minister for
Women and Child Development, Government of India

Millet Diversity & Agro-Ecology: Ex-situ and In-situ on-farm Conservation Challenges and Opportunities

This Session will deal with issues concerned with on-farm diversity management in varied agro-ecologies and contributions of custodian farmers in safeguarding farmers' varieties in the country. It will, also deliberate on the challenges and opportunities in Ex-situ and In-situ conservation of the wide range of millet diversity.

10.15 – 11.45 am

Chair:

Dr. Trilochan Mohapatra

Chairperson, Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority, New Delhi

(Each speaker will be given 8-10 minutes maximum for presentation by the chair)

Dr. Carlo Fadda

Research Director – Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture Initiative Lead, Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT, Rome

Dr. Gyanendra Pratap Singh

Director, ICAR-National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources, New Delhi

Dr. M. Vetriventhan

Senior Scientist (Genetic Resources), International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics, Hyderabad

Dr. Irish P Baguilat (Virtual)

Coordinator, Asian Farmers Association for Sustainable Rural Development, Philippines

Mr. Pran Ranjan

Technical Expert, GIZ

Mr. Prashant Kumar Parida

Development Coordinator, MSSRF-Jeypore

Mr. K. Shanmugam

Custodian Farmer, Kolli Hills, Nammakkal, Tamil Nadu

11.45 – 12.00 noon

Tea/Coffee Break

Session Coordinator: Dr. V. Shakeela

Rapporteur: Mr. V.V. Sivan, Ms. C.S. Dhanya & Dr. D.J. Nithya

Session II

Crop Improvement, Production Technologies and Sustainable Intensification in Millets in the Era of Climate Change

Sustained millet production, yield gap and production economics are the critical concerns in millet systems. The increasing weather vagaries and climate risks impose serious threat to millet farming systems. The session will discuss the latest advancements in crop improvement and novel production technologies to ensure sustainable intensification in millet farming.

12.00 – 1.30 pm	
Chair: Dr. Carlo Fadda Research Director – Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture Initiative Lead, Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT, Rome <i>(Each speaker will be given 8-10 minutes maximum for presentation by the chair)</i>	Dr. C. Tara Satyavathi Director, ICAR-Indian Institute of Millets Research, Hyderabad
	Dr. M. Govindaraj Senior Scientist, Crop Improvement, HarvestPlus Program, CIAT, Rome
	Dr. Srijit Mishra Professor, Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research, Mumbai
	Dr R. Ravikesevan Director, Centre for Plant Breeding and Genetics, TNAU, Coimbatore
	Dr. V.R. Prabavathy Director, Biotechnology, MSSRF, Chennai
	Dr. T. Samuel Sampath Kumar Patro Principal Scientist & Head, AICRP on Small Millets, Vizianagaram
	Ms. Raimathi Ghiuria Bamandei Farmers Producer Company, Nuaguda, Kundra, Koraput, Odisha

1.30 – 2.30 pm	Lunch
----------------	-------

Session Coordinator: Dr. T. Jayaraman	Rapporteur: Mr. R. Goutham & Dr. R. Gopinath
---------------------------------------	--

Session III



Research & Development Innovations in Agricultural Mechanisation and Post-Harvest Processing Technologies in Nutri-Cereals

Drudgery in millet production and post-harvest processing are the key concerns of the small and marginal farmers of in the country in the last two decades. Both public and private sectors have innovated appropriate technologies to ease the work burden and reduce drudgery in processing millet. The panel of Lead Speakers will identify the gaps and current research and innovations in the area of agricultural mechanization and post-harvest processing in millets.

2.30 – 4.00 pm	
Chair: Dr. C. Anandharamakrishnan Director, CSIR–National Institute of Interdisciplinary Science and Technology, Trivandrum <i>(Each speaker will be given 8-10 minutes maximum for presentation by the chair)</i>	Dr. B. Dayakar Rao Principal Scientist, ICAR-Indian Institute of Millets Research, Hyderabad
	Mr. Vikram Sankaranarayanan Director, M/s. Borne Technologies Pvt. Ltd, Dindigul
	Mr. M.N. Dinesha Kumar Director, Earth 360°, Ananthapur
	Dr. M. Balakrishnan Professor & Head, Dept. of Food Process Engineering, TNAU, Coimbatore
	Smt. Bhibi Jan Sahaja Samrudha FPC, Teertha, Dharwad
	Ms. Sushila Vatti Director, Narmada Farmers Producer Co Ltd, Mandla
4.00 - 4.20 pm	Tea/Coffee Break
Session Coordinator: Dr. V.R. Prabavathy	Rapporteur: Dr. Sivan Kalyani Velu & Dr. D.J. Nithya

Insights from Mina Swaminathan Media Fellows 2023 & Borlaug- Ruan International Intern 2023



Insights from Mina Swaminathan Media Fellows 2023 & Borlaug-Ruan International Intern 2023

Theme: Gender and Millets: Linkages and Inequalities and Seed Systems

4.20 – 5.30 pm	
Welcome	Dr. G.N. Hariharan Executive Director, MSSRF
About Mina Swaminathan Media Fellowship and Bolaug-Ruan International internship	Dr. R. Rengalakshmi Director, Ecotechnology, MSSRF
Introducing the Media Fellows: Expectations from the Media Fellowship (<i>Video</i>)	Ms. Sangeetha Rajeesh Director, Communications, MSSRF
Stories from Field and sharing experiences	MSMF 2023 Mr. K Rajendran - Kerala Ms. Prativa Ghosh - Odisha (<i>Virtual</i>) Mr. E. Mohan - Tamil Nadu BRII 2023 Ms Emma Barrett, USA
Special Address and Release of Insight Briefs	Mr. Sashi Kumar Menon Chairperson, Asian College of Journalism, Chennai
Remarks	Prof. Nitya Rao Professor, Gender & Development, University of East Anglia, UK, and Trustee, MSSRF Ms. Anupama Srinivasan Assistant Director, REACH, Chennai

Session Coordinators: Dr. R. Rengalakshmi & Ms. Sangeetha Rajeesh

Millet Café Panel Discussion & TATA Soulfull Millet Product



Millet Café Panel Discussion

Millet Café Panel representing Chefs' of Lead Hotels, Representative from South-India Chef Association and emerging and successful entrepreneurs in the middle class hotel segments, and the traditional push cart vendor, who deal with millet food in the countryside would share their views. The perspectives across sectors from the millet Food industry will shed lights on the challenges and the prospects and new opportunities in the Millet food chain sector.

5.30 – 7.00 pm	
<p>Anchor: Dr. B. Jayashree Head, Communication, Reliance Foundation</p> <p>Moderator: Shri. Prashant Parameswaran Managing Director, TATA Consumer Soulfull Pvt Ltd</p> <p><i>(Each speaker will be given 8-10 minutes maximum for presentation by the chair)</i></p>	<p>Mr. Sheetharam Prasad Corporate Executive Chef, GRT Hotels & General Secretary, South-India Chef Association</p>
	<p>Mr. Thomas Zacharias Executive Chef, The Locavore</p>
	<p>Mr. Neeraj Balasubramaniam Executive Chef, Hotel RainTree</p>
	<p>Mr. Tamilvanan Chief of Banquet, Hotel Turyaa</p>
	<p>Dr. A. Raghunathan Nambisan Arya Vaidya Sala, Kottakkal</p>
	<p>Ms. S. Adhieswari Co-Founder/Director, Millet Magic Meal Pvt Ltd</p>
	<p>Mr. Pushparaj Pushpa Diet Hotel, Namakkal</p>
	<p>Ms. Gijivisha Khatri Program Manager, WASSAN</p>
	<p>Mr. Vikas Hosoor Rainmatter Foundation</p>
	<p>Dr. B. Jayashree Head, Communication, Reliance Foundation</p>

Coordinators: Dr. Sivan Kalyani Velu, Dr. S. Jegan, Mr. R. Nagarajan

Rapporteur: Dr. Anbuahini, Dr. D. J. Nithya

Launch of TATA Soulfull Millet Product

7.00 – 7.30 pm	7.30 – 8.30 pm
<p>Launch of TATA Soulfull Millet Product</p>	<p>Special Millet Dinner hosted by Tata Consumer Soulfull Pvt Ltd Venue: Open Theatre, MSSRF</p>

Coordinators: Dr. Sivan Kalyani Velu, Dr. S. Jegan



August 8, 2023 - Tuesday

Session IV



Harnessing & Strengthening Value Chains of Millets in India

Government, NGOs, Private sector have been taking various steps and measures to support the development of different kinds of value chains in millets. There are community-centred value chains, Government initiated public value chain through the Millet Mission Programmes, and private value chain actors connecting urban demand. It is imperative to discuss and understand different typologies, emerging issues, protocols, statutory needs, and compliances to be met in harnessing and sustaining value chains in millets.

9.00 – 10.30 am	
<p>Chair:</p> <p>Dr. C. Tara Satyavathi Director, ICAR- Indian Institute of Millets Research</p> <p><i>(Each speaker will be given 8-10 minutes maximum for presentation by the chair)</i></p>	<p>Shri. R. Anand General Manager, FSDD, NABARD, Mumbai</p>
	<p>Ms. Shobana Kumar Regional Head, Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority, Bengaluru</p>
	<p>Shri. Dinesh Balam Associate Director, WASSAN & Odisha Millet Mission, Secretary, Bhubaneswar</p>
	<p>Mr. Ravinderjit Singh Head, Rural Transformation - Bharat India Jodo Program, Reliance Foundation</p>
	<p>Dr. M.R. Ramasubramaniyan Executive Director, National Agro Foundation, Chennai</p>
	<p>Dr. E.D. Israel Oliver King Director, Biodiversity, MSSRF</p>
	<p>Mr. Gangadhar CEO, Chhedlagan Farmer Producer Co Ltd, Sundergarh, Odisha</p>
10.30- 11.00 am	Tea/Coffee Break
Session Coordinator: Dr. S. Velvizhi	Rapporteur: Mr. G. Girigan & Mr. Akshaya Kumar Panda

Session V & Book Release



Millets: The Untapped and Underutilized Nutritious functional Food Grains

Millets are magic grains. Scientists are exploring the untapped potential of millets for its nutritional, nutraceutical and health properties. Various research and development organizations have been researching unexplored areas, such as millet genomics, breeding, nutrition profiling, and abiotic stress. The panel will share the latest findings in millet research advancement.

11.00 – 12.30 pm	
Chair:	Dr. Thingnganing Longvah Research Lead, ICMR-National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad
Prof. S.P. Thyagarajan Professor of Eminence & Dean (Research), Sri Ramachandra University <i>(Each speaker will be given 8-10 minutes maximum for presentation by the chair)</i>	Dr. Sridevi Annapurna Singh Director, CSIR-Central Food Technological Research Institute, Mysore
	Dr. Shobana Shanmugam Scientist, Madras Diabetes Research Foundation, Chennai
	Ms. Neha Khara Nutrition Expert, GIZ, New Delhi
	Dr. M.Muthamilarasan Asst. Professor, Central University, Hyderabad
	Ms. Surajita Kumari Turuk BPTABC, MSSRF, Jeypore, Odisha
	Dr. Vinay K. Nandicoori Director, Centre for Cellular & Molecular Biology, Hyderabad

Book Release

“Quest for Identity: Gender, Land and Migration in Contemporary Jharkhand”

Authored by
Prof. Dr Nitya Rao

This book vividly brings out the lived experiences of Santal women and men along with the political and economic changes that took place after the creation of the Jharkhand state. The book provides rich field insights with gender dimensions and a fresh perspective to understanding issues of land and labour, indigenous identity, political aspirations and state relations.

will be released by

Dr. Sonajharia Minz, Professor, Jawaharlal Nehru University & Former Vice-Chancellor, Sido Kanhu Murmu University, Dumkab

12.30 – 1.30 pm	Lunch
Session Coordinator: Dr. R. Ramasubramanian	Rapporteur: Dr. Gayatri Venkataraman & Dr. S. Jegan

Session VI



Industry Perspectives on Millets, Markets Environment and Strategies for Sustaining Efforts

International Year of Millets has kindled a lot of interest among farmers, youth, consumers, and value chain actors in popularizing millets. In India, various states have taken efforts to provide support for millet promotion, Industries have played a crucial role in the promotion of millets and enabled the system for mainstreaming it successfully. In order to sustain the interest in millets among the public as well as to be the global leader, the industry needs sustainable support system from research & development and schemes through public policy. The panellists will also deliberate on various dimensions in marketing in the country as well as exporting to other regions of the world.

1.30 – 3.00 pm	
<p>Chair:</p> <p>Dr. B. Dayakar Rao Principal Scientist, Indian Institute of Millets Research</p> <p><i>(Each speaker will be given 8-10 minutes maximum for presentation by the chair)</i></p>	<p>Mr. Rajashekar Reddy Seelam Sresta Natural Bioproducts, Hyderabad</p> <p>Dr. Ashish Wele Independent corporate consultant & Former President, Nirmal Seeds Ltd</p> <p>Dr. Ruchit G. Garg Founder CEO, Harvesting India Pvt Ltd</p> <p>Dr. Bhavna Sharma (Virtual) Head, Nutrition Science, ITC Ltd, Bangalore</p> <p>Dr. Devansh Parasrampur Co-Founder, Gourmet Superfood Brand, Pink Harvest Farms, Mumbai</p> <p>Ms. K. Saraswathi CEO, Agrogya Millet FPO, Vizianagaram, AP</p> <p>Reliance Foundation Representative Mumbai</p>
3.00 – 3.30 pm	Tea/Coffee Break
Session Coordinator: Dr. Md. Hossain	Rapporteur: Ms. Anbuvahini & Dr. Kartik Lenka

Session VII Panel Discussion



Enabling Policy Environment for Millets as 'Climate Smart Nutri-Cereals'

In the recent past, both central as well as state governments have initiated various policy interventions to support millets cultivation and consumption in the country. Millet as a nutri-cereals have been included in the food security programme in India. The Panellists will deliberate on various policy avenues and best practices in conservation, enhancing production and sustainable use and set a way forward charter plan for new dimensions of research, extension and public distribution system.

3.30 – 5.00 pm

Chair:

Dr. Soumya Swaminathan

Chairperson, MSSRF

(Each speaker will be given 8 minutes maximum for presentation by the chair)

Dr. Alessandro Meschinelli

Research Innovation & Partnership Facilitator, GFAR, Rome (*Virtual*)

Mr. C Achalender Reddy, IFS (Retd.)

Chairperson, National Biodiversity Authority

Dr. Raman Wadhwa

Director, NRLM, Ministry of Rural Development, New Delhi

Dr. Ruchi Pant

Head - Climate Adaptation, NRM and Biodiversity, United Nations Development Programme (*Virtual*)

Dr. Arabinda Kumar Padhee, IAS

Principal Secretary, Department of Agriculture & Farmers' Empowerment, Government of Odisha

Dr. Ashok Dalwai, IAS

CEO, National Rainfed Authority of India, MoAFW, Government of India

Dr. Sonajharia Minz

Professor, Jawaharlal Nehru University & Former Vice-Chancellor, Sido Kanhu Murmu University, Dumkab

Dr. Rajeev Ahal

Director, Natural Resource Management & Agroecology, GIZ India

Prof. Nitya Rao

Professor, Gender & Development, University of East Anglia, UK

Session Coordinator: Dr. E.D. Israel Oliver King

Rapporteur: Dr. R. Gopinath & Mr. G. Girigan

Session VII Valedictory Session



Valedictory Session

5.00 – 5.30 pm	
Chair and Welcome Remarks: Dr. Soumya Swaminathan Chairperson, MSSRF	
Draft Recommendations from the deliberations	Dr. R. Rengalakshmi Director, Ecotechnology, MSSRF, Chennai
Launching of Women Connect Program & Distributing Tabs to five Fisher Women by Tmt. P. Geetha Jeevan Hon'ble Minister for Social Welfare including Women and Children Welfare, Government of Tamil Nadu	
Women Connect Programme Fisher Women perspective	Ms. Sathiya Fisher Women, Mudasalodai Village, Cuddalore Dist, Tamil Nadu
Special Address	Dr. Arabinda Kumar Padhee, IAS Principal Secretary, Department of Agriculture & Farmers' Empowerment, Government of Odisha
Special Address	Dr. Ashok Dalwai, IAS CEO, National Rainfed Authority of India, MoAFW, Government of India
Valedictory Address Tmt. P. Geetha Jeevan Hon'ble Minister for Social Welfare including Women and Children Welfare, Government of Tamil Nadu	
Vote of Thanks	Dr. E.D. Israel Oliver King Director, Biodiversity, MSSRF, Chennai

Coordinators: Dr. G.N. Hariharan, Dr. N. Parasuraman