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# Millets-Smart Nutritive Food

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**Why is in news?** Shri Piyush Goyal to be the chief guest at the 'Millets-Smart Nutritive Food' conclave

Union Minister for Commerce and Industry will be the Chief Guest at the 'Millets-Smart Nutritive Food' Conclave to be held in New Delhion 05 December 2022, Monday.

The Conclave is being organized by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry through its apex agricultural export promotion body, **Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)** with the objective of promoting the export of millets.

The Conclave is to be a **pre-launch event of the 'International Year of Millets – 2023' (IYoM-2023)**.

The **millets export promotion programme** also comes at the backdrop of the proposal of India that was supported by 72 countries which lead to the **United Nations' General Assembly (UNGA) declaring 2023 as International Year of Millets (IYoM) on March 5, 2021**.

The government is currently organising IYoM-2023 at **domestic and international level to popularize Indian millets** as well as its value-added products across the world and make it a peoples' movement.

At the first-of-its-kind Millets Conclave, the government will release **e-catalogue on 30 potential importing countries and 21 millet producing states of India**. Also, a **knowledge book on Millets** prepared in association with Knowledge partner 'Yes Bank' will be released on the occasion.

Centre has also **planned to organize millet promotional activities** in South Africa, Dubai, Japan, South Korea, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, Sydney, Belgium, Germany, United Kingdom and United States of America by facilitating participation of different stakeholders from India.

India is **one of the leading producers of millets in the world** with an estimated share of **around 41 percent in the global production**.

As per FAO, world production of millets in the year 2020 was 30.464 million metric tonnes (MMT) and India's share was 12.49 MMT, which accounts to 41 percent of the total millet production.

India recorded **27 percent growth in millet production in 2021-22** as compared to millet production in the previous year was 15.92 MMT.

India's **top five millet producing states** are **Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh**. Share of export of millets is nearly 1% of the total millet production. Exports of millets from India include mainly whole grain and the export of value-added products of millets from India is negligible.

However, it is estimated that the millets market is set to grow from its current market value of more than USD 9 billion to over USD 12 billion by 2025.

APEDA would also organise food sampling and tasting at the retail level and in key local bazaars of targeted countries where individual, household consumers can gain familiarity with millet products.

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Centre has created the **Nutri Cereals Export Promotion Forum** to give impetus to the export of potential products, including millets, and to remove the bottlenecks in the supply chain of Nutri cereals.

Millets have **superior nutritional values** in comparison to highly consumed cereals such as rice and wheat.

Millets are rich in **calcium, iron, and fibers** that help in fortifying essential nutrients for the healthy growth in children. Also, the usage of millets in infant food and nutrition products is increasing.

India's **major millet exporting countries** are U.A.E, Nepal, Saudi Arabia, Libya, Oman, Egypt, Tunisia, Yemen, U.K and U.S.A.

The **varieties of millets exported by India** include Bajra, Ragi, Canary, Jawar, and Buckwheat.

The **major millet importing countries in the world** are Indonesia, Belgium, Japan, Germany, Mexico, Italy, the U.S.A, United Kingdom, Brazil and Netherlands.

There are **16 major varieties of millet**, which are **produced and exported**, including Sorghum (Jowar), Pearl Millet (Bajra), Finger Millet (Ragi) Minor Millets (Kangani), Proso Millet (Cheena), Kodo Millet (Kodo), Barnyard Millet (Sawa/Sanwa/Jhangora), Little Millet (Kutki), Two Pseudo Millets (BuckWheat/Kuttu), Ameranthus (Chaulai) and Brown Top Millet.