

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1467
ANSWERED ON:21.08.2012
MILLETS CULTIVATION
Jakhar Shri Badri Ram ;Tandon Annu

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has launched the Initiative for Nutritional Security through Intensive Millets Promotion (INSIMP) Scheme to encourage the farmers for cultivation of millets in views of its high nutritional value in comparison to rice and wheat;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the production and consumption of millets during the current year, State-wise;
- (c) whether the area of millets cultivation lacks nutritional security in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the follow up action taken/being taken by the Government to promote cultivation of millets in adverse climatic condition by discouraging the excessive use of chemicals, fertilisers and pesticides?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

(a): Yes, Madam.

(b): Initiative for Nutritional Security through Intensive Millets Promotion - a sub- scheme of RKVY has been launched from 2011-12 with aim to demonstrate the improved production and post-harvest technologies in an integrated manner with an allocation of Rs. 300 crores in 16 States. As regards, the production and consumption of millets during current year is concerned, it is too early to make an assessment for current year at this stage, when sowings are in progress. However, it is stated that millet grains are used as traditional food including fermented products like rabri in their areas of cultivation, value added bakery products, in Urban areas, feed for live stock including birds. National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO), Household Consumption Expenditure Survey 2009-2010 indicates per capita consumption of coarse cereals, which includes millets, maize and barley @ 8.74 kg/ annum at National level and 10.34 kg/annum in Rural household and 4.6 kg/annum in Urban household.

(c) & (d): Millets are largely grown under rainfed condition and can thrive with rain fall of 300 mm, wherein major cereals like wheat and rice cannot be grown. Therefore, millets supplement the nutritional security of both human as well as live stocks in such areas.

(e): Besides, the INSIMP the cultivation of millets is also supported by the Government through other programmes like Macro Management in Agriculture (MMA), which provides support for organizing demonstrations of improved package of practices, supply of certified seeds, seed minikits and supply of micro nutrients, gypsum and farmers training for production and productivity improvement of coarse cereals including millets.

Millets are the hardy crops against the disease/pests and also grown as trap crops in Oilseed and Pulses for control of disease and pest management. Therefore, they require lesser support for chemicals, fertilizers and pesticides. The operational guidelines of INSIMP provides flexibility to the States, to modify the contents of the input kits as per local situations in consultation with their State Agriculture Universities/ICAR institutions.