



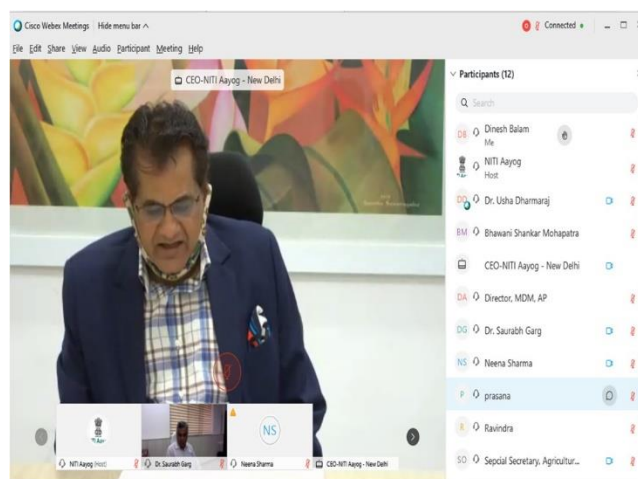
National Consultation on Promotion of Millets: Implementation experience

Online National Consultation on Promotion of Millets; Implementation experience was held on 22.07.2020 under the chairmanship of Mr. Amitabh Kant, CEO, Niti Aayog. Participants from Health & Nutrition Division-Niti Aayog, Agriculture & FE Department - Odisha and WCD Departments of Chhattisgarh & Rajasthan, School Education Dept-Andhra Pradesh, CSIR-CFTRI, WASSAN and Working Group on Millets (WGoM) of RRA Network participated in the consultation.

At the outset, Mr. Alok Kumar IAS welcomed the participants. He said the Health & Nutrition Division of NITI Aayog, has been extensively engaging with concerned Central Ministries, State Governments, technical partners, civil society organizations to understand the challenges and explore solutions to problems associated with the promotion of production, consumption, and procurement of Millets. Niti Aayog is looking to this sharing session and hopes that this will lead to a plan for action for reviving millets.

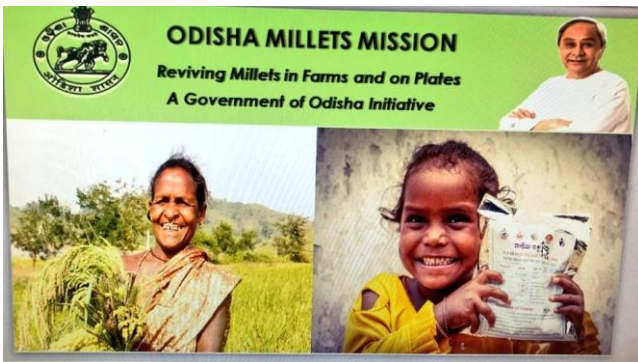
Mr. Amitabh Kant, CEO, Niti Aayog said that due to consistent engagement of NITI Aayog with different Central Ministries, Dept of School Education and MoWCD had issued an advisory to all States to include Millets in ICDS and MDM. Niti Aayog is interested in understanding the successful models,

challenges faced by states in the inclusion of millets in govt schemes, changes required in existing policies/guidelines, so on and so forth. Niti Aayog can also facilitate the preparation of millet proposals under the Aspirational District program and actively



encourages states and technical partners to submit proposals under the ADP scheme.

Dr. Saurabh Garg Principal Secretary, Agriculture & FE Dept, Odisha said that Odisha Millets Mission (OMM) started in 2017 and is currently implemented in 76 blocks covering 14 districts. OMM is a comprehensive program that focuses on farm to fork approach. It is a partnership between Government, farmers, CBOs, NCDS, WASSAN led civil society. The unique architecture of OMM is a secret of its success. Based on the baseline survey of 7000 OMM farmers done by NCDS, yields have doubled and income from millet has tripled. Under OMM, procurement of ragi and distribution has also been undertaken. Currently, ragi ladoo is being included in ICDS in Keonjhar targeting 1.5 lakh children. Phase wise science-backed inclusion of millets in ICDS/MDM is being planned.



Ms. D Divya, Special Secretary cum Commissioner, Telangana shared that with support of WASSAN, the inclusion of millets (Sorghum Rava and Foxtail Millet Kitchdi) was piloted in 45 AWCs and also Sorghum was given in PDS at the rate of Rs 8 per kg in 2016. Food festivals were organized to finalize the millet recipes through gram sabhas and approval of mother committees for the inclusion of millets was obtained. These initiatives received a tremendously positive response from the farmers, mother committees, and children. Now Telangana is planning to pilot large scale inclusion of millets in hot cooked meals with an allotment of millets (355 MT of Sorghum and 607 MT of Bajra) from the Government of India through FCI. In addition to millets, Telangana is also planning to

pilot the inclusion of Mahua ladoo in the ICDS scheme in tribal areas.

Dr. Usha Dharmaraj CSIR-CFTRI, Grain science Department said that CFTRI has been working on millets for nearly 25 years. Bio-availability and processing are key aspects to be considered when it comes to the inclusion of millets in ICDS & MDM. As millets have high fiber, it is important to semi-polish millets appropriately to reduce fiber and retain bran to increase the bioavailability and counter the anti-nutrient effects. CFTRI is providing technical support to Odisha Millets Mission on the inclusion of ragi in ICDS. Under this initiative, Ragi flour is converted into a ready-to-eat mix by extrusion, roasting, and mixing with ingredients such as puffed Bengal gram flour, sugar, etc. to form a ready mix. The ready mix is being prepared by WSHGs.

Mr. A Ravindra, Executive Secretary WASSAN said over a period of 20 years, WASSAN played an instrumental role in the design and implementation of state-level millet missions in many states and piloted inclusion of millets in PDS/ICDS/Welfare schemes in 3 states. Key drivers for inclusion in government schemes are procurement and subsidization of millets, focus on location-specific millet recipes as per local food cultures and landscapes, focus on local production, local processing, local procurement and inclusion, allocation by the government should factor processing loss and costs like rice and intensive awareness campaigns and food festivals should be taken up to revive the prestige of consumption of millets among the younger generation. WASSAN with RRA Network would be very keen on supporting interested states and Aspirational districts in undertaking millet related initiatives.

Mr. Diwan Mydeen IFS, Director, MDM, Andhra Pradesh said that millets are one of the focus areas of the Government of Andhra Pradesh. Under MDM, State is actively considering bringing in ragi mudda and ragi chikki. The major issue is that rice is supplied free of cost in MDM, similarly, if Ragi powder can be supplied free of cost in place of rice for two days, then School Education Dept will take it on large scale for

two days a week. If costs are reimbursed, School Education Dept can engage with different departments at the state level for decentralized procurement, processing, and millet recipe preparation aspects.

Mr. R Prasanna IAS, Secretary, WCD Dept Chhattisgarh said that Chhattisgarh is planning to include Ragi in Ready to Eat/THR packets. WCD Dept is planning to procure at a rate of Rs 40 per kg, Nearly Rs 8 higher than MSP. 3 gm of Ragi will be added in each packet. Around 2027.9 MT would be procured for this pilot initiative. Rs 8.11 Cr has been allocated for this purpose. Directorate of Agriculture, Chhattisgarh has proposed procurement of Kodo millet and Little millet at the rate of Rs 3000 per Qntl. This proposal is waiting for review at the senior levels of government.

After the presentation from the states, a detailed discussion took place on the next steps of action. Following decisions emerged from the consultation under the chairmanship of Mr. Amitabh Kant, CEO Niti Aayog:

1. Niti Aayog will continue to engage with representatives of interested states, civil society, academia to identify the changes required in policies and will engage with central ministers to bring changes in policies.
2. Information on the successful models such as Odisha Millets Mission shall be shared with state governments and Aspirational districts to encourage them to take up millet related initiatives.
3. District Administration with approval of state governments may develop millet related proposals in Aspirational districts to Niti Aayog. It will explore funding for the same.

NITI Aayog @NITIAayog

Chaired by CEO [@amitabhk87](#), a National Consultation on Promotion of Millets was held today, virtually.

Representatives from States shared their experiences & deliberated on the possible pathways to include Millets in schemes like ICDS & MDM to promote nutritional security

VARIOUS MILLET INITIATIVES

DAPPYVANDU - Millet Laddu and laddu in Pittern

KROHNGADU - Millet Biscuit, Pongit, and Pongit in Biscuit

ODISHA MILLETS MISSION
Reviving Millets in Farms and on Plates
A Government of Odisha Initiative

SW DG DA
BM DB NS

Alok Kumar and 9 others

5:43 PM · Jul 22, 2020 · Twitter for Android

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