

Global Millets (Shree Anna) Conference

March 21, 2023

In news– The Prime Minister of India has recently inaugurated the Global Millets (Shree Anna) Conference at Subramaniam Hall, NASC Complex, IARI Campus, PUSA New Delhi.

About the conference-

- The two-day global conference had sessions on all important issues related to millets (Shree Anna) like promotion and awareness of millets among producers, consumers and other stakeholders; millets' value chain development; health and nutritional aspects of millets; market linkages; research and development etc.
- The Prime Minister also inaugurated and visited the Exhibition cum Buyer Seller Meet Pavilion.
- He also unveiled a Commemorative Stamp and Commemorative Coin. This was followed by the Prime Minister digitally launching a compendium of Indian Millet (Shri Anna) startups and a book of millet (Shri Anna) standards.
- PM also declared the Indian Institute of Millets Research of ICAR as a Global Centre of Excellence.
- International leaders conveyed their messages on the occasion.
- Underlining the consistent efforts of the government to turn Shree Anna into a global movement, the Prime Minister informed that **millets were declared nutri-cereals in 2018** where work was carried out on all levels from making the farmers aware of its benefits to generating interest in the market.
- He said that millets have also been selected in 19 districts of the country under the 'One District, One Product' scheme.
- Informing that about 2.5 crore small farmers are

- directly involved in the production of millets in India, the Prime Minister noted that they faced the challenges of climate change even though they own very little land.
- He said that India's Millet Mission – The campaign for Shree Anna will prove to be a boon for 2.5 crore farmers of the country.
 - He also suggested including Shree Anna in the mid-day meal so that children can get proper nutrition while also adding a new taste and variety to the food.
 - The two-day global conference will have sessions on all important issues related to millets (Shree Anna) like promotion and awareness of millets among producers, consumers and other stakeholders; millets' value chain development; health and nutritional aspects of millets; market linkages; research and development etc.
 - The conference was attended by Agriculture Ministers of various countries, international scientists, nutritionists, health experts, start-up leaders and other stakeholders.
 - The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India has organized the Global Millets (Shree Anna) Conference.

Background-

- Based on India's proposal, the year **2023 was declared the International Year of Millets (IYM) by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)**
- In line with the Prime Minister's vision to make the celebrations of IYM 2023 a 'people's movement' and position India as the 'global hub for millets', all central government ministries/departments, states/UTs, farmers, start-ups, exporters, retail businesses and other stakeholders are being engaged to promote and spread awareness about the benefits of millets (Shree Anna) for the cultivator, consumer and climate.

- The organization of the Global Millets (Shree Anna) Conference in India is an important programme in this context.

Further reading:
<https://journalsofindia.com/international-year-of-millets-2023/>

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