

NITI Aayog signed Statement of Intent with UN World Food Program

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In news– Recently, NITI Aayog signed a Statement of Intent with United Nations World Food Program (WFP) on 20th December 2021.

Key updates-

- The **partnership focuses on mainstreaming of millets and supporting India in taking lead globally** in knowledge exchange using the opportunity of **2023 as an International Year of Millets**.
- It also aims at **building resilient livelihoods for small-holder farmers** and adaptation capacities to climate change and transforming food systems.
- The Sol focuses on **strategic and technical collaboration between NITI Aayog and WFP, to strengthen the climate resilient agriculture** for enhanced food and nutrition security in India
- **The parties will be working on the following activities:**
- Joint development of a **compendium of good practices around millets** mainstreaming in priority states and development of a scaling up strategy.
- To provide **technical support for scaling up of millets mainstreaming through intense engagement in select states** with support from state governments, IIMR & other associated institutions.
- Parties will jointly organize a **national consultation for line ministries** of the Government of India,

concerned departments of State governments, select academic institutions and organizations working in the field of millets mainstreaming.

- To support **leveraging India's expertise to benefit other developing countries for millets mainstreaming** by creation of knowledge management platforms and facilitation of knowledge exchange.

The outcome of this partnership will be achieved in following four phases:

- Phase I: Development of a best practice compendium around millet mainstreaming and a scale-up strategy.
- Phase II: Support scale-up of millet mainstreaming through knowledge sharing and intense engagement with select states.
- Phase III: Leverage India's expertise to support developing countries for millet mainstreaming.
- Phase IV: Working on building capacities for climate resilient and adaptive livelihood practices.

United Nations World Food Program (WFP)-

- The WFP is the food-assistance branch of the United Nations.
- It is the world's largest humanitarian organization, the largest one focused on hunger and food security, and the largest provider of school meals.
- Founded in 1961, (at the behest of US President Dwight Eisenhower) after the 1960 Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Conference.
- It is headquartered in Rome and has offices in 80 countries.
- WFP launched its first programmes in 1963 by the FAO and the UNGA on a three-year experimental basis, supporting the Nubian population in Sudan.
- In 1965, the programme was extended to a continuing basis.

- It is funded entirely by voluntary donations.
- WFP is governed by a 36-member Executive Board.
- The European Union is a permanent observer in WFP and, as a major donor, participates in the work of its executive board.
- The Logistics Cluster is an Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) humanitarian coordination mechanism whose primary role is supporting emergency responses.
- It works closely with its sister organizations, the FAO and the International Fund for Agricultural Development.
- The largest donors are the United States government followed by the European Union.