



# MILLETS

## Newsletter



Hyderabad . Solapur . Barmer . Warangal

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ICAR-Indian Institute of Millets Research, Rajndranagar, Hyderabad-500030

### Visit of Secretary DARE & Director General ICAR, Dr Himanshu Pathak

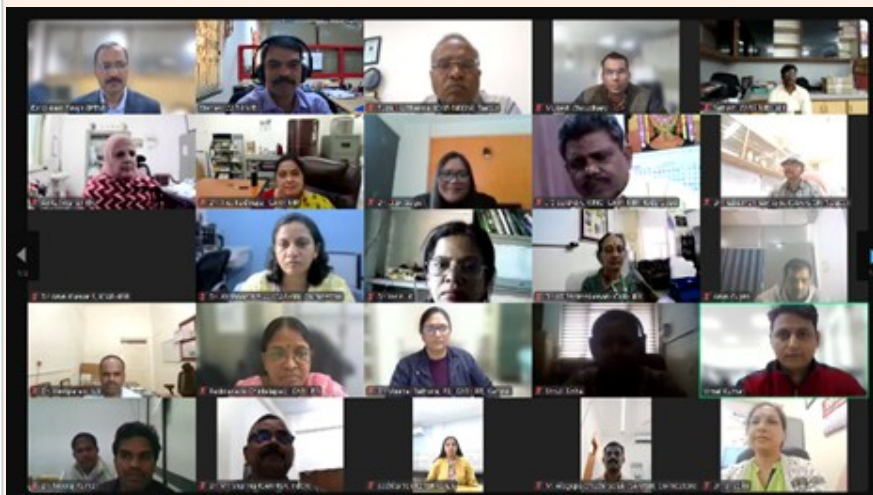
Secretary Department of Agriculture Research and Education (DARE) and Director General ICAR, Dr. Himanshu Pathak visited ICAR-IIMR on 29.01.25. Director General was welcomed by Director ICAR-IIMR Dr (Mrs) C. Tara Satyavathi and appraised about the upcoming facilities of Global Centre of Excellence on Shree Anna and MAHARISHI. The dignitaries went for tour to the upcoming building of Global CoE, Innovation Centre, Farm facilities and the Nutricereal referral laboratories with high-end equipment. After the visit, DG review the work and accomplishments of all the ICAR institutes at Hyderabad and given guidance. The directors and in-charges present are, Dr. RM Mathur Director ICAR-IIR, Dr. SK Bera Director ICAR-IIGR Junagarh, Dr. S.B. Barbuddhe Director ICAR-NIMR, Dr. R.N. Chatterjee Director ICAR-DPR, Dr. Shaik. N. Meera Director ATARI, Dr. R. Mahender Kumar Director in-charge ICAR-IIRR, Dr. V Ramasubramanian Joint Director In-charge ICAR-NAARM, Dr. L. Saravanan Officer In-charge ICAR-NBPGR RS and Dr. N. Sunil In-charge ICAR-WNC (Maize) besides many head of divisions of the ICAR institutes of Hyderabad. Dr. Dayakar Rao, Dr. Venkatesh Bhat, Dr. D. Balakrishna, Dr. T. Nepolean, Dr. J. Stanley and Dr. Avinash Singode also present in the review. A network millet lunch was served to all the participants in the IIMR canteen.



### Online Awareness program on Intellectual Property Organized

An online Intellectual Property (IP) awareness program was organized by IPTM division of ICAR along with ZTMCs of ICAR-IIMR and ICAR-IARI during 16 to 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2025 for all the ITMU in-charges and other scientists of all the Crop Science Institutes of ICAR. The first day had the inaugural program with Dr. Neeru Bhooshan, ADG IPTM welcomed all and given her initial remarks about the importance of this awareness program. It was presided by Dr. Ch. Srinivasa Rao, Director, ICAR-IARI, New Delhi and a talk on 'Trademark & Design Essentials: Safeguarding Creativity and Innovation' was given by Mr. Rahul Bagga, Founder and MD, Aumirah, New Delhi and attended by more than 300 participants.

The second day program was on Patents, with Dr. Pankaj Kaushal, Director, ICAR-IGFRI, Jhansi presiding and a talk on 'From Idea to Protection: Navigating the Patent Process' was delivered by Dr Shweta Sharma, Senior Associate, Khurana and Khurana IP Attorneys, New Delhi.



On 20.01.25, the program was on Copyrights which was presided by Dr (Mrs) C Tara Satyavathi, Director, ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad. A talk on 'Creative Rights: How Copyright Protects Your Masterpieces' was delivered by Dr Judi Gogoi, Asst Prof, Faculty of Law, University of Delhi, New Delhi and Dr. Mukesh Choudhary, Examiner TM & GI, Copyright Office, New Delhi.

The fourth day program was on Protecting Nature's Innovations: Understanding PPVFR and Plant Variety Rights delivered by Dr Dipal Roy Choudhary, Joint Registrar, PPVFR, New Delhi and presided by Dr. R. M. Sundaram, Director, ICAR-IIRR, Hyderabad.



On 22.01.25, the program was on 'Technology Licensing: A Strategic Path to Expanding Your Reach' delivered by Dr Praveen K Malik, CEO AgrInnovate India, New Delhi and presided by Dr Sujay Rakshit, Director, ICAR-IIAB, Ranchi.

On the final day i.e., on 23.01.25, a Panel Discussion on 'Issues and Challenges in Agri IPRs ecosystem' was conducted which was chaired by Dr T. R. Sharma, DDG (Crop Science) ICAR, New Delhi and co-chaired by Dr. Neeru Bhooshan, ADG, IPTM & PME, ICAR, New Delhi. The panellists were Dr. Prithpal Kaur Sidhu Deputy Registrar Copyright Office New Delhi, Dr. Rahul Bagga Founder and MD, Aumirah New Delhi, Dr. Ashwani Siwal, Assoc Prof Intellectual Property Laws University of Delhi, Dr. Jupi Gogoi Asst Prof Faculty of Law University of Delhi New Delhi, Dr Dipal Roy Choudhary Joint Registrar PPVFR and Dr. Praveen K Malik CEO AgrInnovate India New Delhi.

The lecture notes about the deliberations happened with questions raised during the session with the answers were compiled and it was released by DDG Crop Sciences, Dr. TR Sharma. The entire six-day training program was coordinated by Dr. Vikram Singh Principal Scientist IPTM, Dr. J. Stanley Principal Scientist ZTMC ICAR-IIMR and Dr. Akriti Sharma Scientist ZTMC ICAR-IARI.

### Training program on "Millets for Prosperity: Strategies for Production, Branding, and Market Linkages" to Odisha farmers

ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad, organized a 4 days training program to Odisha farmers on "Millets for Prosperity: Strategies for Production, Branding, and Market Linkages" from 6<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> January 2025. The program was designed to



understand the advanced practices in seed production, processing, and product development for increasing the productivity and sustainability of millet farming in Odisha. Farmers received training on millet processing and product packaging, which are essential for adding value to millets and creating marketable products. Participants visited millet fields, Nutrihub and got exposure to innovative farming techniques and entrepreneurial opportunities available in millets. The program also included practical sessions on soil health improvement and use of e-commerce platform for direct market access. The training was coordinated by Dr. Sangappa, Dr. Rafi, and Ms. Meghana from FPO-NEST team of ICAR-IIMR.

### Training program to ICAR-KVK scientists of Bihar Agricultural University

ICAR-Indian Institute of Millets Research (IIMR) and National Institute of Plant Health Management (NIPHM), Hyderabad

jointly organized 4-day residential training program on "Millet Production, Processing, and Value Addition Technologies" during 7<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> January, 2025. The training program began with a warm welcome by Dr. Sangappa, Scientist, ICAR-IIMR with an overview of training designed on latest knowledge and skills in millet production and value addition for KVK scientists of Bihar. Dr. C. Tara Satyavathi, Director, ICAR-IIMR, inaugurated the program and



highlighted the role of millets in ensuring food and nutritional security, particularly in light of their adaptability to diverse agro-climatic conditions. Scientists from IIMR and NIPHM delivered lectures covering on the all the aspects of millet ecosystem. The training program was led the course directors Dr. C. Tara Satyavathi, Dr. Sangappa, Shri. K Srinivasa Babu and Dr. Rafi.

### Millet Zone in Udyan Utsav at Rashtrapati Nilayam, Secunderabad

Udyan Utsav (Flower and Horticulture Festival) was organized from 02<sup>nd</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at Rashtrapati Nilayam, Secunderabad, Telangana. In the exhibition a



separate MILLET ZONE was made which was organized by ICAR-IIMR displaying all the information and samples of different millets, their scientific production, protection techniques and also the processing and value addition with the display of products. Apart from IIMR stall being kept open on all the days of exhibition, 20 startups hand-held by ICAR-IIMR also joined the exhibition and displayed their products on different days based on the slots given. The millet zone was a centre of attraction for many people and was greatly appreciated. Director ICAR-IIMR, Dr (Mrs) C Tara Satyavathi along with Dr. J. Stanley and Dr. Avinash Singode was also present in the exhibition site on 04.01.25 to oversee and encourage the exhibitors and startups of MILLET ZONE.



## Visit of Shri. Yogendra Kumar, Chairman BBSSL & MD, IFFCO on 30.01.25

Shri. Yogendra Kumar, Chairman, Bharatiya Beej Sahakari Samiti Ltd & Marketing Director, IFFCO along with Dr.



Tarunendu Singh, Chief Agriculture Officer IFFCO, Mr. Krupasankar State Marketing Manager IFFCO along with Dr. Neeraj Awasti Country Manager, Anglo American Crop Nutrients Company, visited ICAR-IIMR on 30.01.2025. He was welcomed by the Director In-charge Dr. B. Dayakar Rao. Dr. J. Stanley and Dr. Sooganna explained the them about the activities of ICAR-IIMR in crop improvement and appraised the high yielding cultivars in millets. He was appraised about the germplasm collection, preservation and utilization including the landraces in each of the millet. He was taken to Centre of Excellence in millet processing and value addition, Common Facility Centre and Nutrihub to appraise the value-added technologies and entrepreneurship development in millets at ICAR-IIMR.

## Opportunities for Mechanization to enhance millets production and processing

In order to find out suitable opportunities for mechanization to enhance millets production and processing, Dr. V. P. Chowdary, Head & Principal Scientist, Machinery Division, ICAR-CIAE, Bhopal visited ICAR-Indian Institute of Millet



Research, Hyderabad on 31<sup>st</sup> Jan., 2025. Dr. Rajendra R. Chapke, Principal Scientist of the institute elaborated practical problems faced by the millet growers in production and processing at grassroots level. He emphasized the need for sorghum harvester and, suitable seed-cum-fertilizer planter. Dr. Chowdhury also visited the processing unit of millets and observed cleaning, grading, and preparation of various value-added products operations. His visit provides inputs to boost up mechanization by developing suitable machineries from his research endeavours and also extending scope for collaborative efforts of both the institutes.

## Field Day of Kodo Millet variety CKMV2 organized

The field day of bio-fortified kodo Millet variety CKMV-2 was organized on 24.01.2025 at the Central State Farm, National Seeds Corporation Ltd, Jawalgera, in collaboration with Central State Farm, NSC, Jawalgera. The variety was sown in the area of 2.5 acres land and was at maturity stage. On the occasion, officials from ICAR-IIMR and NSC,



state seed form participated in the field day. Mr. Arun Kumar, Manager (Production), NSC, welcomed the gathering and gave brief introduction about the program. Dr. Sooganna Scientist, ICAR-IIMR, spoke on the importance of millets and seed production aspects of kodo millet and importance of establishing Farmers Producers Organizations (FPOs) to avail benefits of millet production, processing and linking to markets. Dr. B. Amasiddha, Scientist, ICAR-IIMR explained salient features of kodo millet variety CKMV-2 and its packages of practices to get higher yields to the farmers. Mr. Sharanabasappa, Deputy Director of Seed Certification, KSSOCA, Ballari, briefed about the health benefits of millets and urged farmers to take up millet production and consumption. Sh. Nazeer Ahmed ADA, Sindhanur spoke on various schemes related to millets to farmers. Sh. Vinay Kumar, Farm Head, NSC CSF, spoke on the importance and advantages of growing and consumption of millets for human health, soil health and methods of gradual adoption of millet crops. More than 100 farmers participated in the field day programme. The kodo millet field day was coordinated by Sh. Arunkumar, Manager, NSC and Dr. Sooganna, Dr. Amasiddha and Mr. Raghunath Kulakarni from ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad.

## Exposure Visit cum Training Program on "Millets Production, Processing, and Value Addition for Sustainable Agriculture" at ICAR-IIMR

ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad, organized a four-day exposure visit cum training program on "Millets Production, Processing, and Value Addition for Sustainable Agriculture" from 28<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025. The training began with a session by Dr. Sangappa, Scientist, on the role of millets in nutritional





security, emphasizing their importance in enhancing food security and overall health. Participants were introduced to improved millet production practices, covering advanced techniques for higher yields and better crop management. As part of the practical exposure, participants visited millet fields and primary processing units, where they gained hands-on experience in field operations and post-harvest processing. A soil kit testing demonstration was conducted by Dr. Brajendra Parmar, Principal Scientist, ICAR-IIMR to equip participants with skills to assess soil health for better crop productivity. Dr. Srinivasa Babu, Senior Scientist encouraged farmers to cultivate millets and expand the area under millet production. Participants were provided exposure to millet-based value-added products at millet incubation centre, PJTAU and GMRK Foods. Dr. Rafi discussed about the role of FPOs in strengthening farmer connectivity, bargaining power and market linkages. Dr. Sangappa, Dr. Rafi and Ms. Meghana from FPO-NEST organized and coordinated this training program.

### Participation of ICAR-IIMR promoted FPOs in ITF -2025, Bangalore

ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad promoting FPOs viz., Jewargi Taluka Millets FPCL, Nidgundi Sri Hadi Basavannappa Oilseed and Millets Producer Company Limited, Lambasingi Tribal Products Farmers Producer Company Limited, Kayaka Krushi Mitra Farmers Producer Company Limited, Kukanooru Dharani Millets Producer Company Limited, Hulsoor Mahila Kisan Millets Producer Company Limited, Amruthavahini Farmers Producer Company limited, Bettada Basaveshwara FPCL participated in the International Trade Fair held at Palace Grounds, Bangalore during 23<sup>rd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> January 2025. The event was organized by the Department of Agriculture, Karnataka, in collaboration with KAPPEC and ICCOA, with a focus on promoting agriculture commodities and organic products. IIMR promoting FPOs displayed their wide range of millet-based products and participated in B2B meetings. Dr. Rafi, Mr. Kailashnath, Mr. Abbuseeth, and Mr. Anup from IIMR FPO-NEST actively engaged in B2B meetings and generated business leads for the FPOs.

### Exposure Visit of Farmers from Madhya Pradesh

A total of 50 Farmers from Dindori, Madhya Pradesh visited ICAR-IIMR on 07.01.25. They were briefed about the activities



of ICAR-IIMR in millet crop improvement, improved cultivars, scientific crop cultivation and value addition. Farmers visited Nutrihub TBISC to get firsthand information on value addition and entrepreneurship development. They also visited the Common Facility Center where in they were given with information on machineries for primary processing, bakery

unit, flaking, puffing and packaging of millet products. They also visited IIMR millet crop demonstration field. The visit was coordinated by Dr. J. Stanley, Principal Scientist and Dr. Subhankar, ZTMC/ITMU.

### Visit of Scientists/SMS/Officials from Bihar Agricultural University to IIMR

As part of a six-days training program organized by Bihar Agricultural University, Sabour Bhagalpur on "Exposure Visit of Rainfed Agriculture for Resilience and Sustainable Livelihood Security" 40 scientists and officials from 18 KVKs and 3 ATMA centres visited ICAR- IIMR, Hyderabad on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2025. The team visited the millet fields and primary processing facilities and demonstrations. Dr. Sangappa, Mr. Prashanth, Ms. Charishma and Mr. Shiva from IIMR FPO-NEST coordinated the visit.

### MANAGE Trainees Visit to ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad

As part of a training program organized by MANAGE to Krishi Sevaks and Krishi Sevikas of Sikkim visited ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2025. Dr. Sangappa, Scientist, ICAR- IIMR, coordinated this visit and delivered talk on millet production and value addition technologies.

### Unique Wedding with Farmer -Scientist Interaction Session on Millets and Organic Farming

Shri Siddappa Bhusagond, a progressive farmer and director of Indi Savayava Hagu Siridhanya FPCL, promoted by ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad hosted a unique wedding celebration centered around millets and organic farming on 19<sup>th</sup> January, 2025. The event transformed the wedding venue into a hub for learning and awareness. Dr. Sangappa, Scientist, ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad addressed the gathering, sharing valuable insights on millet cultivation in dryland areas and the numerous health benefits of millets. The event drew nearly 1,000 attendees, including farmers and millet consumers, who were treated to a delightful millet



-based feast. The menu showcased the versatility of millets with an array of traditional and innovative dishes, such as foxtail millet bisibele bath, kodo millet curd rice, finger millet bajji, and browntop millet Mysore pak. This extraordinary celebration not only highlighted the cultural significance of millets but also demonstrated their potential to enrich both diets and livelihoods.

## Trainings Organised

S. No.	Title of training	Dates	Duration (in days)	Number of Participants	Category of Participants
1	Online training program on "Abiotic Stress Management in Agriculture for Enhancing Farmers' Income with Special Reference to Millets/Fodder Crops Cultivation in Arid and Semi-Arid Regions of India"	6 – 10 January, 2025	5 days	300	Scientists, teachers, agricultural dept officials FPOs, farmers, etc.
2	Millets for Prosperity: Strategies for Production, Branding, and Market Linkages	6 – 9 January, 2025	4 days	27	FPOs, Farmers, NGOs
3	Millets, Production, Processing and Value Addition Technologies	7 – 10 January, 2025	4 days	30	KVK Scientists, Bihar
4	Cooking with Millets	30 January 2025	1 day	18	Startups, Entrepreneurs
5	A startup ignition program on "Emerging Business Opportunities in the Processing of the Millet Sector"	31 January 2025	1 day	39	Startups, Entrepreneurs

## Events participated by IIMR-promoted FPOs

Name of the FPO	Name of the event	Dates	Venue	Highlights
Balanagar Farmer Producer Company Ltd	Udyan Mahostav (Flower and Horticulture Festival)	2 <sup>nd</sup> to 13 <sup>th</sup> January, 2025	Rashtrapati Nilayam, Secunderabad	displayed and sold millet value added products, cashews, pickles and tribal products prepared by FPOs
Premasai Navakisan Horticulture & Agriculture MACS Ltd	Udyan Mahostav (Flower and Horticulture Festival)	2 <sup>nd</sup> to 13 <sup>th</sup> January, 2025	Rashtrapati Nilayam, Secunderabad	displayed and sold millet value added products, cashews, pickles and tribal products prepared by FPOs
Lambasingi Tribal Products FPCL	Grameena Vikasit Mahotsav	4 <sup>th</sup> to 9 <sup>th</sup> January 2025	New Delhi	Showcased the FPO value-added products
Nidgundi Sri Hadi Basavannappa Oilseed and Millets Producer Company Ltd	Krishi Mela	11 <sup>th</sup> to 13 <sup>th</sup> January, 2025	Vijayapur district, Karnataka	showcased their millet value added products, cold-pressed coconut oil, groundnut oil, millet rice, turmeric powder, and red chili powder.
Indi Savayava Hagu Siridhanya Producer Company	Krishi Mela	11 <sup>th</sup> to 13 <sup>th</sup> January, 2025	Vijayapur district, Karnataka	showcased their millet value added products, cold-pressed coconut oil, groundnut oil, millet rice, turmeric powder, and red chili powder.
Jewargi Taluka Millets FPCL	International Trade Fair	23 <sup>rd</sup> to 25 <sup>th</sup> January 2025.	Palace Grounds, Bangalore	displayed their wide range of millet-based products
Nidgundi Sri Hadi Basavannappa Oilseed and Millets Producer Company Limited	International Trade Fair	23 <sup>rd</sup> to 25 <sup>th</sup> January 2025.	Palace Grounds, Bangalore	displayed their wide range of millet-based products
Lambasingi Tribal Products Farmers Producer Company Limited	International Trade Fair	23 <sup>rd</sup> to 25 <sup>th</sup> January 2025.	Palace Grounds, Bangalore	displayed their wide range of millet-based products
Kayaka Krushi Mitra Farmers Producer Company Limited	International Trade Fair	23 <sup>rd</sup> to 25 <sup>th</sup> January 2025.	Palace Grounds, Bangalore	displayed their wide range of millet-based products
Kukanooru Dharani Millets Producer Company Limited	International Trade Fair	23 <sup>rd</sup> to 25 <sup>th</sup> January 2025.	Palace Grounds, Bangalore	displayed their wide range of millet-based products
Hulsoor Mahila Kisan Millets Producer Company Limited	International Trade Fair	23 <sup>rd</sup> to 25 <sup>th</sup> January 2025.	Palace Grounds, Bangalore	displayed their wide range of millet-based products
Amruthavahini Farmers Producer Company limited	International Trade Fair	23 <sup>rd</sup> to 25 <sup>th</sup> January 2025.	Palace Grounds, Bangalore	displayed their wide range of millet-based products
Bettada Basaveshwara FPCL	International Trade Fair	23 <sup>rd</sup> to 25 <sup>th</sup> January 2025.	Palace Grounds, Bangalore	displayed their wide range of millet-based products
Hulsoor Mahila Kisan Millets Producer Company	Bhartiya Samskruti Utsav – 07	29 <sup>th</sup> January to 9 <sup>th</sup> February 2025	Sedam, Kalaburagi, Karnataka	Showcased millet-based products
Jewargi Taluka Millets FPCL	Bhartiya Samskruti Utsav – 07	29 <sup>th</sup> January to 9 <sup>th</sup> February 2025	Sedam, Kalaburagi, Karnataka	Showcased millet-based products

## Meetings & Conferences attended by Director

Sl. No.	Date	Meeting organized by	Details	Program	Mode
1	03.01.2025	Plant Production and Protection Module, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, FAO United Nations  39 Phra Atit Road, Phranakon Bangkok 10200, Thailand	As National Project Coordinator made presentation on "Overview of Millet Project and Project Sites, Reasons for Selecting the Site(s)" during the Project Mid-Term Review of the project on "Enhancing capacity on Sustainable Value Chain Development of Millets for Food and Nutrition Security in Asia (TCP/RAS/3909).	Review meeting	Online
2	08.01.2025	Trust for Advancement of Agricultural Sciences (TAAS) Avenue II, IARI, Pusa Campus, New Delhi-110012, India	Attended Inaugural program of National Symposium on Hybrid Technology for Enhancing Crop Productivity	National Symposium	Physical
3	09.01.2025	Trust for Advancement of Agricultural Sciences (TAAS) Avenue II, IARI, Pusa Campus, New Delhi-110012, India	Delivered Introductory remarks during the Technical Session IV of the National Symposium on Hybrid Technology for Enhancing Crop Productivity Delivered Lecture on "Hybrid millets and Sorghum Breeding" during Technical Session IV : <i>Current Status and Future Prospects in Hybrid Crop Breeding I (Food and Fiber Crops)</i>	National Symposium	Physical
4	12.01.2025	Central University of Odisha, Koraput	As Chairman for Technical Session V: "Strengthening farmer education and promoting millet based value chain" during the International Conference on Millet as Future Food for Sustainable Planet organized by Central University of Odisha, Koraput. Delivered Keynote address: IIMR technologies and millet value chain. As Chief Guest for the Valedictory program and delivered Guest lecture.	International Conference	Physical
5	15-01-2025	PVP&FRA, New Delhi	Attended as Member of the Extant Variety Recommendation Committee (EVRC) attended the committee meeting.	Meeting	Physical
6	21.01.2025	ICAR-IIHR, Bhubaneswar	As Hon'ble Guest of Honour during the National Conference on "Seed Chain Management in Eastern & North Eastern Hill Region: Challenges & Opportunities" organized by ICAR-IIHR, Bengaluru at Central Horticultural Experimental Station, Bhubaneswar. Delivered talk on "Harnessing Genetic Diversity and Improving Quality Seed Production in Millets"	National Conference	Physical
7	22-01-2025	Amity University, Uttar Pradesh	As Advisory Committee member and Keynote Speaker at the International Conference on "Millet Fusion: Cultivating Sustainability, Nourishing Nations".	International Conference	Physical
8	24-01-2025	Tata-Cornell Institute (TCI) for Agriculture and Nutrition, NY & ICRISAT, Hyderabad	As Panelist in Panel 2: Improving the Productivity of Millets during half-day event on 'Future Pathways for India's Public Distribution System' organized at ICRISAT, Hyderabad.	-	Physical
9	27-01-2025	ICRISAT, Hyderabad	Global Dryland Crops Networking and Partnership Meet organized by ICRISAT.	Meeting	Physical
10	28-01-2025	ICRISAT, Hyderabad	As Panelist in the Panel discussion on "Way forward for Dryland Crop Improvement in Global South" followed by DQ&A during the Global Dryland Crops Networking and Partnership Meet organized by ICRISAT.	Meeting	Physical

### ICAR- Indian Institute of Millets Research (IIMR)

#### Global Centre of Excellence on Millets

#### All India Research Project on Pearl Millet / Sorghum / Small Millets

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