**Millets**

**Climate Requirements**

Millets require warm temperatures for germination and development & are sensitive to frost. For these reasons, they are normally planted from mid-June to mid-July month. Optimum soil temperatures for seed germination are between 68°F and 86°F. Proso and foxtail millet are efficient users of water & grow well in areas of low moisture, partly because they are early and thereby avoid periods of drought. Millets are often grown as catch crops where other crops have failed due to unfavorable weather.

**Soil Requirements**

Millets produce well on well-drained loamy soils. They will not stand water-logged soils or extreme drought. Proso millet does not make good on coarse,sandy soils.s

**Farming**

Finger millet may be grown as a hot weather crop, from May to September, using long-duration varieties and as a cold season crop, from November and December, using early types. An application of farmyard manures at eight to ten tons/ha is recommended in order to develop the soil organic matter content, moisture retention ability & soil structure. Phosphorous must be applied in the form of rock phosphate. Weeding must be done twice; 2 to 3 weeks after emergence and about two weeks later. Early land training is recommended. A fine seedbed suitable for small grains is required, to ensure good germination, plant population density & effective weed control. Most soils except coarse sand are appropriate for its farming.

**Harvesting**

Millets are ready for harvest when seeds in the upper half of the panicle are mature. Seeds in the lower half of the panicle may still be in the dough stage but must have lost their green color. At this point, the leaves & stems may still be green. Millet is generally harvested by swathing to allow drying of straw before combining. Swathing too early reduces yield, test weight & color quality. Harvesting too late increases loss as a result of shattering & lodging. Rodents and birds can source damage to proso millet during ripening. Control programs are often required.