

FARMING WILL LEAD TO SELF-SUSTAINABILITY: NAIK

Panaji: [October 4, 2023](#)

Minister for Agriculture Shri. Ravi Naik [today](#) gave a call to young farmers in the State to venture into agriculture so as to preserve Goan identity and its natural beauty. He was speaking at `Millet Utsav` a programme organised by the Directorate of Agriculture as a part of International year of Millets 2023, at New Durbar Hall Raj Bhavan, Dona Paula.

Shri. Naik in his address said that it is high time that Goan farmers cultivate their agricultural land. Agricultural land abandoned by farmers will attract real estate investors and our fields may turn into concrete jungle in the near future. Farming will lead the people towards self-sustainability hence Goans have to cultivate all types of crops in their land, he said.

Millets are centuries old crops. It is a nutrient rich food which plays a significant role in a healthy lifestyle. In the advent of modern lifestyle and food culture Millets such as Ragi (Nachni), Bajra , Vari were neglected by the farmers in the modern days. But now Millets are regaining its importance, Shri. Naik added.

Minister Naik further stated that, Government is very much committed to promote millet farming. The Directorate of Agriculture has several schemes wherein subsidies and various other assistance is provided to the farmers to bring the land under cultivation.

Senior Advisor and Nodal Officer for Goa State to Niti Ayog Dr. Anna Roy stressed upon the need for enhancing entrepreneurship skills among women in the rural areas. Millets cultivation and its promotion could lead women towards entrepreneurship in the coming future, provided women seriously focus on quality, standards, value addition, packing and digital marketing of millets products.

Director, Agriculture Shri. Nevil Alphonso informed that, Millets Utsav is organized to spread awareness about Millets cultivation and its consumption. The Directorate of Agriculture is seriously promoting the growth of Millet cultivation. At present 20 hectares of land is under Millet cultivation in the State. The Department is intending to enhance the production from 20 hectares to 50 hectares in near future, he said.

Assistant Agriculture Officer, Shri Deepak Gadekar gave a presentation on importance of Millets and various efforts made by the Government to revive its production.

On the occasion cooking competition based on Millets products was organised wherein 70 participants participated in the competition. Winners were awarded with the prizes. Besides, various Self-help Groups exhibited food products based on Millets at the Millet Utsav.

DIP/NB/AXP/SF/2023/1084

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Issued by the Department of Information & Publicity
Department of Information & Publicity,
Government of Goa,
Udyog Bhavan, Third Floor,
Near Azad Maidan, Panaji – Goa.