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MESSAGE

India produces all the eight commonly known millets and is the largest producer and the second largest exporter of millets in the world. Millets are termed as nutri-cereals (Shree Anna) because of their high nutritional qualities and also a crop suited for the changing climate. It has been an integral part of diet in the past owing to its nutritional, functional and nutraceutical properties. Though millets are known as super food / miracle grains / sanjivani to universe, the consumption and also the production were declined over the past decades and millet processing neglected. The main reason behind this is the lack of awareness of its nutritional properties, low knowledge on the method of cooking, non-availability of suitable processing technologies or machinery, non-availability of Ready to Eat (RTE) and Ready to Cook (RTC) products besides millets being perishable with low shelf life and the processing and cooking being laborious and time-consuming.

2023 has been marked as the **INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF MILLETS** by the United Nations General Assembly. Consumers and food companies across the world are expressing significant interest in including millets in their daily diets and commercial offerings. With **INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF MILLETS 2023** around the corner, millets take its centre stage in various occasions through the address by the Hon`ble Prime Minister of India. This is the time for revive millets for nutritional security not a national level but beyond national boundaries.

It has become imperative to reorient the efforts on the millet crop to generate demand by creating awareness about the farming, processing, marketing, and cooking of millets to enhance the consumption patterns of millets among the masses, the global event **MILLETS EXPO 2023** would be really helpful.

I congratulate to organiser and all the supporting and participating institutions, companies and farmers for supporting the international initiative taken by India “**INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF MILLETS 2023**”.

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(Shubha Thakur)
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