

**High Commission of India
Accra**

PRESS RELEASE



This year, with India's initiative, UN and the international community has launched two major campaigns; first is the 'Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE)' and the other is the 'International Year of Millets 2023 (IYoM2023)'.

Both these campaigns are interlinked and arise out of the pressing need for the humanity to change its lifestyle to save the environment. We have been taking various measures to address issues of climate change and other dangers to the environment. However, our efforts should not be limited to just the energy transition but should be comprehensive and holistic. With this view, Indian Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi launched the LiFE initiative in the Glasgow COP Summit. The initiative was launched as a campaign in India recently with the participation of UN Secretary General Mr. Antonio Guterres.

LiFE advocates for changing our lifestyle to suit it to the environment. This includes our food habits. With the launch of IYoM, India took the lead in suggesting to the international community to adopt an environment friendly food lifestyle. This effort has now been adopted by the United Nations by announcing 2023 as the 'International Year of Millets'.

Millets are largely grown in the developing countries of the world i.e. the Global South. It forms a significant part of food of the people of these countries and also an important part of their national economies since the large number of agricultural rural population is involved in it. Millets are most nutrient rich food commodities. From this perspective, it is the most healthy food for the humanity. At the same time, millets require less water, they are climate resilient and require less inputs in cultivation. This makes millets as the environment friendly crop. Thirdly, as most of the farmers from the Global South are dependent on the cultivation, consumption and income from sale of the millets, the millets are important for the economies of the developing countries. Thus the promotion of millets in cultivation, consumption and export globally will

make the humanity healthy, the environment sustainable and the farmers from the developing countries will be able to raise their income.

To launch these two important campaigns, the High Commission of India is organizing celebration of 'International Year of Millets' with participation of all the stakeholders at the 'Indian Food Festival'. Millets food competition will also be organised during the celebration where the best millets food recipes will be awarded. Several stakeholders including Ministry of Food & Agriculture, AGI, FAO, CSIR, GEPA, etc. are invited to join the celebration, They would be showcasing their efforts in promotion of millets. It is hoped that visitors joining these celebrations will not only enjoy the rich, diverse and popular Indian food but also join hands in highlighting the need to change the lifestyle for protecting the environment and taking steps by including millets in their food in an increasing manner in this regard.

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