

UMIAM DECLARATION OF MILLET SISTERS

from

1st Annual Convention of All India Millet Sisters (AIMS) Network

May 23-24, 2018

Dr D N Borthakur Conference Hall, ICAR-NEH, Umiam,
Shillong, Meghalaya

In association with:
Millet Network of India
North East Network
ICAR-NEH, Meghalaya

Having met at the ICAR-NEH, Umiam, Meghalaya on May 23-24, 2018, along with civil society groups, scientists, activists and environmentalists from 12 states -- Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Odisha, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, & West Bengal and having had an elaborate discussion on **MILLETS: Current Concerns and Challenges** we the members of the All India Millet Sisters Network have arrived at the following **Umiam Declaration of Millet Sisters**

1. **We demand that the government acknowledge that millets are our heritage crops.** Multifaceted in their extraordinary value for providing food, nutrition, fodder, livelihood and ecological security in these climate-stressed times, millets truly stand as a symbol of our resilient agriculture.
2. We insist that the **government must offer priority support to millet-based biodiverse agriculture practised by millions of small women farmers** who are custodians of India's rich lore of millet farming practices.

PDS must mean millets

3. It is imperative that **millets should be the centrepiece of the Government's Public Distribution System (PDS)** so that India can escape the ignominy of occupying 172nd rank among the most malnourished countries in the world.
4. Given the shocking burden of malnutrition among children in India, which is the highest in the world, **we urge that the government should give primacy to the use of millet foods in the Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) and Mid-Day-Meal Scheme.** This would ensure a healthy new generation.

Multiple support for millet women

5. To support women millet farmers, the government should:
 - a) **Help women's collectives to set up affordable processing units to reduce the drudgery of millet processing;**
 - b) **Ensure procurement of millets at the MSP fixed by government**
 - c) **Set up community-based procurement centres that are easily accessed and controlled by women farmers.**

- d) **Include millet farming as a guaranteed MGNREGS work to support employment of women in millet farming.**

Just price, insurance and compensation

6. The national Commission on Agricultural Cost and Prices should **make a special valuation of millets taking into consideration their nutritional and ecological values and fix the price** for these wonder grains.
7. Crop insurance and compensation schemes for crop damage in India have traditionally bypassed millets which is not just an oversight but a serious shortcoming of our policies. Therefore **we demand that crop insurance and compensation in the event of crop damage must include all varieties of millets at par with other crops.**
8. In the blitz of propaganda enjoyed by favoured crops such as rice and wheat, millets have been systematically sidelined and today occupy the lowest levels of awareness in the minds of our population. **It is the duty of the Government to use its public media network to promote awareness of the enormous nutritional value of millets among consumers** specially since this is the National Year of Millets. This awareness campaign must include popular programmes on millet recipes.

IIMR, shun GE research

9. **We demand support for public research** that throws light on the scientific values of our traditional knowledge on millet cultivation particularly held by women.
10. **We demand that Indian Institute of Millet Research** should not waste its time and public money by hobnobbing with research on genetic modification of millet crops and instead focus on the enormous wealth of women's knowledge on millet ecology which is a great national asset..
11. **We call upon all agricultural research institutions** to work on the economic valuation of millet ecology in their academic and research programmes.

Go beyond awards

12. **We greatly appreciate** the fact that government has recognised the signal contribution of peasant women farmers and has been bestowing honours on them in recent years. We would be more honoured if the government does not stoop just at these awards and instead implemented our demands listed here to ensure a more secure future for us and the nation at large.

Endorsements from:

1. Ms Saraswati, SABALA, Vizianagaram District, Andhra Pradesh
2. Ms Suseela, Millet Sister, Mamidipalem, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh
3. Ms K. Narayanamma, Millet Sister, Kothavalasa, Vizianagaram, Andhra Pradesh
4. Ms I. Maheswari, Millet Sister, Pedabayalu, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh
5. Ms T. Kamala Kumari, Millet Sister, Vepada, Vizianagaram, Andhra Pradesh
6. Mr Jogi Naidu, SVDS, Anakapally, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh
7. Dr Monisha Behal, North East Network, Guwahati, Assam
8. Ms Moon Bora, North East Network, Assam
9. Ms Usha Lakra, North East Network, Assam
10. Ms Anurita Pathak, North East Network, Assam

11. Mr Ritupon Gogoi, FST, Guwahati, Assam
12. Mr Tushar Pancholi, Paryavaran Vikas Kendra, Gujarat
13. Mr Anil Barot, Millet Sister Rajkot, Gujarat
14. Ms Nita Boart, Millet Sister, Rajkot, Gujarat
15. Ms Khatija Akbar, Millet Sister, Rajkot, Gujarat
16. Mr Nekram, LVK, Nanj Teh, Kassag, Himachal Pradesh
17. Ms Ramkali, Millet Sister, Nanj Teh, Kassag, Himachal Pradesh
18. Ms Shivamma Millet Sister, Yadgir district, Karnataka
19. Ms Jayamala, Millet Sister, Yadgir district, Karnataka
20. Mr Yadaiah, PRAG JOTHI, Yadgir district, Karnataka
21. Ms Mary, Millet Sister, KRRS, Bidar, Karnataka
22. Ms Gopamma, Millet Sister KRRS, Bidar, Karnataka
23. Mr Prabudas, KRRS, Bidar, Karnataka
24. Mr Prakash, KRRS, Bidar, Karnataka
25. Dr T N Prakash, Chair, Agriculture Price Commission, Bangalore, Karnataka
26. Ms Sheelu Francis, Women's Collective, Chennai, Tamil Nadu
27. Ms Palaniammal, Millet Sister, Koltapatti, Tutucoran, Tamil Nadu
28. Dr Suresh Reddy, Associate Professor, Centre for Economics & Social Studies, Hyderabad, Telangana
29. Ms Mogulamma, Millet Sister, Potpalli Village, Sangareddy District, Telangana
30. Ms Krishna Veni, All India Millet Sisters Network, Telangana
31. Ms Rojamma, Deccan Development Society, Telangana
32. Ms Mamatha, Sangham Organics, Pastapur, Telangana
33. Ms Tejasvi, Deccan Development Society, Telangana
34. Ms Reenamma, Millet Sister & Community Film Maker, Rechintal, Telangana
35. Ms Ranamma, Millet Sister & Community Film Maker, Telangana
36. Ms Genaral Narasamma, Sangham Radio, Machnoor, Telangana
37. Ms Jayasri, Deccan Development Society, Telangana
38. Mr PV Satheesh, National Convenor, Millet Network of India, Hyderabad, Telangana
39. Ms Chinna Narasamma, Millet Sister, Community Media Trust, Telangana
40. Ms Mayuri, Film Maker, Pastapur, Telangana
41. Mr Janardhan, PILUPU, Bhongir, Telangana
42. Ms Gopamma, Millet Sister, Bhongir, Telangana
43. Ms Masru, Millet Sister, Bhongir, Telangana
44. Ms Sumalatha, Millet Sister, KK Thanda, Bhongir, Telangana
45. Mr Nimmaiah, PEACE, Bhongir, Telangana
46. Mr Shiba Prasad, Ahinsa Club, Odisha
47. Ms Anitha Sahu, Millet Sister, Ahinsa Club, Odisha
48. Ms Betikhai Bariha, Millet Sister, Ahinsa Club, Odisha
49. Ms Trisha Paladhi, AGRAGAMEE, Odisha
50. Ms Sumani Jhodia, Millet Sister, Odisha
51. Ms Sushila Majhi, Millet Sister, Odisha
52. Mr Narayan Barik, NIRMAN, Odisha
53. Ms Paramiti Mahji, Millet Sister, Community Leader, Kandhamal, Odisha
54. Ms Sramyuli Mallick, Community Leader, Kandhamal, Odisha
55. Mr Aman Singh, KRAPAVIS, Rajasthan
56. Ms Latha Jishnu, Senior Freelance Journalist, New Delhi
57. Ms Gina Phanbuh, North East Network, Meghalaya
58. Dr L Devarani, Asst Prof., Central Agricultural University, Meghalaya
59. Dr Bijoya Bhattacharjee, HOD, Center for Biotech.

60. Dr Subhash babu, Scientist(Agro),ICAR – NEH, Umiam, Meghalaya
61. Dr Bagish kumar, Scientist -social science, ICAR- NEH, Umiam, Meghalaya
62. Mr Habandajop Lyngdoh, SURE, Jowai
63. Mr Raj Parsah, SURE, Jowai
64. Mr Dharmen G. Momin, Community leader, Sasatgre, West Garohills, Meghalaya
65. Ms Amlin G. Momin, Farmer, Sasatgre, West Garohills. Meghalaya
66. Ms Mitjilima G. Momin, Farmer, Sasatgre, West Garohills. Meghalaya
67. Dr Vishram ram, Professor, CPGS, Cental Agriculture university, Umiam, Meghalaya
68. Ms Merrysha Nongrum, NESFAS Meghalaya
69. Mr Jankpreet, NESFAS Meghalaya
70. Ms Binasi Mary, Farmer, East Khasi Hills, Meghalaya
71. Ms Jesenta Rani, Farmer, East Khasi Hills, Meghalaya
72. Ms Mesilhi-u, Millet Sister, Nagaland
73. Ms Neipelhi-u, Millet Sister, Nagaland
74. Ms Dikhwetso-u, Millet Sister, Nagaland
75. Ms Songulo-u, Millet Sister, Nagaland
76. Ms Ghaluta, Millet Sister, Nagaland
77. Ms Lupisii, Millet Sister, Nagaland
78. Ms Vepralu Sapu, Millet Sister, Nagaland
79. Ms Thuyevolusapu, Millet Sister, Nagaland
80. Mr Stephen, North East Network, Nagaland
81. Ms BK Chettri, KKKS, Kalimpong, West Bengal
82. Ms Pavitra Sherpa, Farmer, Kalimpong, West Bengal
83. Ms Manjari Subbha, Farmer, Kalimpong, West Bengal
84. Ms Samhita Barooah, Freelance Journalist, Guwahati
85. Ms Dolly Wotsa, North East Network, Nagaland
86. Ms Neitshopeu Thopi, North East Network, Nagaland
87. Ms Wekoweu Tsuhah, North East Network, Nagaland
88. Ms Seno Tsuhah, North East Network, Nagaland