



National Cooperative Spice Fair 2025

Why in News?

National Cooperative Spice Fair 2025 was organised by the Rajasthan Cooperative Department and Rajasthan State Cooperative Consumer Federation at **Jawahar Kala Kendra, Jaipur**.

Key Points

About the Cooperative Spice Fair 2025

- A variety of **healthy and traditional spices**, **millet** products and other cooperative products were showcased at the fair.
 - This year, **products made from Millet grains (Shree Anna) have become a special centre** of attraction at the fair.
- Various **self-help groups**, cooperative consumer associations and local producers participated in the fair with their diverse product range.
- This fair offers consumers the **opportunity to purchase pure, high-quality, and healthy products directly**.
- The fair promotes **employment** and **economic empowerment at the local level**.

RAS Mains Course

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Millets

- **About:** It is a collective **term referring to a number of small-seeded grasses** that are cultivated as grain crops, primarily on marginal lands in dry areas in temperate, subtropical and tropical regions.
 - **Some of the common millets available in India are** Ragi (Finger millet), Jowar (Sorghum), Sama (Little millet), Bajra (Pearl millet), and Variga (Proso millet).
- **Global and Indian Production:** India is the largest producer of millets, followed by Niger and China.
- **Millet Promotion:** 2023 was **recognized as the International Year of Millets** by the **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)**.
 - The Indian government promotes millet production under the **National Food Security**

Mission.



Millets

About

- Small-grained cereals also known as **coarse grains**
- Often referred to as **'Superfood'**
- Among the **first crops to be domesticated** - evidence of millet consumption dates back to the **Indus Valley Civilisation (3,000 BC)**

Climatic Conditions

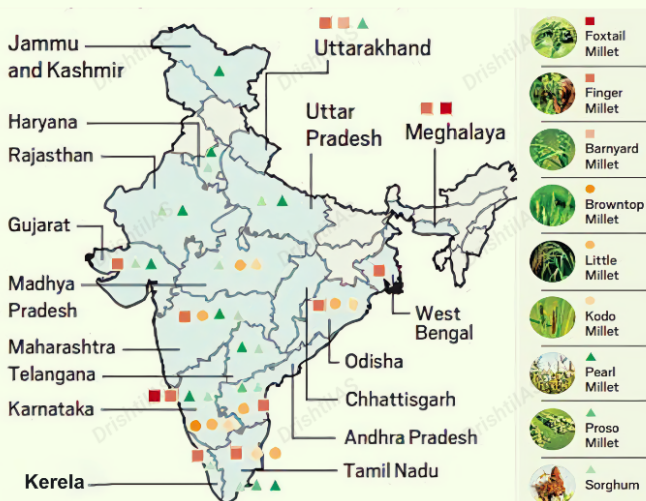
- Mainly a Kharif crop in India**
- Temperature:** 27°C - 32°C
- Rainfall:** Around 50-100 cm
- Soil Type:** Inferior alluvial or loamy soil

India and Millets

- Global Largest Millet Producer:**
 - 20% of global production, 80% of Asia's production
- Common Millets:**
 - Ragi** (Finger millet), **Jowar** (Sorghum), **Sama** (Little millet), **Bajra** (Pearl millet), and **Variga** (Proso millet)
 - Indigenous varieties** (small millets) - **Kodo, Kutki, Chenna and Sanwa**
- Top Millets Producing States:**
 - Rajasthan (largest), Karnataka, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh
- Govt. Initiatives:**
 - Initiative for Nutritional Security through Intensive Millet Promotion (INSIMP)
 - 'India's Wealth, Millets for Health'**
 - Millet Startup Innovation Challenge
 - Hiked MSP** for Millets
 - Agriculture Ministry declared millets as **"Nutri Cereals"** in 2018

Significance

- Less expensive, **nutritionally superior**
- High protein, fibre, minerals, iron, calcium and a **low glycemic index**
- Help **tackle lifestyle problems and health** (obesity, diabetes etc.)
- Photo-insensitive, **resilient to climate change & water efficient**



International Year of Millets - Year 2023

Proposed by India, declared by **UNGA**



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