



Rajasthan Government to Give Free Seed Kits to Boost Millets Production

Why in News?

Recently, the Rajasthan government has decided to distribute **free seeds of millets** and coarse grains to the state's farmers in a bid to **boost millet production**.

Key Points

- The State government will provide free mini kits of **maize seeds** to 1.2 million farmers, **pearl millet (bajra) seeds** to 800,000 farmers, **mustard seeds** to 700,000 farmers, **moong seeds** to 400,000 farmers, and **sorghum (jowar) and moth seeds** to 100,000 farmers.
 - Rajasthan has a share of **26%** in total millet production of the country.
 - **Pearl millet and sorghum are the main millet crops produced in the state**, with Rajasthan accounting for the country's 41% bajra production.
- The state government had started the **Rajasthan Millet Promotion Mission** in 2022-23 and made a provision of Rs 40 crore to set up 100 primary processing units by farmers, entrepreneurs and voluntary organisations.
- The **PM Kisan Samman Nidhi** has been increased from Rs 6,000 to Rs 8,000 per year per farmer while the **minimum support price** on wheat has been increased to Rs 2,400 per quintal by giving an additional bonus of Rs 125 per quintal.

Rajasthan Millets Promotion Mission

- It was **announced in 2022** by the Rajasthan government.
- Under the mission, provisions have been made to establish the **Millets Centre of Excellence under Jodhpur Agricultural University**, with a view to provide free seeds of **advanced varieties, distribution of micronutrients and bio-insecticide kits** at a subsidized rate, grant on establishment of the first **100 processing units of millets**, promotion for the modification of Bajra and other millets, encouragement and latest technical information to small and marginal farmers.
- It is known that **Ragi, Kangni, Sawan, Cheena, Kodo, and Kutki crops** are included under Millets. Public awareness programs have been proposed regarding their nutritional quality.

Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN)

- The PM-KISAN was **launched on February 24 in 2019**.
- It is a **Central Sector Scheme with 100% funding** from the Government of India.
- It is being implemented by the **Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare**.
- Under the scheme, the **Centre transfers an amount of Rs 6,000 per year, in three equal installments**, directly into the bank accounts of the **all landholding farmers irrespective of the size of their land holdings**.

