



# **NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON**

## **MILLETS AND FORGOTTEN FOODS: REVIVING TRADITIONS FOR NUTRITIONAL SECURITY AND ECOLOGICAL SUSTAINABILITY IN AGRICULTURE**

**DATE: 21-22 March, 2025**

**VENUE: COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE,  
PASIGHAT, ARUNACHAL PRADESH**

### **Important Dates:**

**Last Date for Abstract submission: 10.03.2025**

**Last Date for Registration: 10.03.2025**

**Jointly Organised By**

**CENTRAL AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY, IMPHAL  
ICAR-INDIAN INSTITUTE OF MILLETS RESEARCH, HYDERABAD  
AICRP on SORGHUM & MILLETS, HYDERABAD  
ICAR -NATIONAL BUREAU OF PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES, NEW DELHI**





## About the Conference

Millets, small-seeded annual grasses, have been vital staple crops for centuries, offering affordable nutrition, especially to underserved communities. Despite their numerous benefits, they have become less prominent to owing awareness and changing dietary habits. Recent efforts have intensified to revive millet cultivation, culminating in the United Nations declaring 2023 the International Year of Millets. This initiative highlights the importance of raising awareness, developing supportive policies, improving value chains and aligning with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) such as zero hunger, good health, sustainable consumption, and climate action.

In the north-eastern hill regions of India, where traditional agriculture is deeply rooted, millets have significant potential to enhance food security and resilience. The upcoming conference aims to engage global stakeholders, promote the benefits of millets, and support their cultivation in diverse agricultural contexts, including the unique environments of the north-eastern hills. By showcasing millets as a viable, sustainable alternative to modern cash crops, the conference seeks to foster greater consumer awareness and policy support for this valuable crop.

## About the Organisers

### Central Agricultural University (CAU), Imphal

Central Agricultural University (CAU), Imphal, with 13 constituent colleges, 6 KVKs, and 6 vocational training centres across NE states, is a key institution for agricultural education, research, and extension in the North-Eastern Region. It has completed 375 projects, with 150 ongoing, and has contributed more than 13 patents, 11 climate-resilient crop varieties, and 17 bio-fertilizer/biopesticide formulations. CAU has promoted 56 startups and 60 FPOs, actively supporting millet research, value addition, and entrepreneurship through its NEH Component projects, fostering sustainable agriculture in the region.

### ICAR-Indian Institute of Millets Research (IIMR), Hyderabad

The Indian Institute of Millets Research (IIMR), Hyderabad, under ICAR, is a premier institute dedicated to millet research, genetic improvement, and value addition. Through its NEH Component, IIMR actively promotes millet cultivation in the North-Eastern region by funding research, skill development, and farmer-oriented initiatives. It supports seed distribution, processing technologies, and policy advocacy to integrate millets into mainstream agriculture and enhance food security.

### AICRP on Sorghum & Small Millets, Hyderabad

The All India Coordinated Research Project (AICRP) on Sorghum & Small Millets, headquartered at IIMR, focuses on crop improvement, agronomy, and post-harvest technologies. In the North-Eastern region, AICRP supports millet research centers and KVKs in developing climate-resilient varieties and adaptive farming practices. It promotes on-farm trials, seed multiplication, entrepreneurship, and value chain development, enhancing millet production and market access for farmers.

### ICAR-National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources, New Delhi

National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR) plays a crucial role in conserving and characterizing India's diverse plant genetic resources, including millets. With its National Genebank, NBPGR safeguards millet germplasm for future food security and climate resilience. Its research and conservation efforts support sustainable millet cultivation, ensuring nutritional and economic benefits for farmers.

## About the Venue

The College of Agriculture, (CAU-Imphal) Pasighat, Arunachal Pradesh is a premier institution renowned for its dedication to advancing agricultural education and research. As the organizer of a significant conference, the college brings together experts, practitioners, and scholars from diverse fields within agriculture. This conference is meticulously planned to foster collaboration, share ground-breaking research, and address the current challenges in the agricultural sector. By leveraging its state-of-the-art facilities and its vibrant academic community, the College of Agriculture, Pasighat ensures that the conference is a hub of innovation and knowledge exchange. Participants will benefit from an enriching experience that enhances their understanding and contributes to the development of sustainable agricultural practices.

## Objectives of the Conference

1. Assess the Role of Millets and Forgotten Foods in India's Food System
2. Rekindle the Cultural and Traditional Significance of Millets and Forgotten Foods
3. Enhance Integration of Millets and Forgotten Foods in the North-Eastern Hill Regions
4. Address Challenges in Accessibility and Food Security
5. Uncover Economic Opportunities in Cultivation, Processing, and Marketing
6. Promote Innovations in Cultivation, Processing, and Bioprospecting
7. Provide Policy Recommendations and Research Insights



# Themes of the Conference

## 1. Nutritional and Health Benefits of Millets & Forgotten Foods

- Nutritional profiles and functional properties of millets and underutilized crops.
- Health benefits and their role in preventing lifestyle diseases.
- Community-driven initiatives for integrating millets and forgotten foods into daily diets.
- Contribution of millets to food and nutritional security in vulnerable communities.

## 2. Biodiversity Conservation and Indigenous Knowledge Systems

- Indigenous knowledge in millet and forgotten food cultivation.
- Community seed banks and on-farm conservation of neglected crops.
- Agro-biodiversity enhancement through diversified cropping with millets.
- Traditional ecological knowledge for resilient farming in hill ecosystems.

## 3. Sustainable Agronomic Practices and Climate Resilience

- Climate-smart millet-based cropping systems for ecological sustainability.
- Innovations in low-input, high-output millet cultivation techniques.
- Role of millets and forgotten foods in water conservation and soil health.
- Agroecological approaches for pest and disease management in millet farming.

## 4. Post-Harvest Processing, Value Addition, and Food Innovation

- Advances in millet and forgotten food processing technologies, especially for hilly regions.
- Blending traditional knowledge with modern value addition for market-driven products.
- Managing post-harvest losses and optimizing supply chains.
- Millet and forgotten food-based alternatives for animal feed and biofuels.

## 5. Community Engagement, Economic Empowerment, and Market chain Development

- Strengthening millet and forgotten food value chains through branding and entrepreneurship.
- Policy frameworks and public-private partnerships for millet promotion.
- Case studies of successful millet-based enterprises and FPO-led business models.
- Addressing socio-economic barriers to millet and forgotten food commercialization.

## Event Highlights:

- **Conference:** Connect with leading/recognized millet experts.
- **Interactive session :** Interactive session (Q&A) between the farmers and the presenters enabling mutual share of knowledge.
- **Panel Discussion:** Get insights from experts how millets will impact economy, agriculture, nutrition and research .
- **Exhibition:** Showcase of various products, services and information from various exhibitors allowing exposure to latest products, technologies and trends for the attendees.
- **Recipe Demonstration :** Giving space to explore and share recipes
- **Business Opportunities:** Explore new ideas and ventures in the millet industry & promoting value addition in millets



*Power Up with Millets*



*Growing Big Benefits*



*Mighty Millets, Mighty Grow*



*Good Health, Good Millets*



*Small Farmers, Big on Harvest*



## Who Can Participate:

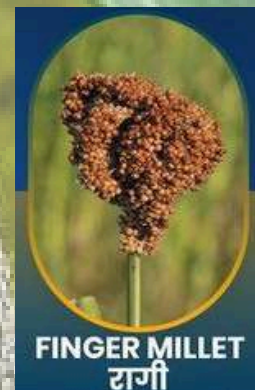
Students, Academicians, Scientists from Research institutions & KVKs Policymakers, State Govt. Officials, Entrepreneurs, Nutritionists, Industries, NGOs and Stakeholders engaged in production, consumption and marketing of Millets in India

## **PRESENTATION FORMAT**

- **Plenary lecture:** Renowned scientists, policy makers and administrators will be invited to deliver plenary lectures. They would present overviews of the various themes of the conference. Speakers will be requested to provide 3-4 pages write up of their talk for inclusion in the proceedings. Plenary lectures will be of 15 minutes duration.
- **Invited/Lead lectures;** Lead lecture will be of 10 minutes duration, these would offer an insight into the various themes. Lead speakers of the conference will be requested to provide 3-4 pages extended summaries of their presentation.
- **Oral presentation:** Selected speakers will be invited to present their research paper in the oral presentation session. Each speaker will be given 5-7 minutes for the lecture on sub-themes followed by discussion.
- **Poster presentation:** All the delegates will get an opportunity to present their research papers theme wise in the poster session. Materials for fixing the posters will be provided by the organizers. The size of the poster should be 48" (L) X 36" (W) with standard font size used for posters.
- **Best Oral/Poster Award:** An expert committee will judge **Best oral** and **Poster presentations** under each thematic area. All the registered participants will be provided with a certificate of participation.

## **CALL FOR ABSTRACTS**

- Abstracts (maximum 400 words, should include title, authors name, affiliation, and corresponding authors' email ID, Abstract & Keywords) of research works related to the conference themes are invited for presentation (Oral and Poster).
- Abstracts, Keynote papers (Not more than 1000 words) and lead papers (not more than 1500 words) are to be submitted preferably through <https://millets2025.eventsdashboard.in>
- The abstracts shall be peer-reviewed, and acceptance shall be communicated to the corresponding author within the time frame.
- Proceedings of the conference and certificate of presentation will be given to the registered participants.





### IMPORTANT DATES

**Last date for submission of abstracts /papers: 10<sup>th</sup> March ,2025**

**Acceptance of abstracts : 10<sup>th</sup> March, 2025**

**Last Date for registration : 10<sup>th</sup> March, 2025**

### REGISTRATION FEES

**Students /Scholars: ₹ 600/-**

**Faculties/Scientist/Academia/Govt. Officials: ₹ 1500/-**

**Industry/Corporate & other Delegates: ₹ 3500/-**

**Accompanying Persons : ₹1000/-**

**For Registration visit us at**

**<https://millets2025.eventsdashboard.in>**

### ACCOMMODATION

The accommodation for the delegates/ participants will be arranged on payment basis in College or Govt., Guest Houses/Hotels nearby (2 star/3 star) at Pasighat as per availability. The participants may intimate the organizers in advance about their arrival and departure. This may be accompanied at 'first-come-first-serve' basis.

### Sponsorship

Donations will be accepted in the following formats on first come first serve basis, representatives of the sponsors, will be registered free of cost for conference. However, you will have to bear the cost of stay and travel

#### **Platinum Sponsor**

**Rs.3,00,000/-**

Registration - 4 participants, space for exhibiting the products, 10 min slots for presentations

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**Rs. 50,000/-**

Registration - 1 participants, space for exhibiting the products, 05 min slots for presentations

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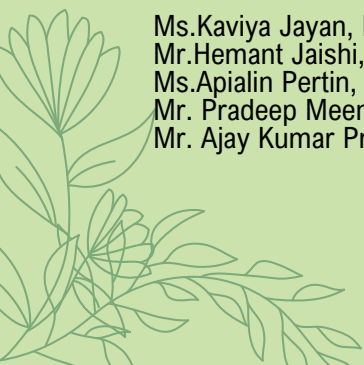
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# Gallery





## ABOUT PASIGHAT

Pasighat is the headquarters of East Siang district in the Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh. Situated at the eastern foothills of the Himalayas at 155 metres (509 ft) above mean sea level, Pasighat is Arunachal's oldest town. The Government of India included Pasighat in the Smart Cities Mission development scheme

## HOW TO REACH PASIGHAT

### **By Air** ✈️

- Pasighat Airport (IXT): Limited flights from Guwahati and Shillong (Alliance Air) on alternate days, subjected to weather feasibility.
- Dibrugarh Airport (DIB), Assam (155 km): Nearest major airport with direct flights from Delhi, Kolkata, and Guwahati.

### **By Train** 🚂

- From Guwahati (GHY) to Murkongselek (MZS), Assam, Lachit Express (15613) at 8.00pm
- Dibrugarh Rly Station (DBRG, 155 km): Well-connected to major cities; onward travel via road

### **By Road** 🚗

- From Dibrugarh: 3 hrs (150km) via Bogibeel Bridge (taxis available).
- From Murkongselek station (Assam) : 45 km drive to Pasighat
- From Itanagar: 5 hrs (270 km, APST buses and taxis).
- From Guwahati: 12-14 hrs (570 km, overnight buses available).

## VENUE LINK

From Pasighat city: 4km (10min) by rickshaw

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/8hYDky5JXmHA6BEU6>



*"Where the mighty Siang River meets the lush green mountains, Pasighat welcomes you with the untouched beauty of nature."*