

1. Examine the rationale behind the declaration of 2023 as the International year of millets by UNGA?

United Nations General Assembly has declared 2023 as International year of millets to promote millet production for various reasons.

Millet - Millets are less expensive, less requires less water unlike rice and wheat and highly nutritional. They are rich in proteins, vitamins, fibre and minerals like Iron. Moreover they are climate-resilient crops.

Millet help in addressing multi pronged diseases like obesity, under nutrition etc.

Growing concern:

According to FAO analysis in India it is noted that millet production area is declined upto negative

2.25% compounded annual growth rate (CAGR)

Moreover production is only 0.08% CAGR.

Government's initiative

→ Government to promote millet production has included millets in MSP.

→ Millets are also included in public distribution system.

Even after taking so much initiative government found declining production.

Way forward:

Firstly, Agro climate zones must be created for millets to promote production.

Secondly, Agricultural institutes must invest in small farmlands.

Thirdly, Agriculture and processed food export development authority must provide incentives for cultivation of millets and commercialization. And also ^{increase in} millet based ready to cook will enhance production. Millets can play major role

in boosting health and nutritional level thereby UNGA's declaration will promote millet production.