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Examine the rationale behind declaration of 2023 as international year of millets by UNGA.

The United Nations general assembly has declared 2023 as the international year of millets. Previously India, 2018 was observed as year of millets.

### Rationale behind UN decisions

Millets (or) nutri-cereals are dryland crops.

Nutrition - the gluten in the grains are less compared to wheat or rice. So it greatly decreases the cardiovascular diseases. Children health can be met

by including millets in their mid day meals.

Economic - millet farming is largely done by women and it can reduce gender inequality. ~~and~~ The price realisation of millet is higher than cereal food grains.

Environment - millets can help to attain the land degradation neutrality as it enhances food security and restores land. It consumes only a third of water compared to rice or wheat.

The global market demand is \$ 12.5 Billion in coming years for millets.



### Additional support

The APEDA can utilize the credit one product scheme and improve the market access for millets via exports.

The MSP schemes can be extended to all millets.

The millet production can address the micronutrient deficiency and aid food fortification.

It can help achieve SDG-2 - zero hunger  
SDG-3 - good health and well-being  
SDG-13 - climate action.