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HEALTH

Examine the rationale behind the declaration of 2023 as the International Year of Millets by UNGA

International Year of Significance:

To develop awareness, insist the importance to the global community in UNGA, a particular day or a week or year (or) a decade is marked with objective by specialized UN agencies such as UNESCO, FAO, UNDP etc.

Rationale Behind the declaration of 2023

The year "2023" is declared as International Year of Millets to signify the Health Benefits among Global Community.

Why Millets

1. Boost the nutrition among all age group globally.
2. Supplement of micro nutrition. Eg: Zinc, Iron
3. Reduces the blood pressure, obesity, heart related ailment

Need for year (1. Agronomically:

- Among the Global Ruel India is the leading producer & consumer of coarse cereals followed by Niger.
- In Global production states 38% of India produce comes from Dryland Agriculture constitute for 65% of total cultivation.
- Reduction in GAGR (Gross Annual Growth rate) - 0.08%.
- Difficulty in Breeding of improved variety (Self pollination with small flowers)

2. Consumption trend:

- i) In Ancient times till the modern 1980's millets were used as staple food in most common parts of India.
- ii) With the Green Revolution, Artificially Boosted the high water intensive crops (Rice - 100lit/kg, wheat & sugarcane etc.)
- iii) Consumption prestige lead to the monocropping gradually eroded the coarse - cereals such as Pearl millet, Bajra & Ragi.

3. Political confinement:

Now these millets which earlier grown nearly 21 states were confined to majority 7 to 8 states.

g: Karnataka,
Maharashtra,
Tamil Nadu,
Rajasthan.

Measures to achieve the target:

- ① Improving the rate of MSP by CACP (following M.S. Swaminathan method)
- ② KVK & Agricultural universities participation in promotion of crop (Awareness, training → Capacity Building)
- ③ Marketing facilities by e-NAM and APMC Mandis
- ④ Supply through PDS system & TPDS system.
- ⑤ 'one state one produce' rule by Uttar Pradesh can be adopted to increase production.
- ⑥ Logistic support from farmer to consumer is to be ensured.

Conclusion:

To avoid the nutritional poverty one should come out from nutritional dependency as a way towards Atma Nirbhar Bharat.