

ASEAN-India Millet Festival 2023 Starts in Indonesia

With the aim to celebrate International Year of Millets & establish a millet market within ASEAN countries, the Indian Mission to ASEAN together with the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare is organizing **ASEAN-India Millet Festival 2023** in Jakarta from 22nd November to 26th November.



The inaugural session took place on Wednesday at the Kota Kasablanka Mall, a prominent shopping destination in South Jakarta, Indonesia. A Millet-centric exhibition is also being held as part of the festival featuring participation from Millet-based start-ups, FPOs, and Indian chefs.

The 5-day festival started with a ribbon-cutting ceremony that was followed by a Joint beating of gong, an enchanting cultural performance and a brief exhibition tour showcasing numerous millet-based products.

Additional Secretary at DA&FW and Head of the Indian Delegation, Dr. Maninder Kaur Dwivedi in her inaugural speech provided valuable insights into millet cultivation, processing, and business prospects. Joint Secretary (Crops) at DA&FW, Ms. Shubha Thakur highlighted India's leading role in celebrating the International Year of Millets 2023 and government's initiatives to encourage adoption of millets through

a video. In addition, Deputy Head of BPN Dr. Andriko Noto Susanto underlined the remarkable prospects of millet cultivation and its role in expanding the South Asian food basket.

The first panel discussion, titled 'ASEAN-India Collaboration in Millets,' was moderated by Additional Chief Secretary & Agriculture Production Commissioner, Government of Assam, Ashish Kumar Bhutani. In the panel discussion, experts from diverse ASEAN countries talked about various initiatives aimed at mainstreaming millets as part of IYM 2023.



Director of ICAR-IIMR, Dr. C Tara Satyavathi moderated another engaging panel discussion on millets' climate-resilient qualities, benefits for small farmers, and climate change initiatives/strategies for its promotion.

The exhibition aims to strengthen cooperation between ASEAN nations, celebrate cultural & culinary diversity and promote sustainable millet practices for a healthier future. It will also feature 5 Indian Farmer Producer Organizations - Jewargi Taluka Millets FPC, Bhumitralalpur, Citi Block FPC, Vaam Agro & Lambasingi Tribal Products FPC, and 2 start-ups - Taru Naturals & Sattva Millets and Food Products (Mibbles) exhibiting unique millet-added products like millet cakes, namkeen, cookies, khakhra, and more.

A major highlight of the event will be the live cooking workshop from 23rd November to 26th November, where celebrity chefs from Indonesia & India will showcase the culinary potential of millets, presenting dishes like Mixed Millet Mathri Canopies, Millet Risotto, Foxtail Millet Tabouleh, Millet Curd Rice, Ragi brownie and cookies every day.