

North East connects millet sisters



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Millet, the miracle grains from the Southern drylands, Western and Eastern plains, North Eastern and Northern uplands of [India](#) connected the farmers, scientists, activists, media persons and researchers from different states of [India](#) during the 1st annual convention of All [India](#) Millet Sisters (AIMS) Network. This convention was organised by Millet Network of [India](#) in collaboration with [North East](#) Network and ICAR-NEH, [Meghalaya](#) at Umiam premises of ICAR-NEH, Shillong, [Meghalaya](#) from May 23-24, 2018 to address the Current Concerns, Challenges & Some Silver Linings of Millets. The logo of the AIMS Network was jointly unfurled by the women farmers of 12 states of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, [Meghalaya](#), [Nagaland](#), Odisha, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, & West Bengal. During this convention 16 women millet farmers were felicitated by eminent women [leaders](#), journalists and activists from different parts of [India](#). After 2 days of intensive deliberations on the multi-dimensional understanding of millets from the experiences of millet producing farmers, agro-scientists, millet [marketing](#) agencies, women's collectives, and [state](#) functionaries engaged in millet promotion, convergence of some ideas emerged. The deliberations were steered by [NGO leaders](#), experienced farmers and community activists along with the field scientists from ICAR-NEH, and few government functionaries. The interactive interface between farmers on the ground, [policy](#) framers and field scientists was effectively engaging. At the end of the 2 day convention, a declaration was collectively charted out to ensure that the [demands](#) of the women farmers specifically engaged in the millet based eco-system is taken into necessary action by the concerned stakeholders.

UMIAM DECLARATION OF MILLET SISTERS

from

1st Annual Convention of All [India](#) Millet Sisters (AIMS) Network

May 23-24, 2018

Dr D N Borthakur [Conference](#) Hall, ICAR-NEH, Umiam,

Shillong, [Meghalaya](#)

In association with:

Millet Network of [India](#)

[North East](#) Network

ICAR-NEH, [Meghalaya](#)

Having met and discussed, MILLETS: Current Concerns, Challenges & Some Silver Linings at the ICAR-NEH, Umiam, [Meghalaya](#) on May 23-24, 2018, we the millet sisters, civil society groups, scientists, activists and environmentalists from 12 states -- Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, [Meghalaya](#), [Nagaland](#), Odisha, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, & West Bengal have resolved on the Umiam Declaration of Millet Sisters.

1. We demand that the government acknowledges that millets are our heritage crops, multifaceted in their extraordinary food value, and in providing nutrition, fodder, livelihood and ecological security in these climate-stressed times.
2. The government should support the millet-based biodiverse agriculture practised by millions of small women farmers who are custodians of [India](#)'s rich lore of millet farming practices.
3. Given the shocking burden of malnutrition among children in [India](#), which is the highest in the world, the government should give primacy to the use of millets in the Integrated Child [Development](#) Scheme (ICDS) and Mid-Day-Meal Scheme. This would ensure a healthy new generation.
4. Millets should find a definite place in its Public Distribution [System](#) (PDS) so that [India](#) can escape the ignominious place among the malnutrition countries in the world.

5. Commission on Agricultural Cost Prices should fix the [price](#) of millets taking into consideration their nutritional and ecological values.
6. To support women millet farmers, the government should:
 - a) [Help](#) women's collectives to set up affordable processing units to reduce the drudgery of millet processing;
 - b) Ensure procurement of millets at the MSP fixed by government
 - c) Also set up, community-based procurement centres that are easily accessed and controlled by women cultivators.
 - d) Include millet farming as a guaranteed MGNREGS work to support employment of farmers in millet farming.
7. Crop [insurance](#) and [compensation](#) schemes for [crop](#) damage should be enlarged to include all varieties of millets at par with other crops.
8. Government should utilise its public media network to promote awareness of the nutritional value of millets among consumers specially since this is the [National Year](#) of Millets. This should include popular programmes on millet recipes.

9. We demand support for research that establishes the scientific values of our traditional knowledge on millet cultivation.

10. We demand that Indian Institute of Millet Research [stop](#) hobnobbing its research on genetic modification of millet crops and instead focus on the enormous wealth of women's knowledge on the millet ecology.

11. We call upon all agricultural research institutions to work on the economic valuation of millet ecology in their academic and research programmes.

12. We greatly appreciate the fact that government has recognised the signal contribution of peasant women farmers and bestowed honours on them. We would be more honoured if the government implemented our [demands](#) listed here to ensure a more secure future for us and the nation at large.

Endorsements from:

1. Ms Saraswati, SABALA, Vizianagaram District, Andhra Pradesh
2. Ms Suseela, Millet Sister, Mamidipalem, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh

3. Ms K. Narayanamma, Millet Sister, Kothavalasa, Vizianagaram, Andhra Pradesh
4. Ms I. Maheswari, Millet Sister, Pedabayalu, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh
5. Ms T. Kamala Kumari, Millet Sister, Vepada, Vizianagaram, Andhra Pradesh
6. Mr Jogi Naidu, SVDS, Anakapally, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh
7. Dr Monisha Behal, [North East](#) Network, Guwahati, Assam
8. Ms Moon Bora, [North East](#) Network, Assam
9. Ms Usha Lakra, [North East](#) Network, Assam
10. Ms Anurita Pathak, [North East](#) Network, Assam
11. Mr Ritupon Gogoi, FST, Guwahati, Assam
12. Mr Tushar Pancholi, Paryavaran Vikas Kendra, Gujarat

13. Mr Anil Barot, Millet Sister Rajkot, Gujarat
14. Ms Nita Boart, Millet Sister, Rajkot, Gujarat
15. Ms Khatija Akbar, Millet Sister, Rajkot, Gujarat
16. Mr Nekram, LVK, Nanj Teh, Kassag, Himachal Pradesh
17. Ms Ramkali, Millet Sister, Nanj Teh, Kassag, Himachal Pradesh
18. Ms Shivamma Millet Sister, Yadgir district, Karnataka
19. Ms Jayamala, Millet Sister, Yadgir district, Karnataka
20. Mr Yadaiah, [PRAG](#) JOTHI, Yadgir district, Karnataka
21. Ms [Mary](#), Millet Sister, KRRS, Bidar, Karnataka
22. Ms Gopamma, Millet Sister KRRS, Bidar, Karnataka
23. Mr Prabudas, KRRS, Bidar, Karnataka

24. Mr Prakash, KRRS, Bidar, Karnataka

25. Dr T N Prakash, Chair, Agriculture Price Commission, Bangalore, Karnataka

26. Ms Sheelu Francis, Women's Collective, Chennai, Tamil Nadu

27. Ms Palaniammal, Millet Sister, Koltapatti, Tutucoran, Tamil Nadu

28. Dr Suresh Reddy, Associate Professor, Centre for Economics & [Social](#) Studies, Hyderabad, Telangana

29. Ms Mogulamma, Millet Sister, Potpalli Village, Sangareddy District, Telangana

30. Ms [Krishna](#) Veni, All [India](#) Millet Sisters Network, Telangana

31. Ms Rojamma, Deccan [Development](#) Society, Telangana

32. Ms Mamatha, Sangham Organics, Pastapur, Telangana

33. Ms Tejasvi, Deccan [Development](#) Society, Telangana

34. Ms Reenamma, Millet Sister & Community [Film](#) Maker, Rechintal, Telangana

35. Ms Ranamma, Millet Sister & Community [Film](#) Maker, Telangana

36. Ms Genaral Narasamma, Sangham Radio, Machnoor, Telangana

37. Ms Jayasri, Deccan [Development](#) Society, Telangana

38. Mr PV Satheesh, [National](#) Convenor, Millet Network of [India](#), Hyderabad, Telangana

39. Ms Chinna Narasamma, Millet Sister, Community Media Trust, Telangana

40. Ms Mayuri, [Film](#) Maker, Pastapur, Telangana

41. Mr Janardhan, PILUPU, Bhongir, Telangana

42. Ms Gopamma, Millet Sister, Bhongir, Telangana

43. Ms Masru, Millet Sister, Bhongir, Telangana

44. Ms Sumalatha, Millet Sister, KK Thanda, Bhongir, Telangana
45. Mr Nimmaiah, PEACE, Bhongir, Telangana
46. Mr Shiba Prasad, Ahinsa Club, Odisha
47. Ms Anitha Sahu, Millet Sister, Ahinsa Club, Odisha
48. Ms Betikhai Bariha, Millet Sister, Ahinsa Club, Odisha
49. Ms Trisha Paladhi, AGRAGAMEE, Odisha
50. Ms Sumani Jhodia, Millet Sister, Odisha
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52. Mr Narayan Barik, NIRMAN, Odisha
53. Ms Paramiti Mahji, Millet Sister, Community Leader, Kandhamal, Odisha

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56. Ms Latha Jishnu, Senior Freelance [Journalist](#), [New Delhi](#)
57. Ms Gina Phanbuh, [North East](#) Network, [Meghalaya](#)
58. Dr L Devarani, Asst [Prof.](#), Central Agricultural University, [Meghalaya](#)
59. Dr Bijoya Bhattacharjee, HOD.Center for Biotech.
60. Dr Subhash babu, Scientist(Agro),ICAR – NEH, Umiam, [Meghalaya](#)
61. Dr Bagish kumar, Scientist -social science, ICAR- NEH, Umiam, [Meghalaya](#)
62. Mr Habandajop Lyngdoh, SURE, Jowai
63. Mr Raj Parsah, SURE, Jowai

64. Mr Dharmen G. Momin, Community [leader](#), Sasatgre, West Garohills, [Meghalaya](#)
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79. Ms Thuyevolusapu, Millet Sister, [Nagaland](#)
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83. Ms Manjari Subbha, Farmer, Kalimpong, West Bengal
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