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Counter climate change by promoting Millets MINI

Hyderabad | Monday, Apr 26 2010 IST

Millets Network of India(MINI) today reiterated the critical importance of Millets in the era of climate change, and its promotion not as genetically engineered monocrops, but as biodiverse and multi cropping cultures.

"It is important to note that with the projected two Degree Celsius temperature rise, wheat might disappear from our midst, since it is an extremely thermal sensitive crop", a MINI release here today said. MINI urged the Union Government to bring Millets on the Food Map of India through active promotion in agricultural schemes, public distribution systems and biodiversity bonuses, it said, there be a full and detailed enquiry led by biodivers and millet based farmers into the current funding sources of public sector agriculture universities and research centres. It demanded a complete moratorium on Genetically Engineered crops till such time detailed independent scientific enquiry was ordered on the need for these crops of the future of India's agriculture.







"Similarly, the way rice is grown under stagnant water makes it a dangerous crop under climate change conditions. Methane emanating from water-drenched rice fields, is a green house gas that severely threatens our environment. "Millets are all-season crops whereas wheat is season specific".

"If there is any cropping system that can withstand these challenges, survive and flourish, it is the millet system where the traditional seed diversity play a crucial role. 'We believe that India's farming cultures and seeds cannot be conserved in deep freezers, exploitative policies or through propriety technologies. "For the culture of agricultivation to survive in India and farmer's wisdom to grow in continuum, we call out for a complete Farmer Proofing of India's agriculture", it said.

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