

The Hindu, 9<sup>th</sup> June 2008

# Plea to include millets in PDS

## First national consultation on millets held at NIRD

Special Correspondent

**HYDERABAD:** The 'first national consultation on millets' which concluded at the National Institute of Rural Development, here, recently felt that millets were the 'answer to the farming crisis' facing the country. Over 60 participants attended.

Releasing the 'Hyderabad declaration on millets' here on Saturday, P.V. Satheesh, convener, Millet Network of India and director, Deccan Development Society, told a press conference that millets could also help overcome the impending climate change

- **Millets 'answer to farming crisis' facing the country**

- **Revival of millets possible if they are put on the PDS**

challenges which were haunting farming.

He and two other participants --Vijay Jawandhia, president, Vidarbha-based All-India Kisan Samanvay Samiti, and D. Bharmar Gowda, president, Organic Farming Association of India, -- sought inclusion of millets in

the Public Distribution System (PDS). They called for honouring of millet farmers with 'ecological bonus', as they save six million litres of water per acre for the nation.

"The revival of millets can only be possible if they are put on the PDS alongside wheat and rice", the declaration stated. It wanted introduction of millets in ICDS programmes, mid-day meal and in Social Welfare hostels 'since they offer enormous amount of nutrition which rice and wheat cannot compete with'. The declaration demanded use of the NREGS to support millet farming.