

# CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF ODISHA, KORAPUT

## OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC RELATIONS

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### **Millets as the Future of Food: Three-Day Conference at CUO Concludes with Key Insights and Strategies**

To promote the importance of millet as a staple and nutritional food, a three-day Conference on "Millets as Future Food for Sustainable Planet" was concluded on 12 January 2025 at its Campus with valuable deliberations and recommendations. Organised by the Department of Biodiversity and Conservation of Natural Resources, the valedictory ceremony was attended by the Vice-Chancellor Prof. Chakradhar Tripathi, Dr. Tara Sathyavati, Director, Millet Research Institute, Mr. Srinivas, Zonal Secretary, Bhartiya Kissan Sangh, Prof. Sharat Kumar Palita, Chairman of the Conference, Dr. Debabrata Panda, Convener of the Conference and Co-convener Dr. Kakoli Banerjee.

Prof. Tripathi urged the University community to work for the growth of millets in production as well as consumption inside the CUO campus. He said that with the help of central and state government, we should try for cultivation of millets in larger areas. As millet was once our staple food during early periods, it's time to revive it and accept it at our homes. Prof. Sathyavati also urged the CUO community to promote millet in various fooding habits of the people. She promised all help from Millet Research Institute to CUO for growth of millets in the region. Shri Srinivas gave importance to pesticide free cultivation for future growth of millets. He also urged to discourage multinational players in implementation of millet mission in the state. Prof. Palita read out the outcomes of the Conference. These are,

**Promoting Millet Awareness:** The conference aims to amplify awareness about increasing millet consumption through intensification efforts. This initiative supports research, innovation, quality control, and value addition in line with the Government of India's vision of "Millets in Every Plate."

- **Addressing Global Challenges:** The event emphasizes the need to address global challenges by leveraging the nutritional, economic, and ecological benefits of millets. It serves as a platform to advocate for policies and initiatives that mainstream millets as a sustainable staple for food security.

- **Fostering Rural Prosperity:** The conference proposes the establishment of national forums to promote sustainable agriculture, rural livelihoods, and development, thereby driving rural prosperity.

- **Championing Sustainable Agriculture:** Millets, as resilient crops, contribute to sustainable farming practices while addressing key rural challenges, including food security, income generation, and environmental conservation.

- **Enhancing Rural Livelihoods:** Stakeholders are encouraged to empower smallholder farmers by promoting millet farming. These farmers can benefit economically due to the low input costs and high market demand for millets, particularly in health-conscious markets.

- **Value Addition and Market Expansion:** The conference underscores the importance of value addition through branding, labeling, and marketing for national and international markets, reinforcing the vision of millets as the "Future Food."

- **Expanding Cultural Reach:** The University plans to translate India's millet recipe book into Odia and Hindi to make it more accessible and appealing to the public.

The Vote of thanks was delivered by the Convener of the Conference Dr. Debabrata Panda and Dr. Kakoli Banerjee, Co-convener, coordinated the valedictory function. Around 300 research papers were presented in the Conference by various dignitaries, including 80 invited talks and other presentations. On the occasion a book titled "Wild Plants for Tribal Foods and Medicine". Further, the Vice Chancellor and other dignitaries awarded persons and organizations working on millets including Dr. Prashant Parida and Dr. Kartik Lenka from MS Swaminathan Research Foundation, Jeypore, Ramesh Chandra Swain, CYSD, Pritesh Ray, WASSAN, Govt. of Odisha, Prabhakar Adhikary, Pragati Koraput, Pradeep Mohanty, Sarvodaya Samiti Koraput, Srinibas Mishra, FES Koraput, Sishir Sahu, Swabalambi Foundation, Jagannath Chinnari, Jagannath Millet Hub, Jeypore, Sharat Patnaik, Secretary, Koraput Farmers Association, Jalendra Tripathy, Rashtradeep Prasar Samiti, Koraput, Mahesh Gadekar, MSSRF, K Ushanaga, Women entrepreneur from Sunabeda, Roshan Kartik, ORMAS and organizations including Dhan Foundation and Millet Shakti Processing Unit, Rajaput.

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