



联合国
粮食及
农业组织

Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

Organisation des Nations
Unies pour l'alimentation
et l'agriculture

Продовольственная и
сельскохозяйственная организация
Объединенных Наций

Organización de las
Naciones Unidas para la
Alimentación y la Agricultura

منظمة
الأغذية والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

CONFERENCE

Forty-first Session

Rome, 22-29 June 2019

International Year of Millets (Draft Resolution)

Executive Summary

In response to the challenges posed today by increasing populations and associated food insecurity and changes in climate, the Government of India proposed the establishment of an International Year of Millets in 2023. Millets encompass a diverse group of cereals (including sorghum and teff) that have been a traditional staple for millions of families in Sub-Saharan Africa and Asia. They have a high nutritional content and can play an important role for human and animal health. They can grow on poor soils with little or no inputs, are resistant or tolerant to many crop diseases and pests, and can survive adverse climatic conditions. The diversity of millets offers opportunities for economic development through income-generating activities in the food sector and through niche markets.

While millet cultivation has been historically widespread, there is currently a need to promote the nutritional and ecological benefit of millets to consumers, producers and decision-makers, to improve production efficiencies, research and development investments and food sector linkages.

Extract from the Report of the 160th Council Session (3-7 December 2018):

19. The Council [CL 160/REP] endorsed:
- c) the proposal by the Government of India, as endorsed by the 26th Session of COAG, to establish the observance by the UN System of an “International Year of Millets” in 2023.

Suggested action by the Conference

The Conference may wish to approve the draft resolution in Annex and to request the Director-General to transmit it to the Secretary-General of the United Nations with a view to having the General Assembly of the United Nations consider, at its next session, declaring the year 2023 as the International Year of Millets.

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Queries on the substantive content of this document may be addressed to:

Hans Dreyer
Director
Plant Production and Protection Division
Tel: +39 06570 52040

Resolution .../2019
International Year of Millets

THE CONFERENCE,

Considering the urgent need to raise awareness of the climate resilient and nutritional benefits of millets and to advocate for healthy diets through the increased sustainable production and consumption of millets;

Recalling the United Nations General Assembly resolution proclaiming the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition 2016-2025, and the need to implement sustainable food systems that promote healthy diets, which include a variety of foods;

Recalling recommendation 10 of the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN-2) that establishes, *inter alia*, the promotion of crop diversification to diversify diets;

Recognizing the important contribution of millets to the cultivation of nutritious foods in climate adverse environments;

Noting the importance of sustainable farming and production practices to the livelihoods of millions of rural farm families and small family farmers around the world;

Cognizant of the historical contribution of millets, to food security, nutrition, livelihoods and incomes of family farmers;

Concerned about the current need to invigorate market recognition of the benefits of millets and to promote efficient value chains;

Recognizing the vast genetic diversity of millets and their adaptive capacities to a range of production environments;

Recognizing the need to empower women through education, to assure the quality of family diets;

Recognizing that the observance of an International Year of Millets by the international community would contribute significantly to raising awareness of the nutritional and health benefits of millet consumption and their suitability for cultivation under adverse and changing climatic conditions, while directing policy attention to improving value chain efficiencies;

Stressing that costs for implementation of the Year and FAO involvement will be covered by extra-budgetary resources to be identified;

Requests the Director-General to transmit this Resolution to the Secretary-General of the United Nations with a view to having the General Assembly of the United Nations consider, at its next session, declaring 2023 as the International Year of Millets.

(Adopted on ... June 2019)