



K. M. E. Society's

G. M. Momin Women's College

Affiliated to University of Mumbai,
Re-accredited by NAAC with 'B++' Grade (3rd Cycle), ISO 21001:2018 Certified

[YouTube Link : Millets Festival 2023, Dept of Botany](#)

Millets Festival by Department of Botany

On 6th & 7th December 2023

Report

Venue: College Auditorium
Botany Laboratory

A two days millets festival was organized by Department of Botany on 6th and 7th December 2023 in order to celebrate International Year of Millets 2023. 784 students were benefitted.

Millets are a collective group of small seeded annual grasses and are believed to be among the earliest domesticated plants, which have long served as traditional staple crops for millions of farmers. Millets form a relatively inexpensive source of nutrition especially to the underprivileged population of the world. Over the years notwithstanding the wide range of benefits that millets provide, they have largely been missing from the staple crops due to inadequate knowledge of their benefits compounded by changing dietary habits. In the recent years, lot of efforts have been taken by various government, and non- government organizations to promote millets as an important dietary choice. In this context, it is significant to note that the proposal of Government of India to United Nations for declaring 2023 as International Year of Millets was supported by 72 countries and United Nations' General Assembly (UNGA) declared 2023 as International Year of Millets on 5th March, 2021. The resolution declaring 2023 as the International Year of Millets calls on all stakeholders to provide support to activities aimed at raising awareness thereof. Helping millets make a comeback is not just popularization of a neglected and underutilized crop but also an effort to achieve the sustainable development goals (SDGs) – mainly SDG 2 (zero hunger), SDG 3 (good health and well-being), SDG 12 (sustainable consumption and production), and SDG 13 (climate action). In the search for climate resilient solutions, millets could be a crucial link in sustaining the food supply chain especially for the less privileged nations. The millets have many health benefits and can be useful in curing many diseases. In view of this a two days festival was organized by Department of Botany. The festival aims to reach out to maximum number of stakeholders at college and community level and help in disseminating the knowledge gained through these to support consumption of millets, coupled with enhanced consumer awareness of their nutritional and health benefits.

On the first day of the festival that is 6th December 2023 a “Millet Recipe Workshop” was organized where the resource person was our own student who is now an entrepreneur in baking area. Ms. Salaim Qureshi was the resource person. She taught baking of Sorgham biscuits, Sorgham cookies and Ragi muffins to the students. 75 students learned the basics of baking with millets. It was followed by a guesty lecture by a student of S.Y B.Sc, Ms. Mishfa Qureshi on health benefits of millets. It was attended by 148 students.

On 7th December 2023, three activities were conducted simultaneously in the college auditorium. A grand Exhibition on Millet was organized where millet grains, its flour along with their botanical information and uses were displayed. It was inaugurated by Principal Dr. Tabassum Shaikh and the guests along with staff including teaching and non teaching. 10 millets were exhibited in the exhibition. Students showcased their talents and made a millet map of India creatively with real relevant millets stick to it according to its area wise production and a collage of all the information about millets in the form of news cuttings. Students made posters related to millets which were displayed during exhibition. The exhibition was visited by 643 people including parents, teachers and students of the school and colleges in the campus such as Rais High School, K.M.E S English Medium School and Junior College, Momin Girls High School, B. Ed College staff and students. A documentary on Millets was made by Ms. Daniya a student of S.Y B.Sc was shown to all visitors. An official Millet Song Album was played. A survey was conducted during the exhibition in order to study the knowledge gained by students before and after the visit to the exhibition. A Millet Recipe contest was held in which 26 students participated. They have made different food items from millets. The competition was judged by Mrs. Deepa Junnarkar and by Ms. Salaim Qureshi. The recipes were exhibited which were visited by approximately 500 students. A guest lecture was organized where Mrs. Deepa Junnarkar was the resource person. She had given a very good insights of millets as a food, its positive effects, etc.

The visitors including teachers, parents and students came to know about all the details of the millets. They were happy to see and feel the millets by touching it. Two stalls were kept in which millet muffins and millets along with its flour, flakes, noodles were sold out. The stalls received a great response as maximum people have bought the products. Principal Dr. Tabassum Sheikh has praised the department for this event as celebration of International year of Millets 2023 on such a large scale with 5 different activities.