

HYDERABAD DECLARATION

from

TELANGANA STATE MILLET COALITION

May 6, 2015

at

Sundaraiah Vigyana Kendra, Baglingampally, Hyderabad, Telangana

We, the members of Telangana State Millets Coalition, having met and discussed today about the critical need for regeneration of millets, have come to the following conclusions after a daylong consultation at Hyderabad.

1. We believe that millets, which are an integral part of Telangana's culture and agriculture, should play a vital role in the building a Golden Telangana.
2. Many factors contribute to our faith in millets: In a state haunted by the malnutrition of young children, women and the poor, millets with their extraordinary capacity for providing nutrition can act as an elixir in this regeneration of Telangana.
3. Since most of Telangana is made up of poor soils (especially those belonging to the poor) it is essential that we find crops that can withstand these harsh conditions and provide food and nutrition for the population as the most important need for a food and nutrition secure future of Telangana.
4. When we look at the future, distant and not-so-distant, we must seriously count the threats posed by the coming decades of climate crisis. This will be marked by low and erratic rainfall, increasing global warming and malnutrition of an epidemic proportion. The only crops that can counter all these threats are millets.
5. In spite of all these extraordinary credentials of millets, sadly there is a steady decline in the area of millet cultivation in Telangana since last 10 years.
6. Corresponding to this decline is the phenomenal increase in the area under cultivation of commercial crops such as cotton, corn, cane, soy. All these crops, unlike millets, demand irrigation thus overturning the fascinating knowledge based

dry land agriculture nurtured by the peasantry of Telangana that was fiercely independent and self reliant.

In the face of these realities Telangana Coalition for Millets makes the following demands

- a) Declare Telangana a Millet State and accord millets the status of a State Crop.
- b) To help the revival of millets announce a series of guarantees to millet farmers
- c) Fix a Minimum Support Price at the state level that is double the cost of production of millets.
- d) Declare water conservation bonus, nutrition bonus and ecological bonus to millet farmers.
- e) In view of the phenomenal ecological services they are rendering together these bonuses can add up to at least Rs.5000/- per acre.
- f) As in the case of Karnataka introduce millets in the Public Distribution System.
- g) Introduce millets in MGNREGA, ICDS program, Mid-Day-Meal program, Social welfare hostels and other public food programs.
- h) In all government offices open millet canteens to inculcate the habit of consumption of nutritious and ecological food.
- i) Launch a universal Nutrition-cum-Health Education programme as a part of this package so the people at all levels, especially the poor, get to know what is good for them, their children and families in terms of nutrition and health.

Think of any other measures from the government including a strong and steady campaign to promote millet consumption especially among the poor. (See what Latin America has done for Quinoa) It is an irony of our times that while the privileged and urban middle classes are coming back to millets realising their great qualities, the rural poor are turning away from them, because of disinformation, skewed status value and other historic injustices.

When Telangana is grappling with the opportunity and challenges of building a **Bangaru Telangana (Golden Telangana)** its path must be made of Millets.

Signatories

Mr S Malla Reddy, President, **AP Rytu Sangham**, Hyderabad

Dr K R Venugopal, **Former Secretary to Government**, Hyderabad

Dr A Prasada Rao, **Telangana Rytu Sangham**, Hyderabad

Dr BN Reddy, Vice President, **Jana Vignana Vedika**, Hyderabad

Ms P Padma, State Secretary, **Telangana State Rytu Sangham**, Hyderabad

Mr P V Satheesh, Director, **Deccan Development Society**, Pastapur
Ms Saraswathi Kavula, **Farmer**, Yacharam, Rangareddy
Ms Chandamma, **Farmer & Community Seed Keeper**, Deccan Development Society
Ms Samamma, **Farmer**, Bidakanne, Jharasangam
Mr K.Satya Prasad, **Jana Vignana Vedika**, Hyderabad
Mr D.Shivaji, **SUN(P)**, Kubeer, Adilabad
Mr M.Janardhan, **PILUPU**, Bhongiri, Nalgonda
Mr B.Sada Siva, **Dhan Foundation**, Chikkadapally, Hyderabad
Mr SD.Yousuf, **ASDS**, Bhadrachalam, Khammam
Mr V.Swachanda, **RISE**, Kubeer, Adilabad
Ms Sivakumari & Mr K Babu Rao **SWARD**, Siddipet, Medak
Ms S.Kalyani, **Dharitri Rural Development Society**, Rangareddy
Mr S.Nanajee, **Dharitri**, Kamareddy, Nizamabad
Mr K.Nimmaiah, **PEACE**, Nalgonda
Mr S.Shyam Sundara Rao, **Society for Solidarity & Reconstruction**, Hyderabad
Mr S.Lingaswary, **Jana Vignana Vedika**, Hyderabad
Mr R.Y.Ganadhara rao, Director, **SIDS**, Nizamabad
Mr B.Krishna Rao, Hyderabad
Mr M.Adinarayana, **Jana Vignana Vedika**, Hyderabad
Mr Raja, **Jana Vignana Vedika**, Hyderabad
Mr G. Sanjeeva Rayudu, Research Investigator, **CESS**, Hyderabad
Mr S.Kavi raj, **Pragathi Seva Samithi**, Warangal
Mr S.R.Srinivas, **CROPS**, Jangaon, Warangal
Mr B.Srinivas Reddy, **TREES**, Maim Road Mulugu, Medak
M.Narasimha, **ASSMA**, Kondapak, Medak
Mr T.Ramesh, General Secretary, **Jana Vignana Vedika**, Hyderabad,
Mr M.Syamal Rao, **Jana Vignana Vedika**, Hyderabad
Mr Koya Venkateswar Rao, **Jana Vignana Vedika**, Hyderabad
Mr Vidya Sagar, **Jana Vignana Vedika**, Hyderabad
Ms Jayasri Cherukuri, Joint Director, **Deccan Development Society**, Hyderabad
Mr CN Suresh Kumar, Joint Director, **Deccan Development Society**, Pastapur
Mr Spurgeon Raj, Coordinator, **Millet Network of India**, Hyderabad
Mr A Giridhar Babu, Joint Director, **Deccan Development Society**, Hyderabad
Ms Narsamma, Media Coordinator, **Community Media Trust**, Pastapur
Mr Yesu, Coordinator, **Community Media Trust**, Pastapur
Ms Majula, Media Coordinator, **Community Media Trust**, Pastapur
Mr Balaiah, Supervisor, **Deccan Development Society**, Pastapur