



DECCAN DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY

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Millet Network of India, Hyderabad

December 23, 2014

To
Sri Kalvakuntla Chandrashekar Rao,
Honorable Chief Minister
Government of Telangana
Hyderabad

Dear Mr. Chief Minister

Please see the attached statement from Prof. Ramachandra Reddy, Chairman Task Force on Basic Plants Biology based Agriculture of the Government of India, on growing crops without irrigation in Telangana. This is an extremely valuable advice from a leading plant geneticist of the country. Especially for Telangana which is primarily water starved. This comes as reinvigorating news. We are now struggling to find funds for new irrigation projects to support our agriculture. And the money we are going to spend will be phenomenal. Therefore if this advice comes our way without affecting our agricultural output we must grab the advice with both hands. The only way out is to declare Telangana as a Millet state and millets as Telangana state crop.

In fact the Deccan Development Society and the Millet Network of India are giving a similar advice for the last 5 years. Unfortunately this has not been heeded. We thought this was because of the predominant Rice culture and Rice economy in the state. But now since we have been bifurcated and Telangana is known for its dry land agriculture, its time for us to re-think our agricultural priorities and give Millets their preeminent position on the Telangana agricultural map as in the past.

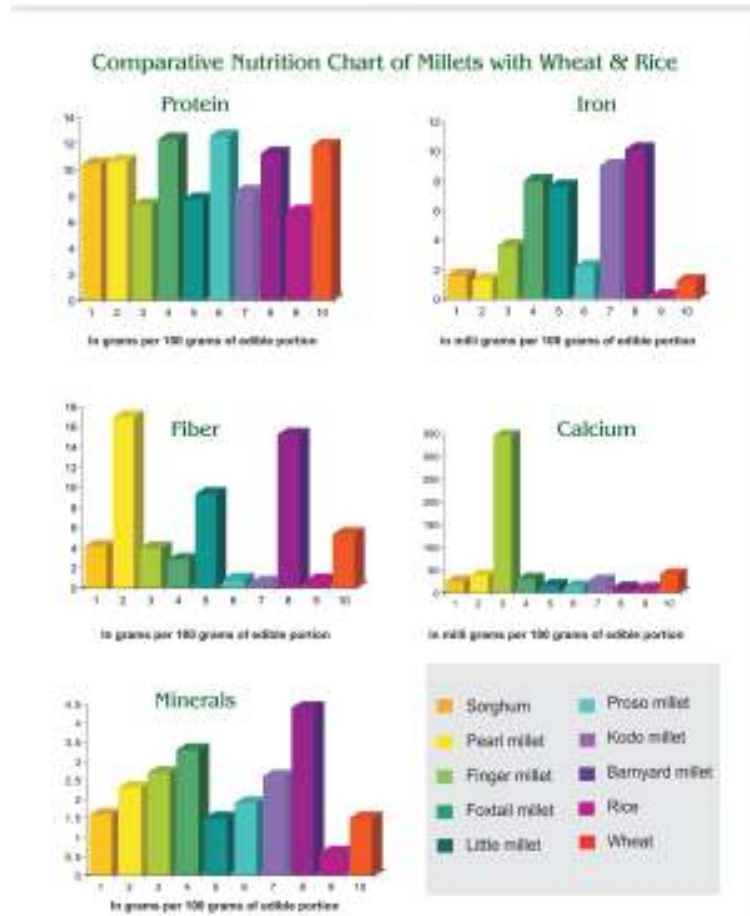
Deccan Development Society and Millet Network of India have repeatedly pointed at the advantages of a Millet based food and farming policy. According to us such a policy will allow us to grow crops and fulfill the state's food security obligation, apart from addressing the nutritional security aspects of these crops. Since millets do not compulsorily need irrigation, it will also be an enormous saving of power in a power scare region like Telangana.

It must be within our knowledge that past decade has been described as a "Decade of Drought". Therefore the more we depend upon water for our crops, the more we will be subjecting ourselves to the vagaries of drought. We can avoid this by depending upon hardy crops such as Millets.

In the coming days of climate change when water scarcity and malnutrition are going hit us has very badly, millets can be a god sent solution.



For example to grow 1 KG of paddy we need three thousand liters of water. All the water needs of a village (drinking, cooking, washing, etc) can be met by the amount of water needed to irrigate one hectare of rice. The amount of nutrition that rice provides is almost nil compared to the Millets. Please see the table below



For these reasons and many more the millets are termed us Food and Forming Future.

If Telangana in its formation years is considering on building a safe future we strongly recommend that a millet-centered agricultural policy is pursued by the state.

We hope to receive a favorable reply from you, who is been described has the Architect of modern Telangana.

with warm regards

PV Satheesh
 Director, Deccan Development Society
 National Convenor, Millet Network of Inida

- copy to :
- 1) ***Sri Pocharam Srinivas Reddy, Minister for Agriculture, Government of Telanagana, Hyderabad***
 - 2) ***Smt. Poonam Malakondaiah, Principle Secretary to Government Agriculture & Cooperation, Government of Telangana***