



DECCAN DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY

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Millet Network of India, Hyderabad

Press Note

December 23, 2014

The Deccan Development Society and Millet Network of India have demanded that Telangana be declared a Millet State in the backdrop of the advice given by Prof. Ramchandra Reddy, Chairman Task Force on Basic Plants Biology based Agriculture of the Government of India. That Telangana should cultivate millet crop without irrigation emphasises the need to rethink the State's agricultural policies becomes very urgent.

Telangana is starved of water as well as funds to construct new irrigation projects. The answer to both of these problems lie in concentrating on millet crops which can grow very well without irrigation even on poor soils. Raising a hectare of rice is tantamount to spending all the water needed by a village for drinking, cooking, washing, cleaning etc. these amount to a criminal waste of water. Besides rice does not even provide adequate nutrition to people.

Millet, on the other hand, grow without irrigation and are store houses of nutrition.

The fact that last decade was declared a Decade of Drought sends out danger signals to farmers all over Telangana. In the coming decades of the climate change this crisis will worsen. Therefore even when there is a small window of opportunity we should convert Telangana into a Millet State.

pv satheesh
director

