



For any assistance, please contact:
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**ASSAM
MILLETS
MISSION**

FARMERS FOR MILLETS IN ASSAM

Assam Millets Mission welcomes Progressive Farmers to become a **Millet Path Pradarshak**

As Progressive Farmers you can make a difference, make your fellow farmers benefit from cultivating millets, which are now also called in India as **Shree Anna** - the best among all the food grains.

Come Let's Know A Few Good Agricultural Practices for Millets



What millets can we grow in Assam?

In Assam the three Millet Crops being promoted are: Finger Millets (maruadhan), Foxtail Millet (kaun) and Proso Millets (cheena bajra).

In which season, can we grow millets?

Based on Assam's climatic seasons, the sowing time of different millets are different

Finger Millet: Mid of August to Mid of September

Foxtail Millet: Mid of January to Mid of February

Proso Millet: Mid of January to Mid of February

What type of farmlands and soils are suitable for growing millets?

The farmland should be away from riverbanks so that the land is not flooded during the crop growing period. Farmlands that are highly porous with soils that are of alluvial or loamy, or sandy soil type that drain well are best for growing millets. The soil pH should be between 5.5 to 7.5, that is slightly acidic to neutral.

How should we prepare the land?

Prepare a fine tilth by deep ploughing, followed by three or four harrowing as millet plants will not grow well in compact soil. Further, prepare furrows and ridges, to enable uniform irrigation, ease of weeding and ensure the farmland remains well drained throughout the crop growing period.

How to sow millet seeds?

For getting a good yield, sowing in line is the best method. Follow a seed rate of 12 kg/ ha (1.5 kg/bigha). During the millet growing season, prepare the farmlands well in advance, and after the first rainfall when the soil has light moisture, do the Line Sowing with a spacing of 25 cm row to row and 10 cm plant to plant at a depth of 4 cm.

What is the manure and fertilizer requirements?

Millet crops grow well in soil with high organic manure, apply compost or farmyard manure @ 5-10 tonnes/ha (or 6-12 q/bigha) and vermicompost @ 2 tones /ha (or 2.5 qt / bigha).

Fertilizer dosage:

(1) Finger Millet @ 90 kg/ ha (or 12 kg / bigha) of Urea, @ 127 kg/ ha (or 17 kg / bigha) of Phosphorus and @ 30 kg/ ha (or 4 kg / bigha) of Potash will enable good yield.

(2) Foxtail Millet @ 44 kg/ ha (or 6 kg / bigha) of Urea, @ 63 kg/ ha (or 9 kg / bigha) of Phosphorus and @ 17 kg/ ha (or 2 kg / bigha) of Potash will enable good yield.

(3) Proso Millet @ 44 kg/ ha (or 6 kg / bigha) of Urea, @ 63 kg/ ha (or 9 kg / bigha) of Phosphorus and @ 17 kg/ ha (or 2 kg / bigha) of Potash will enable good yield.

When to apply the required manure and fertilizers?

The manure and fertilizers should be applied 2 times:

(1) At the time of land preparation apply the recommended quantity of organic manures, ½ of Urea dose and full dose of Phosphorus and Potash;

(2) Apply the remaining ½ dosage of Urea after 30 days of sowing as top dressing.

How often it needs weeding?

Weeding is very essential for millets as weeds makes millets deprived of nutrients and water especially in the early stages of grown. So, it is a good practice to use manually operated wheel hoe in inter row spacing. This will keep the soil loose and help in retention of moisture. First weeding is done about 20-25 days after sowing and later at 45 days of sowing with wheel push hoe.

How often it needs to be irrigated?

While millet crops are drought tolerant and require minimal water, for good yields carefully managing the soil moisture is essential to avoid both water logging and water stress at critical stages of growth. Accordingly, millets crops may require irrigation during tillering, flowering and panicle initiation stages, if rain stops for long period.

What are the harvesting practices?

Finger Millet: It may not mature uniformly and would require harvesting two times after about 80-90 days. First harvest is done when 50% of earheads turn brown and the second harvest is done after 7-10 days. The harvested earheads are heaped in shade for 1-2 days before threshing and cleaning.

Foxtail Millet: After about 100-120 days, harvesting is done when 80% of earheads turn brown from the tips, and grains separate from the earheads when rubbed in hands.

Proso Millet: Almost all the panicles mature at the same time after about 65-75 days. Harvesting is done when 80% of the earheads becomes brown from the tip.

