

ICAR-All India Coordinated Research Project on Small Millets **ICAR, GKVK Campus, Bengaluru-560065**

The Project headquarters is located at the GKVK Campus of UAS Bengaluru. Prior to launching an independent project, the research needs of these crops were looked after by the All India Coordinated Millets Improvement Project with Pearl millet receiving maximum attention, resulting in inadequate allocation of resources, time and efforts for the small millets. Based on the recommendations of an expert committee, the small millets were separated from pearl millet and independent AICSMIP came into existence in 1986.

This project has seven mandate crops viz., finger millet or *ragi* (*Eleusine coracana*), kodo millet (*Paspalum scrobiculatum*), foxtail millet (*Setaria italica*), little millet (*Panicum sumatrense*), barnyard millet (*Echinochloa frumentacea*), proso millet (*Panicum miliaceum*) and brown top millet (*Brachiaria ramosa*). Brown top millet (*Brachiaria ramosa*) has been added from June 2018.

Mandate of the Project:

- To coordinate and monitor research in different centres and to organize research relevant to regional needs.
- To evolve improved varieties and refine production and protection technologies and at the same time minimizing the cost of production.
- To exploit the available genetic potential and thereby enhance the productivity
- To conserve, evaluate and document the genetic resources and to promote their utilization in the research programme in different states.
- To strengthen research in value addition and grain processing for expanding utility by finding alternative uses.

Project Coordinating Unit, Bengaluru

Established in 1986, it has the responsibility to plan, coordinate and execute the research programmes (AICRP trials, FLD, TSP and NEH Programmes) to augment the production and productivity of the six small millets viz., finger millet, kodo millet, little millet, foxtail millet, barnyard millet and proso millet.

The mandated research in the project is carried out through network of 12 centres located in SAUs in the states, ICAR institutes and 19 cooperating centres. Project Coordinating Unit is also a Nodal centre for DUS testing and CRP on Agro-Biodiversity Project.

AICRP Centres

Regular funded centres from ICAR: **12 centres** located in 11 states with 43 Scientists.

Cooperating centres: **19 centres located in 9 states.**