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## **NGOs Provide Policy Recommendations for Millets Promotion**

## Bhubaneswar, 10/11/2023:

Odisha Millets Mission (OMM), in partnership with grassroot organisations, has established a model in the revival of millets to usher in transformation in the food system. OMM has now expanded to 177 blocks covering all 30 districts in the State. An ecosystem is emerging for millet value chain with special focus on increasing production, household consumption, value addition and marketing at Minimum Support Price. An experience sharing session by grassroot NGOs was held today as part of the International Convention on Millets here. The session also received some policy recommendations for better implementation of OMM.

The NGO representatives from different regions of Odisha shared their experiences on agroecological innovation in millets and millet value chain. They also put forward policy recommendations for better implementation of OMM Programmes.

The speakers in the session deliberated on millet promotion i.e. SMI, millets in food system and tribal livelihoods, millets for climate resilient agriculture, the significance of conservation and multiplication of local landraces, agro-ecology of millets , millets value chain and market promotion involving SHGs and FPOs.

A booklet on "Agro-ecological innovation in millets for climate resilient food basket- Grassroot NGOs' Experiences" compiled by Pragati (Koraput) was released by Dr. Arabinda Kumar Padhee, Principal Secretary, Department of Agriculture and Farmers Empowerment, Government of Odisha.

The speakers emphasised on enhancement of productivity through adoption of improved agronomic practices like SMI, line transplanting, introduction of primary processing that results in reducing drudgery and improves efficiency in value addition ensuring fair price to small and marginal farmers through MSP. The grassroot NGOs forwarded recommendations for better implementation of OMM programme on the issues such as millets in food system and tribal livelihoods, millets for climate resilient agriculture, importance of millets in the context of climate change, conservation of millet biodiversity and local landraces of millets, its value chain and marketing, strengthening of SHGs and FPOs in millet value chain and way forward for better implementation of OMM programmes.