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## Hospitality Sector to promote Millets

**Bhubaneswar, 09/11/2023:**

A session on promotion of millets through hotels/ restaurants/cafe/bakeries was held today as part of the International Convention on Millets organised by Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment to celebrate International Year for Millets 2023. Participants gathered to discuss the numerous health benefits that millets offer. Millets, which have been a staple in Indian diets for centuries, are gradually gaining global recognition for their nutritional value and sustainability, they opined.

The highlight of the event was the presence of Chef Vikas Khanna, a globally acclaimed culinary expert, restaurateur, and author. Chef Khanna delivered keynote speech on the use of millets in contemporary cuisine. He also emphasized the pressing need for educating people about Odia cuisine and making it mainstream.

Distinguished speakers and experts shared their insights on the nutritional advantages of millets, the importance of their cultivation in modern agriculture, and their potential to fight malnutrition. Discussions also revolved around the economic opportunities offered by millet production and their essential role in enhancing food security.

Mr Lenin Mohanty, Chairman, Odisha Tourism Development Corporation said on Govt efforts for development of millets, inclusion of Millet based dishes in OTDC, collaboration of millets and tourism. He said that Odisha is the first state to celebrate and dedicate a day to Mandia for promotion of millets for sustainable development. Dr JK Mohanty, Chairman, Hotel and Restaurants Association of Odisha (HARO) discussed on consumption, marketing and inclusion of millets in government schemes.

Chef Vikas Khanna described his Odisha experience and on growing influence of Indian food. He shared his experience on best hospitality offered by Odisha.

Swati Snigdha Suar

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