Proceedings of the Visit to IIMR by UPCAR Delegation

Uttar Pradesh Council of Agricultural Research (UPCAR), Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh

भाकृअनुप-भारतीय श्री अन्न अनुसंधान संस्थान
ICAR- Indian Institute of Millets Research
Global Centre of Excellence on Millets (Shree Anna)

Indian Institute of Millets Research (IIMR), Hyderabad, Telangana State

Date of Visit: 5th September, 2025

Delegation Members:

- Dr. Sanjay Singh, Director General, UPCAR
- Dr. Permendra Singh, Deputy Director General, UPCAR
- Dr. Rajarshi Gaur, Deputy Director General, UPCAR
- Dr. Rinni Singh, Scientific Officer, UPCAR

Background

Uttar Pradesh Council of Agricultural Research, Lucknow sanctioned the project titled "Improving the adaptability and productivity of millets in Uttar Pradesh" to ICAR-Indian Institute of Millets Research, under the supervision of P.I. Dr. P. Sanjana Reddy, Principal Scientist (Plant Breeding), for four years. The objectives for the approved programme are:

- ✓ Identification of improved hybrids/ varieties and target crops suitable for cultivation in UP and development of product profiles.
- ✓ Identification of landraces with higher yield and tolerance to pests and diseases and characterization of selected germplasm lines.
- ✓ Developing breeding material for the targeted ecology through shuttle breeding approaches.

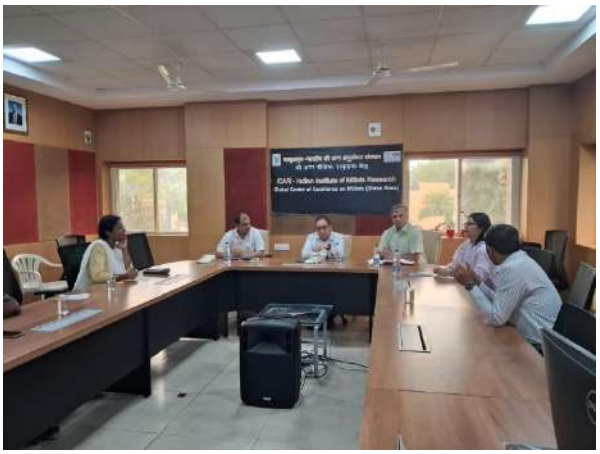
In continuation of this collaboration, a four-member delegation from UPCAR undertook an official visit to IIMR.

The visit was co-ordinated by Dr. P. Sanjana Reddy, Principal Scientist (Plant Breeding) and her team.

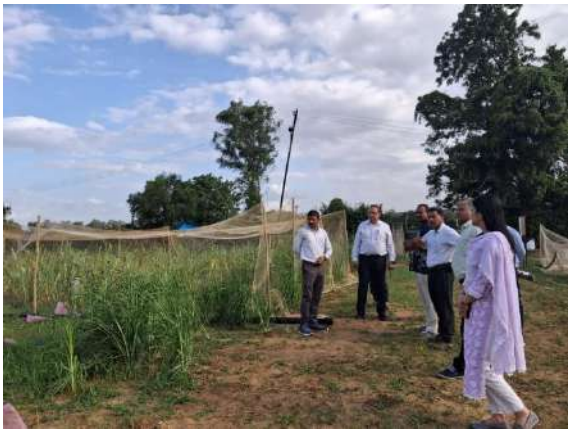
INSTITUTIONAL OVERVIEW, LABORATORY VISITS, PROJECT REVIEW & TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS

As part of the project evaluation and oversight activities, the following key engagements and site visits were conducted during the official visit.

1. Interaction with the Principal Investigator (PI) of project and her team: A detailed discussion was held with Dr. P. Sanjana Reddy, the Principal Investigator of the UPCAR-sponsored project under the Millet Revival Programme, and her core research team. The interaction provided valuable insights into the objectives and ongoing progress of the project. The PI presented an overview of the research activities, methodologies being adopted, key milestones achieved in the first year, development of improved millet varieties, seed distribution and the challenges encountered. The team also shared future plans, collaborative efforts, and the potential socio-economic impact of the project, especially with regard to marginal farmers and sustainable agriculture.



2. Field Inspection of Breeding Material, On-Field Trials, and Advanced Millet Lines: A field-level inspection was carried out to observe the ongoing breeding trials and advanced millet lines being developed under the project. The inspection covered experimental plots showcasing new and improved varieties, stress-resilient germplasm, and agronomic trials aimed at enhancing yield and nutritional quality. Discussions with field staff and researchers provided clarity on the experimental design, data collection protocols, and initial observations regarding performance traits such as drought tolerance, pest resistance, and grain quality.



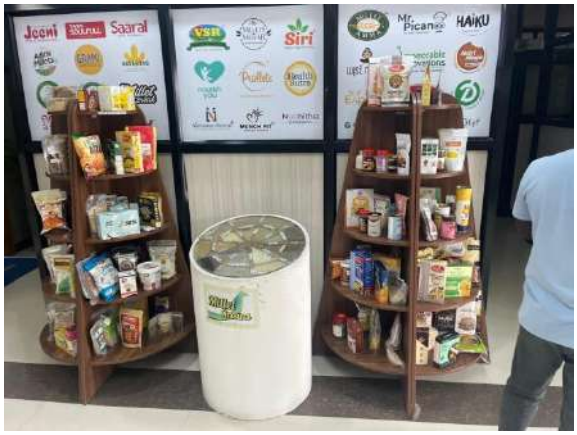
3. Visit to the Under-Construction Centre of Excellence: The delegation visited the site of the upcoming Centre of Excellence (CoE) at IIMR, which is intended to serve as a hub for advanced research, innovation, and capacity building in millet-based systems. The visit included a walkthrough of the construction progress, infrastructure layout, and future facilities planned. Once completed, the CoE is expected to significantly enhance the institute's capabilities in genomics, crop improvement, post-harvest technology, and knowledge dissemination.

4. Visit to Nutri-Hub (Technology Business Incubator) and Associated Facilities: The team also visited the Nutri-Hub, IIMR's Technology Business Incubator (TBI), which supports startups and entrepreneurs in millet-based value chains. The visit covered the various facilities housed within the Nutri-Hub, including:

- **Value Addition and Food Processing Units**: Demonstration of millet-based food products and technologies for commercial scalability.
- **Analytical Laboratory**: Overview of testing and quality control facilities supporting nutritional analysis, product standardization, and food safety.


nutri hub


NUTRIHUB
ICAR - INDIAN INSTITUTE OF MILLETS RESEARCH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CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE


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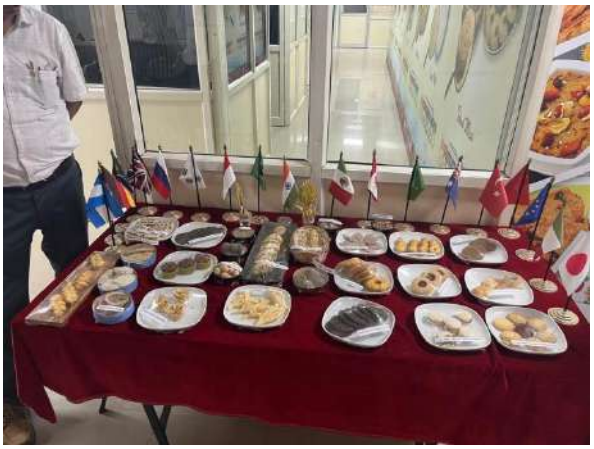

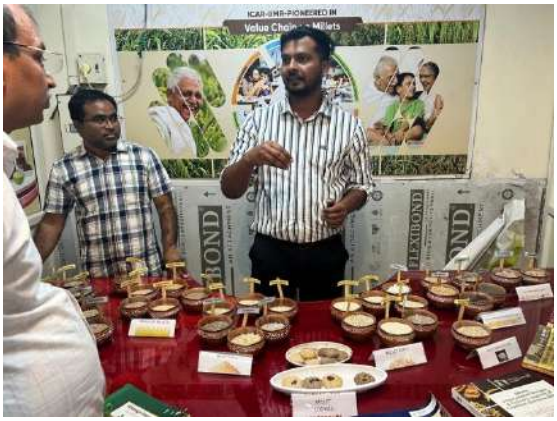

CONCLUSION

This official visit provided a holistic understanding of the ongoing research, fieldwork, infrastructure development, and innovation ecosystem at IIMR, particularly in the context of the Millet Revival Programme. The observations and insights gained will inform future strategies for project monitoring, policy alignment, and resource allocation. The visit and interactions brought to light IIMR's robust research ecosystem, cutting-edge facilities, and its pivotal role in promoting sustainable agricultural practices in Uttar Pradesh. Both organizations expressed a shared resolve to collaborate closely in addressing critical issues such as diminishing water resources, the impacts of climate variability, soil degradation, and the need to enhance the socio-economic well-being of farmers in the region.