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**Agronomic Research on Intercropping Millets and Pulses - A Review**

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**Abstract**

In recent years, there has been increasing recognition of the importance of millets in India. Millets are rich in many minerals and hence often termed as nutriacereals / nutraceuticals. In general, millets are cultivated mainly as rainfed crops. They are hardly crops that can be grown in very harsh climate, moisture and nutrient deficit soils, which reveals its importance in current climate change scenario. In addition, reducing land resources associated with poor soil fertility status leads to finding a better way for efficient resource utilisation with increased productivity. This situation can be achieved by adoption of efficient intercropping systems. Inclusion of legumes with millets can achieve higher net return, more crop equivalent yield with less cost of cultivation than sole cropping of millets. This review will be useful for the researchers who are involved in research on cropping systems involving millets and pulses.

**Keywords**: Millets, Pulses, Intercropping, Soil productivity, Yield

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**Health Benefits of Millets in Relation to Controlling Life Style Diseases**

All the millet foods are having significant health benefits, with their rich content of nutrients like fibre which helps in metabolic disorders like Diabetes, Obesity, Cardiovascular diseases etc. Millets are unique among the cereals because of their richness in calcium, dietary fibre, polyphenols and protein (Devi et al., 2011). Small millets are high energy, nutritious food comparable to other cereals and some of them are even better with regard to protein and mineral content. They are particularly low in phytic acid and rich in dietary fibre, iron, calcium and B vitamins. Thus, millets can act as a shield against nutritional deficiency disorders and provide nutritional security.

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