Title: Introducing the Millets Webinar Series 2023

Hello everyone! Happy New Year!

The United Nations General Assembly has declared 2023 the "International Year of Millets"! Millets – a group of ancient small-grained crops often overlooked in contemporary agriculture – are being recognized for their potential to contribute to the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In particular, Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 3 (Good health & well-being), SDG 8 (Decent work & economic growth), SDG 12 (Responsible consumption & production), SDG 13 (Climate action), and SDG 15 (Life on land).

In observance of this Year, we will be holding webinars the third Wednesday of every month from 5-6 PM Eastern Time via Zoom to learn more about millets around the world. Topics covered will range from their uses, their climate resilience, their processing and preparation as food, their rich nutritional profiles, how to incorporate them into meals, millet products and beverages in the marketplace, the economic and community impact of millets, millets for animals, and other potential uses of millets.

Our first webinar will cover "**A virtual tour of diverse millets from around the world for food systems and other benefits**" presented by guest speakers, Dr. Rob Myers and David Brenner. It will take place on Wednesday, January 18, 2023 from 5-6 PM Eastern Time on Zoom:
https://umsystem.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJctduutrTgoGNLZnrkxtUw614DEjAT3SgNN

We hope you will take time to learn more about millets!

Thank you!

North American Millets Alliance

University of Missouri Center for Regenerative Agriculture

FEAST Lab at the University of Missouri

NAMA NORTH AMERICAN MILLETS ALLIANCE

Center for Regenerative Agriculture University of Missouri

FEAST Lab

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF

MILLETS 2023

WHAT ARE MILLETS?

- Millets are a group of small-seeded grasses that are grown primarily for their grains.
- Highly drought-resistant and can be grown in dry, arid regions where other crops might not survive.
- There are several different types of millets, including pearl, proso, foxtail, barnyard, little, kodo, browntop, finger, fonio, sorghum (or great millet), and teff.
- Millets are often used as a staple food in parts of Africa, Asia, and South America.
- They can be ground into flour and used to make a variety of dishes, including bread, porridge, and pancakes.
- Millets are also used as feed for livestock and as a cover crop to improve soil fertility.
- In recent years, millets have gained popularity as a healthier alternative to wheat and other grains in some parts of the world.

ROB MYERS

Director of MU CRA

Rob Myers is Director of the MU Center for Regenerative Agriculture and an adjunct faculty member with the Plant Science and Technology Division. He also serves as Regional Director of Extension Programs for the USDA-NIFA North Central Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) program. His professional expertise encompasses sustainable and regenerative agriculture, soil health, conservation and cropping system diversification. He has conducted research, education and extension programs with many different crops including several millet species. His Ph.D. and M.S. degrees in agronomy are from University of Minnesota.

DAVID BRENNER

Millet Curator @ USDA's North Central Regional Plant Introduction Station

Iowa State University employee

David Brenner is the Millet Curator at a gene bank, the USDA's North Central Regional Plant Introduction Station in Ames, Iowa, and David is an Iowa State University employee. David is responsible for the United States Department of Agriculture's national collections of barnyard millet, foxtail millet and the Panicum millets, in addition to a diverse collection of other non-millet crops. David and his crew grow new fresh seed stocks for genetic conservation and document the collection on the publicly accessible Search GRIN Global website. Seeds from the collection are distributed to researchers world-wide and free of charge. These seed are a resource for innovation, economic development and are also valued as part of our bio-cultural heritage. David adds value to the millet collection by expanding the representation of crop wild relatives of foxtail and barnyard millets, and growing field rows of millets for observation.