

'Millet cultivation boosts income of Uttarakhand farmers by 10-20%'

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The government's push for millet crops has led to the increase in annual incomes of three out of four millet growers in Uttarakhand by 10-20 per cent, reveals a study conducted by the Indian Institute of Management, Kashipur.

The six-month study 'Millet production in Uttarakhand: An empirical analysis of its socio-economic impact and marketability challenges' involved over 2,100 farmers.

The findings of the study released on Sunday at IIM-Kashipur revealed that the recent push by the Centre as well as the State government created a demand for millets in the market but the farmers



ALTERNATIVE. Millets are staple food for the locals and it reduces their dependence on other cereal crops

are unaware of it. Besides, most farmers are growing millets for self-consumption instead of sale. "Most of the farmers growing millets for self-consumption are not using it as a money crop like rice and wheat," says the study's principal investigator, Shivam

Rai, an assistant professor of IIM Kashipur. The study, funded by the Indian Council of Social Science Research, said that government schemes designed to support the millet farmers are becoming futile because of the communication gap and the language barrier. "Millets are a sustainable crop which are not only nutritious and healthy but also easy to store and not damaging to the soil," Rai said.

The study said that millet production in the Uttarakhand region plays a significant role in the socio-economic contribution and overall agricultural sector. Millets are considered a staple for the local community, enhancing their food security and nutrition by reducing their dependence on other cereal crops.