


Appendix:
International Forum for Promotion and Development
of Minor Cereals(1997)

資料：国際フォーラムの提案 (1997)

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PROJECT COORDINATION CELL
ALL INDIA COORDINATED SMALL MILLETS IMPROVEMENT PROJECT
INDIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH
University of Agricultural Sciences, GKVK Campus, Bangalore - 560 065, India.

Dr. A. SEETHARAM
Project Coordinator (Small Millets)

Ref. No. PC (SM) /
Date :

Dr. M. KIMATA
Visiting Professor

June 3, 1997

Dear Sir,

In Asia and several countries around the world, many kinds of small millets (Minor cereals) are grown. They are finger millet (*Eleusine coracana*), italian millet (*Setaria italica*), kodo millet (*Paspalum scrobiculatum*), proso millet (*Panicum miliaceum*), little millet (*Panicum sumatranse*), barnyard millet (*Echinochloa frumentacea/E.colusa*), grain-amaranth (*Amaranthus sp.*) and buck wheat (*Fagopyrum spp.*). There are other minor cereals like teff (*Eragrostis tef*) and fonio (*Digitaria spp.*) which are important in Africa.



Research on these crops is in progress in many countries but it is scattered and localized. As a result, there is difficulty in finding access to the valuable research information available elsewhere. The scientists working on these crops are handicapped for want of a common forum for discussion of issues of mutual interest. The two International Workshops held in 1986 in India and 1991 in Zimbabwe (Africa) has helped in documenting the available information at global level on some of the above cereals. But, this has not helped much in filling the vacuum. Recognizing the importance of these minor cereal crops in food security at the farm/regional level and its role in World Agriculture it is thought appropriate to launch an **International Forum for Promotion and Development of Minor Cereals**. The proposed forum will cover 10 crop species - finger millet, italian millet, proso millet, little millet, kodo millet, Japanese/Indian barnyard millet, grain-amaranth, buck wheat, teff and fonio.

The forum intends to provide:

- 1) A common platform for scientists working to discuss issues related to conservation, improvement and promotion of these crops.
- 2) To bring out International Journal to serve as promotional media for exchange and dissemination of information.
- 3) To support organizing International/Regional Seminars and Workshops on these crops and assist to identify areas of research and development for the common benefit.

Through this letter we are enlisting your support for launching of such a forum/society by end of the December 1997 and your willingness to serve as one of the founder members. We would be grateful if you could kindly circulate this letter among the interested scientists/colleagues in your country and help us to know their response. We look forward for your suggestions in this regard.

Thanking you,
With regards,

Yours sincerely,
 
A. Seetharam M. Kimata

Kindly send your suggestions to:

- 1) Dr. M. Kimata, Professor of Ethnobotany and Environmental Studies, Tokyo Gakugei University, Koganei, Tokyo 184, Japan.
- 2) Dr. A. Seetharam, Project Coordinator (Small Millets), University of Agricultural Sciences, GKVK, Bangalore-560 065 (India).

