

**Celebration of International Year of Millets 2023
by Assam RO on 09 January 2023**

To commemorate the International Year of Millets 2023, Assam RO organised a Millet Day function on 09 January 2023 at Kalakshetra, Guwahati. The function was graced by Dr C V Ratnavathi, Director, Indian Institute of Millet Research, Hyderabad and other host of dignitaries including Shri B C Barah, Member, Assam Agriculture Commission, Shri Vincent M D, CGM, SBI and Shri Rajesh Verma, Zonal Manager, Central Bank of India. 250 farmers and representatives of Project Implementing Agencies attended the function.

Shri Nabin Kumar Roy, GM, Assam RO welcomed all the guests and participants and informed that the highly nutritious Millets are the forgotten grains that have to be brought back in our daily diet and NABARD has taken steps towards promotion of millet cultivation and processing in Assam. He encouraged the farmers to cultivate millets inspite of the dominance of paddy in the state. He expressed that millet being a climate resilient crop, can contribute immensely towards reduction of stress on environmental resources.

Shri Naveen Dhingra, Chief General Manager, NABARD, Assam RO, in his address, highlighted NABARD's role in last four decades towards enabling, energizing and empowering the agricultural and rural eco-system of India. He said that NABARD, Assam Regional Office has drawn its perspectives on millets keeping in view the GOI's push for Millets to commemorate the launching of International Year of Millets, 2023 and emphasised on the urgent need to create awareness on the health benefits of Millets. He stated that NABARD are in tune with the objectives and key focus of Assam Millets Mission (AMM) of the Govt. of Assam to address the nutritional needs of population of the state in general and for women and children in particular.

NABARD as the pioneer has also taken promotion of Millets in a Mission mode has taken an enormous leap by sanctioning 23 Millet DPR projects in 23 districts of Assam benefitting 1150 farmers of 23 districts of Assam. He urged upon the PIAs and farmers to contribute by successfully implementing the projects & make Assam a Millet Hub in the country.

Director, IIMR appreciated efforts of NABARD and explained the nutritional values of Millets. CGM, SBI & GM, CBI assured the farmers about the support of the banks. The dignitaries appreciated NABARD for bringing together all farmer community under one roof.

During the event, a publication titled 'Konidhan – The Millets of Assam – NABARD's Initiatives in Assam' was unveiled. A documentary on Millets was screened depicting the present scenario of Millets in Assam and encouraging

farmers to cultivate Millets. A pilot 'Model Millet Project' has been devised by the RO which encompasses all components viz., cultivation, training and capacity building, processing, post harvest machinery, marketing linkages, etc. Sanction Letters were handed over to the PIAs and farmers of the identified districts. Three Stalls were also put up in the venue wherein various types of Millets & value added products were showcased for the benefit of farmers. Value added RO will also facilitate promotion of 8 Millet FPOs during implementation of the Millet project in the above 23 districts.

Few photographs are appended below:



(Dignitaries on the dais)



(CGM, NABARD addressing the participants)



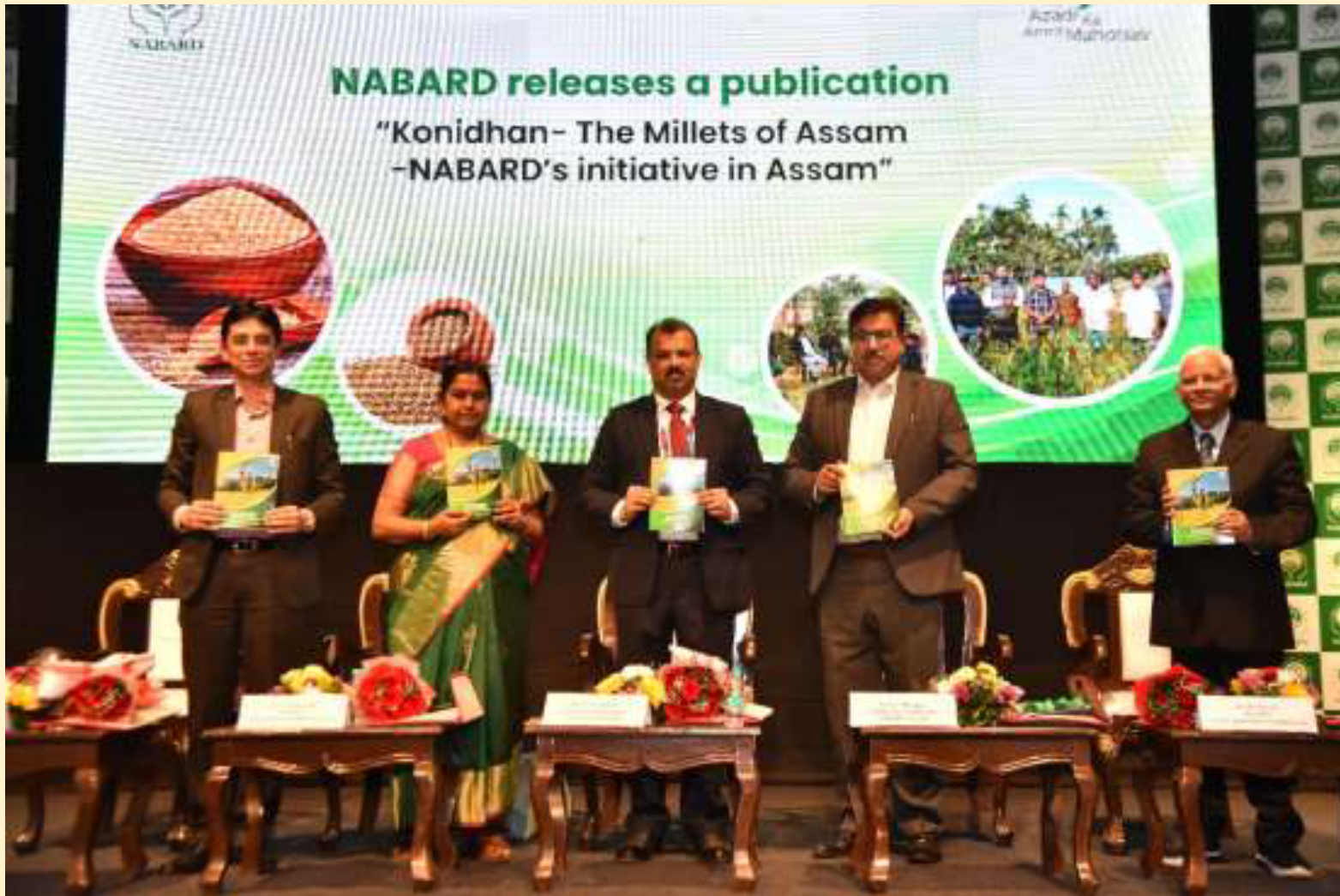
(Director, IIMR addressing the participants)



Lighting of the Lamp



(A cross section of participants)



(Launch of Publication on Millets)



(Handing over Sanction letters to PIAs and farmers)



(Millet Stalls in the Venue)



Press clipping



Press clipping

Links to newspaper clippings :

<https://m.economictimes.com/news/india/nabard-initiates-measures-to-augment-millet-production-in-assam/articleshow/96861401.cms>

<https://themeghalayan.com/nabard-to-implement-model-millet-project-in-23-districts-of-assam/>

http://www.easternchronicle.net/page-view?date=10-01-2023&page_no=3&edition_id=3