

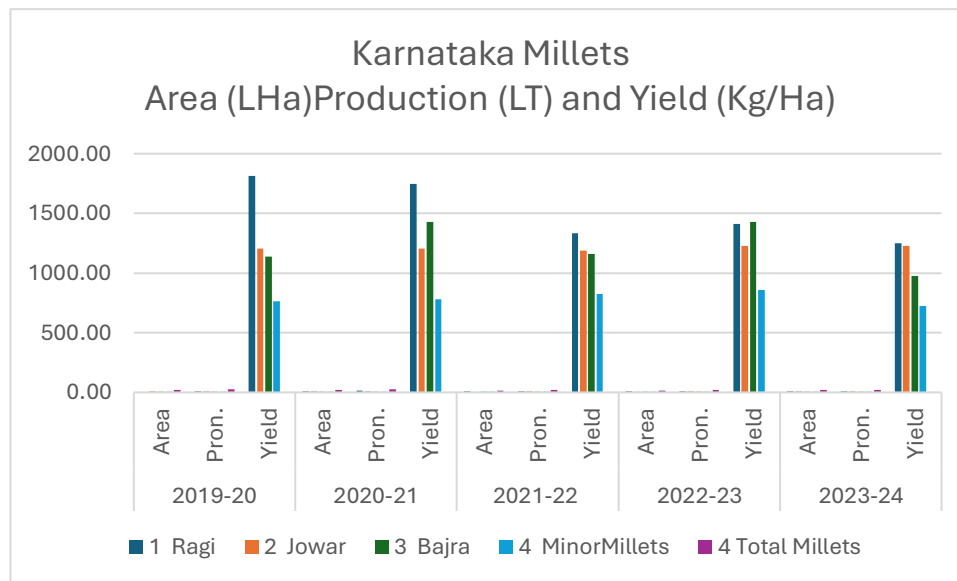
B2B Meeting Agenda Note

International Trade Fair 2025: Organics and Millets

Department of Agriculture, Government of Karnataka,

Introduction – Millets in Karnataka

Karnataka is a significant producer of millets in India. According to the data available (refer the chart below), the state's millet production and yield have consistently shown promising trends.



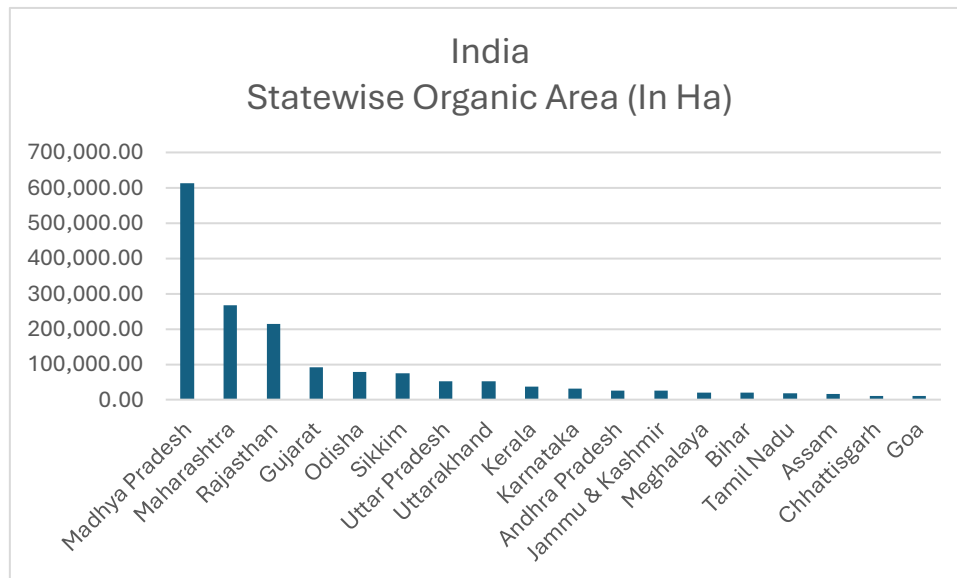
However, production and yield are influenced by factors such as climate change, soil quality, and farming practices. Over the years, Karnataka has adopted several progressive measures to enhance millet cultivation including:

- Promoting sustainable farming practices to improve soil health:** Efforts include crop rotation, organic farming, and efficient irrigation systems to enhance millet yields and reduce environmental degradation.
- Developing climate-resilient crop varieties:** The state ecosystem is encouraging farmers to adopt high-yielding millet varieties, such as Finger Millet (*ragi*) and Small Millets (like *navane* and *savi*), which have shown promising results in Karnataka's agro-climatic conditions.

The state government has also initiated policies and programs to support millet cultivation focusing on:

- **Value Chain Development** to strengthen the millet value chain through support for processing, storage, and marketing infrastructure to increase farmers' incomes and encourage them to cultivate millets.
- **Market Promotion** to raise awareness about the nutritional benefits and culinary uses of millets to boost demand and promote market growth.
- **Other Support Measures** include providing subsidies, credit facilities, technical assistance to farmers, and fostering farmer federations.

Introduction – Organic Farming in Karnataka



Karnataka is also actively promoting organic farming, and the state has seen significant growth in organic production.

According to various studies, organic farming in Karnataka has resulted in **higher yields and better crop quality**. Farmers transitioning to organic methods have reported higher yields and noticeable improvements in the taste, texture, and nutritional value of their produce.. Moreover, organic farming offers the potential to provide higher financial returns to farmers through premium prices for organic produce.

Challenges

Shifting to organic farming presents some challenges for farmers. The **higher cost of production** for organic farming compared to conventional farming is one major deterrent. One of the other challenges faced by organic farmers is **yield reduction**, especially during the conversion period from conventional to organic farming. Another significant barrier is the **cost of certification**, which is particularly burdensome for small-scale farmers, making it difficult for them to transition to organic farming. The state government recognizes these challenges and has taken several progressive measures to ensure the long-term sustainability and widespread adoption of organic farming across the state including:

- **Organic Farming Policy: Offering** incentives and support to organic farmers.
- **Subsidies and Grants:** Reducing financial barriers to help farmers adopt organic farming practices.
- **Training and Capacity Building Programs:** Focusing on enhancing skills and knowledge of farmers, extension workers, and other stakeholders.

There is a growing demand for organic produce in Karnataka and India, driven by increasing consumer awareness and preference for healthy food. Karnataka intends to tap into the national and global organic market, with the state's organic produce being exported to countries like the US, Europe, and Middle East and other regions. The state also intends to developing local markets for organic produce to help increase sales and provide better returns to farmers. Additionally, Karnataka's robust Agtech and Fintech ecosystem, comprising value chain companies, startups, and technology-driven businesses, plays a pivotal role in supporting organic and millet production.

Upcoming Event: ITF 2025

As a part of ITF 2025, the Department of Agriculture, Government of Karnataka has planned a **B2B event** from **January 23 to 25, 2025** in Bengaluru. You are kindly requested to complete the registration process using the link provided in the invitation email, which includes all the required questions for facilitation of registration. The final agenda will be shared closer to the event date.

The Government of Karnataka looks forward to your participation and valuable contributions to this significant initiative.