

STATUS OF PEARL MILLET RESEARCH IN INDIA

Nagesh Chirumamilla* and Poonam Yadav

Department of Botany, Faculty of Science
The M.S. University of Baroda, Vadodara-390002, Gujarat
Email: nageshchirumamilla@yahoo.com

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Abstract: Pearl millet [*Pennisetum glaucum* (L.)R.Br.] is grown mainly as a rainfed crop in north and northwestern parts of country. These regions are highly prone to scanty and unevenly distributed rainfall and hence are always drought-prone. High temperature and low nutrient status of soils further exaggerate the deleterious effect of drought. The pearl millet growing regions are also most vulnerable to climate change as the frequency of drought is likely to increase. The purpose of this review is to explore and document pearl millet research efforts and important milestones in its improvement and to discuss their implications for future pearl millet improvement as a grain and forage crop for the drought- and heat-stressed areas, especially in India.

Keywords: AICPMIP, All India Coordinated Pearl Millet Improvement Program; CMS, Cytoplasmic male sterility; DArT, Diversity array technology; OPV, Open-pollinated variety

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*Corresponding Author

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