

Recommended package of practices

Little Millet (*Panicum sumatrense* Roth. Ex. Roem and Schultz)

Varieties

A number of varieties with high yield potential have been released for different states. The list of latest and popular varieties recommended for different states are given below

Little millet		
Sl. No.	State	Varieties
1.	Orissa	OLM 203, OLM 208, OLM-217
2.	Madhya Pradesh	JK-4, JK 8 and JK 36
3.	Andhra Pradesh	OLM 203, JK 8
4.	Tamil Nadu	Paiyur 2, TNAU 63 and CO 3,C0-4,K1, OLM 203, OLM 20
5.	Chattisgarh	JK 8, BL 6, BL-4, JK 36
6.	Karnataka	OLM 203, JK 8
7.	Gujarat	GV 2, GV 1, OLM 203, JK 8
8.	Maharashtra	Phule Ekadashi, JK 8, OLM 203

Season

- Orissa - Middle of June
- Tamil Nadu - June and September-October
- Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and South Bihar –last week of June to first week of July is desirable to escape from shoot fly and gall midge.

Spacing and seed rate

Spacing: 22.5 cm between rows and 10 cm between plants within a row

Seed rate: 8 kg ha⁻¹ for line sowing
12 kg ha⁻¹ for broadcasting

Manuring and fertilization

- 5 tones of farm yard manure per hectare 2-3 weeks before sowing.
- The fertilizer required for different states is as follows

States	Fertilizer recommended NP ₂ O ₅ K ₂ O kg ha ⁻¹
Andhra Pradesh	20:20:0
Bihar and Orissa	20:10:0
Tamil nadu	40:20:0
Other states	20:20:0

Bio-fertilizer: Seed inoculation with *Agrobacterium radiobacter* and *Aspergillus awamori* improves seed yield.

Weed control

- Two inter cultivations and one hand weeding in line sowing
- Two hand weeding in broadcasted crop

Cropping systems

Inter cropping

- Orissa: Little millet + black gram (2:1 row ratio)
- Madhya Pradesh: Little millet + +Sesamum/soybean/pigeon pea (2:1 row ratio)
- Southern Bihar: Little millet + +pigeon pea (2:1 row ratio)

Cropping sequence

- South Bihar: Little millet – Niger

Diseases

Though there are no serious diseases on this crop, grain smut may be problematic sometimes, which is effectively checked by pre sowing treatment of the seeds with either Carbendazim or Carboxin @ 2gkg^{-1} seeds

Pests

Shootfly

It is the most serious pest causing significant yield losses.

Control

Early sowing with the onset of monsoon is an effective and cheapest method of control.