

Importance of morphological and nutritional characters of foxtail millet

Abstract:

Setaria italica(L.) P. Beauv. is a modest plant which has international focus of its nutritional values, which can reduce the world problem malnutrition. Focus, research and development of major crops are encouraged than regional crops like millets. Foxtail millet stands second largest cultivated species in millets. India is the largest producer of millets in the world. It accounts for 20% of global production & 80% of Asia's production. One of oldest crop and been growing in East Asia since sixth millennium BC. As per the nutritional content is concerned, it has substantial amount of protein(12.3 g), carbohydrates (60–65 g), fiber (6 g), minerals (Phosphorous, calcium, iron, zinc, magnesium, sodium), Foxtail millet is very rich in high nutritious like high fiber, quality protein mineral composition & nutri-ceuticals and owns a very important medicinal values, Reducing Blood pressure & protects against heart diseases, prevents diabetes & breast cancer, Helps to optimize kidney, liver and immune system of health.

Key words: foxtail millet, photochemical, nutritional.

1. Introduction

Since the era of cultivation, few grains are cultivated for both human and animal consumption, mostly cultivated, produced and consumed crops are rice, wheat and maize. Millets have become a vital part of today's diet Bhatt, Rasane, *et al.* (2022). Millets are typify of perennial small weeds and of *Poaceae* grass family comes under minor cereal species Shobana *et al.* (2013). Greatly combating malnutrition and beneficial to human health. Millets are enhanced as nutri-cereals with high value of proteins, minerals, vital amino acids and vitamins Vinoth & Ravindhran (2017). With 15% India shares highest world total production accompanied by China, Mali, Senegal, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Sudan Karki *et al.* (2020). In semi-arid tropical regions and climatic conditions like Asia and Africa, millets are cultivated and remains the major source of energy. Millets are well suited for cultivation in all Agro-climatic zones and ideal crops for climate resilience of Agriculture. Millets are cultivated with minimal water & inputs hence called as Super foods. Millets can be cultivated in 4 acres, with irrigation water sufficient for one acre of Paddy.

Foxtail millet (*Setaria italica*) belongs to the family *Poaceae* and subfamily *Panicoideae* Sharma & Niranjana, (2017), it is an oldest self pollinated crop growing since 5000 BC in China and 3000 BC in Europe Hermuth *et al.* (2016). Foxtail millet is cultivated, grown and produced in Europe, China, India, Indonesia and Korea Singhet *et al.* (2017). As compared to rice and wheat, foxtail millet is nutrient-rich whole-grain packed with high level of protein and gluten-free Singh & Prasad (2020).

1.1 Morphological characters:

Foxtail millet (*S. italica* L.) is a significantly used both for food and fodder and it is cultivated in semiarid, dry, temperate, warm regions of Africa and Asia Sheahan (2014). Morphologically foxtail millet is a few tiller single stack plant. Plant height reaches up to 120–200 cm. A Full matured plant of foxtail millet has a thin, leaf stems, silky, hairless leaves. The seed head is 5–30 cm long, thick, hairy panicle, seed color may vary amongst genotypes and variety, that can be red, brown, black and also pale yellow colour Moharilet al.(2019).

1.2 Production and consumption:

Foxtail millet is an unrecognized traditional crop where as in many regions it is unaware of its agricultural practices being a traditional and lesser-known grain in many regions, dietary preferences has been overshadowed by more popular options, limited awareness consumption of foxtail millet and also processing facilities. However the promotions, availability, cultural factors, regional factors, these factors have contributed to a awareness in foxtail millet consumption, it is important to recognize that consumption benefits would help for certain regions.

According to data of 2023-2024 in both production and consumption of wheat, rice and other cereals, India owns the largest production of 309 million tons. Crops like rice wheat and maize are dominating the significance of minor millets with advanced technologies for production and cultivation Kumar, Srivastav, *et al.* (2021). But despite their nutritional qualities and climate resilience, the consumption of small millets in India has a declined by 83% in the last five decades probably due to easy availability of rice and wheat. The total world production of millets rate was 863 lakh ha according to the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (2022) Africa, followed by America, Asia, Europe, Australia, and New Zealand was ranking in production.

2. Nutritional components of foxtail millet:

The primary constituents of foxtail millets include protein, minerals, dietary fibers, vitamins, carbohydrates, and fat Sharma & Niranjana (2017). Foxtail millet grains are rich in protein content (10%–15%), minerals (Fe, Ca, and Zn) dietary fiber (6%–8%), crude fat (7%–8%), and Muthamilarasan *et al.* (2016). Major millets varieties comparing with foxtail millet, it is shown the higher protein content, it is also having higher number of essential amino acids including cysteine, methionine, and sulfur-containing amino acids. Comparison to the popular cereal like rice, maize and wheat, with the range of 13% to 15% flour starch resistant has been noticed in Foxtail Millet, considered to be outstanding performance for diabetic profile requirement. According to Yang performing with 259 samples collected from China six provinces of foxtail millet revealed that protein content ranged between 11.85 and 20.58 g/100 g, starch was 65.59–74.12 g/100 g, fat content was ranged between 2.82–4.47 g/100 g. which shows the minimum richly fat and gluten free it outstand with rest of the cereal grains in terms of nutritional evaluation Yang *et al.* (2013)

The major storage proteins in foxtail millet are, albumin, prolamin Yang *et al.* (2009). 41% and 77.5% of the total protein in foxtail millet which may vary from varieties

to varieties. An average of total protein content is 11.54 g/100 g. The albumin shows the highest protein fraction, followed by gliadin, globulin, gluten, and other proteins, forming Sharma & Niranjana (2017). By using chromatographic methods, the researchers frequently studied the amino acid (AA) composition of foxtail millet protein. Fat serves as a major source of energy for people, providing 9 Kcal/g of the energy. Foxtail millet contains both saturated 84%–88% and unsaturated fatty acids Li *et al.*, (2007).

Foxtail millet has both primary and secondary processing operations involved in foxtail millet. Wetting, de-hulling, and milling comes under primary operation and grinding, fermentation, extrusion, malting, gelatinization, popping, and roasting are secondary operation, which help to transfer the seed to millet grain Amadoubr& Le (2013).

3. Health benefits by consuming foxtail millet:

According to World Health Organization (WHO), the condition where body do not produce enough insulin is known to be hyperglycemia is having high blood sugar level. Numerous studies have shown the reduction of chronic illnesses; hyperglycemia and hyperlipidemia can be controlled by adding foxtail millet in daily diets Sharma & Niranjana, (2017). They function as anticarcinogens, antihyperglycemic, antihypertensive, antioxidants and anti-inflammatory agents against life threatening disorders such as cancer, cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, and high blood pressure High nutritious like high fiber, quality protein mineral composition &nutri-ceuticalsfoxtail millet is a insoluble dietary fibers could delay the diffusion of glucose and promote its absorption in the gastrointestinal tract Bangoura *et al.* (2012). Foxtail Millets are anti acidic, gluten free and detoxify body. Niacin (vitamin B3) in millet can help lower cholesterol.Helps to optimize kidney, liver and immune system of health. Aids in treating respiratory conditions such as asthma.Specifically, the millet protein concentrate was observed to significantly increase levels of plasma adiponectin and HDL cholesterol, while also leading to significant reductions in insulin levels when compared to a casein diet Amadoubr& Le (2013).

4. Utilization trends of foxtail millet:

Foxtail millet flour is composite with wheat flour to make chapatti, bread which increases the nutritional properties, Sharma and Niranjana (2017). Bakery goods like bread shows the study that high nutrient content with low glycem index chavi and Sarita (2021).Cookies, promotes the best formulation of nutrient content like protein (11.8%), carbohydrate(45%), fiber (4.6%), water (5%) and ash (1.25%) patimahet *al.* (2019). Beverages, fermented wine, a Korean fermented wine with rice and foxtail millet increases the quality and flavor Yeung *et al.* (2005) and also a traditional sweet gamju usually served as dessert made of beverage Jeong *et al.* (2014).branoil,SCFE extracted branoil and also subcritical propane extracted bran oil where SCFE gave maximum oil of 7.97%at 47 degrees celcius Pang *et al.* (2015). Incorporations of foxtail millet with peanuts to prepare peanut chutneySharama and Niranjana (2017). Fermentedsoy and foxtail millet (soybean fermented paste) resulting in great nutritional content and increased self life. Geum (2013).

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