Millet are durable! They grow in poor soils and areas where it is difficult to grow other crops.

Wheat and millet are both members of the Poaceae family, which includes rice and corn.

WHY MILLETS ARE DISAPPEARING FROM OUR DIETS

1. They're less productive than other grain crops.
2. They are labor-intensive to grow and process.
3. They have limited markets.
4. Developing new, higher-yielding varieties is difficult for farmers and breeders because of a lack of public and private breeding programs and constraints in distributing and accessing seeds.

… all this means farmers are growing them less and less and many millet varieties are disappearing fast.

WHY WE NEED MORE MILLETS ON OUR SKILLETs

1. One of the best ways to conserve millets is to eat them! There are many delicious millet dishes from around the world. From the UK to the US to India to China, there is a variety of millet dishes to try.
2. We grow millets in many parts of the world, including the US, but we don’t eat many of them. We’ve cultivated proso millet for more than 10,000 years! Millet is part of the Poaceae or grass family.

Globally, we grow many different types of millet. There are over 100 different types of millet, but only a few are widely cultivated.

We cook millet as a grain like rice, made into porridge, added whole to seeded breads, ground into flour to make products such as flatbreads, or fermented to make beer and other alcoholic beverages. Millet grain is also used as feed for birds and livestock.

We grow millets in many parts of the world, especially in India, Africa and Asia. Pearl millet is the main global millet crop, followed by foxtail, finger and proso millets.

Millet is also a great crop for developing countries because it is so hardy and can grow in areas where other crops cannot. It is also less susceptible to disease and pests than other crops?

The millet family is under threat. That’s why we developed a global conservation strategy to keep two major millets (pearl millet and finger millet) and seven minor millets (fonio, teff, barnyard, proso, foxtail, little and kodo millets) on our plates.

The Crop Trust, along with its strategic partners, is developing conservation strategies to protect the genetic diversity of the world’s food crops. This initiative is funded by the German Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL).

THE LITTLE GRAINS WITH A BIG FUTURE

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Millet are delicious and nutritious — but they need our help

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WE CREATE A GLOBAL DATABASE OF MILLET DIVERSITY

Create a global database with information on all the millet diversity around the world for plant breeders and farmers. This will make it easier for them to grow, select and sell, better millet varieties.

WE LAUNCH A GLOBAL INITIATIVE TO CONSERVE THE DIVERSITY OF MILLET CROPS IN FARMERS’ FIELDS

Establish a global database with information on all the millet diversity around the world for plant breeders and farmers. This will make it easier for them to grow, select and sell, better millet varieties.

Launch a global initiative to conserve the diversity of millet crops in farmers’ fields and in natural areas. Farmers’ fields are rich with millet varieties — we need to protect them.

Collections that are running well will be able to produce enough seeds to share.

Learn more about the Crop Trust at www.croptrust.org.