



A Case Study

## Cultivation of traditional crops : an overlooked answer

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**SUMMARY :** Dryland agriculture constitutes over 60 per cent of total Indian agriculture and serves as a vital source of food for the country's rural poor (MINI, 2010). For thousands of years, people in the arid regions of India have been cultivating millets, sorghum and upland rice varieties that have evolved to be adapted in the water-limited environments. These crops provided a source of security for the people who cultivated them. The diversity of traditional crops maintained soil health, required few external inputs, spread the risk associated with weather events, and provided for multiple securities other than meeting caloric requirements.

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