GOVERNMENT OF MEGHALAYA

# PRESS RELEASE

## Khanduli's Millet Revival Earns Recognition in Mann Ki Baat

**Jowai, 27th October, 2026:** Khanduli village in West Jaintia Hills District received recognition from Prime Minister of India during the 139th episode of Mann Ki Baat, aired on Akashvani on 25th October 2026, for the efforts in promoting millet cultivation.








Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Jaintia hills has played a key role in reviving finger millet locally known as u Krae in the Pnar dialect, through awareness programmes, farmer training, field demonstrations and technical guidance since 2021.







Participation has grown from an initial five to six farmers cultivating less than 500 square metre to approximately 50 to 60 farmers covering about 10 hectares.







Women farmers, particularly Smt. Darapbiang Mulieh and Smt. Sitrian Surong, have contributed significantly to sustaining millet cutivation in the village.

Through Mulieh Enterprise Smt. Darapbiang Mulieh has introduced finger millet powder and baby millet powder.




The initiative received further support through the collaboration of KVK Jaintia Hills, the College of Post-Graduate Studies in Agricultural Sciences, Central Agricultural University, Umiam and ICAR- Indian Institute of Millet Research, Hyderabad.




The Women led Kyntu Khanduli Organic Millet Farmers Group comprising 50 members, was formed on 2nd August, 2025. A village level primary processing unit, equipped with machinery valued at ₹3.59 lakh was inaugurated on 24 March, 2026 to support millet processing and enterprise development.

These efforts have strengthened indigenous seed, promoted climatic resilient agriculture and created livelihood opportunities for women.