

“Urgent need to improve food security”

Staff Reporter

PUDUCHERRY: India is the 128th most malnourished country in the world and has the highest number of hungry people in the world, according to Director of Deccan Development Society, Pastapur, Satheesh Periyapatna.

Speaking at the Food, Health and Mental Health: Cross Cultural Perspectives, Policies and Practice conference at the French Institute of Pondicherry on Thursday Mr. Periyapatna said there was a need to improve food and fodder security, which was not possible with rice and wheat alone.

Unlike wheat and rice, millets were able to grow in harsh soils, with very little water. They also provide higher levels of nutrition, he said. The three-day conference is organised by the French Institute of Pondicherry along with the Banyan Academy of Leadership of Mental Health (BALM). It will feature speakers from around the world to explore the links between food, health and mental health from a cultural perspective.