

ACFI NEWSLETTER

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Natural farming needs better prices, markets

Product certification and differentiation must improve, besides creating awareness. PDS, mid-day meals are viable outlets

PVS Suryakumar
Deepak Chamola

We are self-sufficient in agriculture produce, thanks to the Green Revolution. But the negative environmental impacts in green revolution regions are all too visible — soil degradation, biodiversity loss, natural resources depletion, among others.

One of the sustainable agriculture practice that is now gaining momentum is natural farming (NF) which is 'agriculture as per local ecology and hence also called as agroecology'.

Farmers who have been practising NF do not get premium prices for their products, as differentiated markets, standards and protocols don't exist sufficiently. Many farmers confess that NF products are largely for home consumption. Developing alternative and differentiated markets are of paramount importance, if we have to transit to NF.

Also, developing awareness amongst farmers and consumers is required. Both these are not easy tasks, as

that this niche market is growing at about 20-25 per cent, despite consumers not being sure, how genuine the label/product is! If we could bring in reliability, our food systems can gradually change for the better.

CERTIFICATION SYSTEMS

The government launched Participatory Guarantee System (PGS-India) in 2011. This is a quality assurance initiative, that emphasises active participation of producers and consumers, and operates outside of third-party certification processes. Himachal Pradesh developed a self-certification tool (CETARA-NF) for natural farming.

Bureau of Indian Standards has recently released a draft for public comments, on the requirements for NF and labelling NF produce. This draft differentiates between NF and organic farming (compost, vermicompost and minerals not allowed in the former). The aim is to foster common understanding amongst stakeholders, farmers, market players and consumers. The big task ahead is how to make these standards work at the field and market levels. Here are some ideas on expanding



FOSTERING. Sustainable farming
BALACHANDAR L

a significant market for agricultural commodities.

Mid-day meal programme is another market. Instead of supplying food grown elsewhere, a decentralised, production, procurement, storage and distribution systems, based on local NF produce and that too involving FPOs can help. Local crops for local requirements must be the mantra. The existing networks of Primary Agricultural Cooperative Societies and Marketing Federations may also be included

Dedicated haats: Further, there are about 43,000 village haats (markets),

A few of them, can be dedicated to certified NF produce and backward integration developed. Consumer Cooperatives can also be established in urban/peri-urban areas of major cities where farmland is within 100 km radius.

The Colombian private network, Familia de la Tierra, comprising farmers' organisations, restaurants, organic shops, financial institutions, public schools, cooking schools and urban and periurban families promote local and ecological products. The Maputo Earth Market (MEM) in Mozambique has become successful by facilitating closer ties between farmers and consumers.

At home, Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) in 2022, made arrangements with 5,000 Self-Help Groups to source the pesticide-free produce for making offering to the deities (laddu prasadam and anna prasadam).

Stable markets and remunerative prices can help motivate farmers to move to natural farming. Pilot projects on a mission mode can only show and pave the path for transition.

Suryakumar is former Deputy Managing Director,

Steady rise in crop output fails to ease import dependence

SANDIP DAS
New Delhi

WHILE THE COUNTRY has set new records in production of several agricultural commodities in the last decade, the rising consumption has resulted in continued supply constraints, and sustained dependence on imports.

In 2023, because of uneven distribution of monsoon rains and untimely showers prior to harvesting, the output of several agricultural commodities took a hit, resulting in exports restrictions and easing of imports.

Import dependence in the case of pulses and oilseeds has risen significantly in recent years. Despite achieving surplus production of cereals, several export curbs were imposed in 2023 to boost domestic supplies. Production of food grains — rice, wheat, pulses and coarse cereals — increased by 31% in the eight years to 2022-23 (crop year) to 330.54 million tonne (MT).

India, despite being the largest exporter of rice since 2012, banned white rice shipments, imposed 20% export duty on barbolled rice and min-

imum export price of basmati rice in the last one year.

"Frequent government intervention in trade of agriculture commodities has ensured cheaper imports, especially oilseeds and pulses leading to remunerative prices for farmers," Anil Ghanwat, member, Supreme Court's panel on farm laws and ex-President, Shekari Sanghatana, told FE. Ghanwat also said imports of com-

modities have led to farmers shifting out of oilseeds and pulses.

Currently, about 15% of domestic consumption of pulses especially tur, urad and moong varieties are imported while the country depends on imports for 58% of edible oil consumption annually. Since 2016, India had signed memorandums of understanding (MoUs) with Mozambique, Malawi and Myanmar for importing pulses varieties.

"Surge in edible oil and pulse imports is of concern and productivity of oilseed production has to increase to reduce imports," CSC Sekhar, professor, Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi University and member, agriculture ministry panel on MSP, said. In order to reduce import depen-

dency, the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), in its price policy for rabi crops for the marketing season (2024-25), has suggested special efforts to increase production of major oilseeds such as rapeseed & mustard, sunflower etc and tap potential of non-conventional oils such as rice bran oil, com oil, etc.

"The scope of the National Mission on Edible Oils should be expanded to include major oilseeds such as rapeseed & mustard, sunflower, groundnut and soybean," CACP stated. During 2023-24 (April-December), India has already imported vegetable oils worth ₹1.28 trillion, higher by 23% on year.

The commission has suggested a dynamic tariff structure linked to world prices, demand and supply situation, domestic prices of edible oils and the minimum support price (MSP) for oilseeds should be introduced.

Trade sources said in order to improve capacity utilisation of the domestic refining industry, a duty differential of about 15% between crude and refined oil should be maintained to discourage imports of refined oils. Currently, the effective import duty on crude and refined edible oils is 5.5% and 13.75% respectively, thus effective differential duty is 8.25%.

"In case of pulses, shortages often appear in case of kharif pulses, espe-

cially tur and urad. In the medium to long term, we need to invest in their research and development to raise their productivity," Ashok Gulati, agricultural economist and former chairman, CACP, said.

Pulses and oilseeds are nitrogen-fixing and consume much less water and power. Experts said that farmers need to be rewarded with carbon credits equivalent to fertiliser and power subsidies for production of these grains. This will help farmers shift from paddy that is water-guzzling and generate greenhouse gas emissions.

"Once these crop-neutral incentive structures are in place, the demand and supply gaps in pulses and oilseeds will automatically reduce," an official said. Agriculture ministry officials said that the production of pulses — chana, lentil, moong, tur and urad is concentrated in a few states — Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu — and is prone to high fluctuations due to biotic and abiotic stresses.

Efforts are needed for expanding the area under pulses, particularly lentil, tur and urad in more districts and in rice-fallows available in eastern and southern states as well as promoting summer cultivation of urad & moong in areas with assured irrigation facilities.

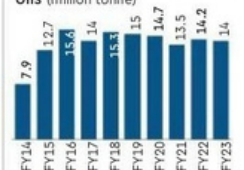
India's production of key agricultural commodities
(in million tonne, crop year)

	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Rice	112.7	116.4	118.8	124.3	129.4	135.7
Wheat	99.8	103.5	107.8	109.5	107.7	110.5
Pulses	25.4	22	23	25.4	27.3	26
Foodgrains	285	285.2	297.5	310.7	315.6	329.6
Oilseeds	31.4	31.5	33.2	35.9	37.9	40.9

India's imports of pulses
(million tonne)



India's import of vegetable oils
(million tonne)



Value of edible oil imports
(₹ trillion)



Source: Department of agriculture and farmers welfare

THE YEAR THAT WAS 2023

BIZZ BUZZ

Time to tap **natural farming** solutions to combat climate threat to food security

AP has sought Rs 3,711 crore towards compensation to recover from the cyclone Maichaung damages

CLIMATE change is casting its destructive spell. As a result, over the years, farming is becoming increasingly unpredictable. Extreme weather events, including cyclones, hurricanes and typhoons, are becoming more frequent and intense thereby resulting in huge crop losses. Still worse, as the UN Secretary General, Antonio Guterres, warns: "the era of global warming has ended and the era of global boiling has arrived."

The global weather patterns have already gone topsy-turvy. With global boiling setting in, the extreme climate swings will become largely unpredictable. Already the world is in the grip of human-induced climatic emergency. This implies sudden and freak droughts and incessant floods, cold and heat waves, forest fires. However, the frequency and fury of the extreme climate strike in future, as per analysis, will defy any known pattern.

"When it needs to rain, it doesn't but when we don't need rains, it comes down heavily," said a farmer in Andhra Pradesh. This came out when I sat with a group of farmers to know how destructive the Michaung cyclone was that had hit the coastline on December 5 and the extent of loss they had suffered. Besides flooding Chennai, the cyclone flattened thousands of acres of standing crops like paddy, cotton, banana, chillies and various horticultural crops in Andhra Pradesh. "After the cyclone, it was neck-deep water in my fields. But my crop was still standing," said a paddy farmer, who had recently shifted to natural farming.

While the cyclone resulted in widespread crop damages, with cotton and paddy being the worst hit, news reports say that the AP government sought Rs. 3,711 crore compensation package towards rehabilitation post the damage caused by cyclone Maichaung.

When the crop damages are measured on the basis of land revenue records, the general impression is that all crops equal to the area mentioned or value worked out have been destroyed or partially destroyed as per the data



that is collected. However, in reality there is a significant variation in the data collected that is not only startling but may provide the answer to the mitigation efforts being suggested globally to minimise the crop damages from the harmful impacts of climate change. I think it is here that the Michaung cyclone has left behind lessons that will shape the future of farming and help reduce the negative impact on food security from crop failure and growing hunger. A couple of days after the cyclone, the Andhra Pradesh Community-Managed Natural Farming (APCNF) programme, which is being operated by the Rythu Sadhikara Samstha (RySS), a non-profit company that has been floated by the State Government, did a quick assessment of the crop damages inflicted on the conventional chemical farms and comparing it with the climate resilience demonstrated by the crops cultivated under natural farming.

This comparison became more important considering that over 850,000 farmers are engaged in natural farming in about 3.78 lakh hectares in 3,730 villages across the State.

After all, it is important to know how crops being cultivated under natural farming systems, which claim to be in harmony with nature, performed when pounded by strong winds and heavy

rainfall. It also becomes important to examine whether the transformative pathway towards sustainable food systems also buckled under the extreme weather event like the chemically grown crops in the industrial agriculture scenario. In my understanding, the results are astounding and should contribute to redefining what kind of farming systems would be appropriate to ensure food security as well as sustain farm livelihoods in future.

A couple of days after the cyclone had receded; the RySS compiled data on various crops under both the farming systems – conventional intensive agriculture and natural farming -- from the severely hit districts. Using climate resilience indicators, the results obtained are eye-openers; and should help policy makers to re-visit policies and approaches towards transforming the food systems. Based on the data now available, policy makers can come up with home grown solutions to address the climate threat to food security rather than the suggestions coming from cut and paste that the agri-business industry pushes for.

The study: "Impact of Cyclone Michaung on APCNF versus Chemical farms in AP" has data comparing the performance of crops under the two farming systems from three districts – Bapatla, Guntur and West Godavari. The crops selected are paddy, cotton, banana and chilli. The crop data pertains to the parameters that would depict the strength and sturdiness of the farming system that can withstand the

destruction from a cyclone. After all, the cyclone had a wind velocity exceeding 70 km per hour (in many districts it was as high as 90-100 kms/hour), with an actual rainfall of 220.4 mm.

At a number of places, conventional farm and natural farms existed side by side. This showed the contrast clearly. While the paddy crop had lodged 100 per cent in these districts, only five per cent damage was observed under natural farming. The reason for this low lodging percentage is characterised by resistance coming from higher root length and comparatively short shoot length, number of effective tillers and effective water management.

In Guntur district, lodging in natural farming is nil while the entire paddy crop under conventional farming had lodged. Moreover, while the fields had remained submerged for just two days in natural farming conditions compared to seven days in chemically farmed fields. The yield estimates were significantly higher at 3,900 kg per acre in natural farming vis-à-vis 1,900 expected from conventional farms.

In West Godavari district too, the lodging percentage for paddy was 100 per cent for the conventional farms compared to less than five per cent under natural farming. The numbers of damaged tillers per square meter were 158 in conventional grown crop compared to 21 in natural farming. The yield estimate for conventional paddy therefore falls to 1,400 kg/acre compared to 1,900 kg/acre under APCNF.

While it may not be possible to present the entire statistics pertaining to other crops in this column, the strength, stubbornness and buoyancy of the natural farming system in times of a destructive cyclone spell shows its enormous ability to lessen the harmful impact. Instead of relying on sophisticated technological inputs (including genetically-modified crops) and that too in name of climate smart agriculture, that the agri-business companies are trying to push, the pathway to transient to natural farming offers a sustainable and viable alternative. The inbuilt climate resilience demonstrated under natural farming is the way ahead.

(The author is a noted food policy analyst and an expert on issues related to the agriculture sector. He writes on food, agriculture and hunger)



Devinder Sharma

Global staple food supplies to be strained by adverse El Nino weather, export curbs

Reuters
Singapore

High food prices in recent years have prompted farmers worldwide to plant more cereals and oilseeds, but consumers are set to face tighter supplies well into 2024, amid adverse El Nino weather, export restrictions and higher biofuel mandates.

Global wheat, corn and soybean prices — after several years of strong gains — are headed for losses in 2023 on easing Black Sea bottlenecks and fears of a global recession, although prices remain vulnerable to supply shocks and food inflation in the New Year, analysts and traders said.

“The supply picture for grains certainly improved in 2023 with bigger crops in some of the key places which matter. But we are not really out of the woods yet,” said Ole Houe, director of advisory services at agriculture brokerage IKON Commodities in Sydney.

“We have El Nino weather forecast until at least April-May, Brazil is almost certainly going to produce less corn, and China is surprising the market by buying larger volumes of wheat and corn from the international market.”

WEATHER FORECAST

The El Nino weather phenomenon, which brought dryness to large parts of Asia this year, is forecast to continue in the first half of 2024,



GROWING CONCERN. The El Nino weather phenomenon, which brought dryness to large parts of Asia this year, is forecast to continue in the first half of 2024, putting at risk supplies of rice, wheat, palm oil and other farm products REUTERS

putting at risk supplies of rice, wheat, palm oil and other farm products in some of the world’s top agricultural exporters and importers.

Traders and officials expect Asian rice production in the first half of 2024 to drop as dry planting conditions and shrinking reservoirs are likely to cut yields.

World rice supplies tightened this year already after the El Nino weather phenomenon cut into production, prompting India, by far the world’s biggest exporter, to restrict shipments.

While other grains markets were losing value, rice prices rallied to their highest in 15 years in 2023, with quotations in some Asian export hubs gaining 40-45 per cent.

India’s next wheat crop is also being threatened by lack of moisture, which could force the world’s second-largest wheat consumer to seek imports for the first time in six years as domestic

inventories at state warehouses have dropped to their lowest in seven years.

FARMERS DOWN UNDER

Come April, farmers in Australia, the world’s No. 2 wheat exporter, could be planting their crop in dry soils, after months of intense heat curbed yields for this year’s crop and ended a three-dream run of record harvests. This is likely to prompt buyers, including China and Indonesia, to seek larger volumes of wheat from other exporters in North America, Europe and the Black Sea region.

“The (wheat) supply situation in the current 2023/24 crop year is likely to deteriorate compared to last season,” Commerzbank wrote in a note.

“This is because exports from important producer countries are likely to be significantly lower.”

On the bright side for grain supplies, South Amer-

ican corn, wheat and soybean production is expected to improve in 2024, although erratic weather in Brazil is leaving some doubt. In Argentina, abundant rainfall over farming heartlands is likely to boost production of soybeans, corn and wheat in one of the world’s largest grain exporting nations.

According to Argentina’s Rosario grains exchange (BCR), 95 per cent of early planted corn and 75 per cent of soybeans are in “excellent to very good” conditions, thanks to rains since the end of October across the country’s Pampas region.

Brazil is set for near-record farm output in 2024, although the country’s soybean and corn production estimates have been reduced in recent weeks due to dry weather.

Global palm oil production is also likely to fall next year due to dry El Nino weather, supporting cooking oil prices that dropped more than 10 per cent in 2023.

“We see more upside price risk than down,” said CoBank, a leading lender to the US agriculture sector.

“Global grain and oilseed stock inventories are tight by historic measures, the northern hemisphere will likely have a strong El Nino weather pattern during the growing season for the first time since 2015, the dollar should continue its recent decline, and global demand should return to its long-term growth trend.”

REASONS AND REMEDIES FOR Yellowing Of Wheat Crop



Wheat is one of the most important cereal crops worldwide, serving as a staple food for millions of people. However, the yellowing of wheat can be a cause of concern among farmers. If the main cause of the yellowing of the crop is found and treated at the right time, then we can increase the yield and prevent unnecessary expenses for its management. This article aims to shed light on the various factors that contribute to the yellowing of the crop and provide potential remedies to help maintain the crop's health and productivity.

Yellowing of crop after first irrigation: It has often been observed that farmers irrigate the crop without making beds (kiaras) due to which heavy irrigation gets applied to the crop unwillingly. Secondly, if rainfall occurs soon after applying the first irrigation may also be a cause of yellowing. Heavy soils have a reduced capacity for water drainage, leading to waterlogged conditions after irrigation. Try to drain excess water out of the field. Yellowing of wheat due to excess water can be cured by applying 3% urea (dissolving 3 kg urea in 100 litres of water).

Due to poor quality irrigation water: The problem of yellowing of wheat also occurs in some areas due to the use of poor-quality groundwater. In these conditions, tubewell water should be

ATTACK OF TERMITE

Termites damage the wheat crop soon after sowing as well as near maturity. Generally, damage by termites is more prevalent in sandy soil. The plants damaged by termites first turn yellow then dry up completely and are easily pulled out. Whereas the plants damaged during later stages of the crop give rise to white ears which have no grains. The best practice to manage the termite problem is seed treatment. For seed treatment, spread the 40 kg seed as a thin layer on the pucca ground or tarpaulin or polythene sheet. Then dilute the insecticide, 40 g Cruiser 70 WS (thiamethoxam) or 160 ml Dursban/Ruban/Durmet 20 EC (chlorpyrifos) or 80 ml Neonix 20 FS (imidacloprid + hexaconazole) in one litre of water. Now spray the diluted insecticide on seeds.

tested and in case of poor-quality water, use gypsum as recommended in fields. If possible, water can also be used by mixing or exchanging with good quality water.

Due to the unrecommended application of herbicides: 'Gulli danda (phalaris minor)' is a major weed of wheat crop, this weed grows in 2-3 flushes. Many herbicides are available in the market to control this weed, only some of these are recommended by Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana. It has been observed that farmers sometimes apply double or triple doses of herbicide than recommended to kill this weed, which increases toxicity in wheat and turns wheat yellow. Therefore, farmers are advised to spray the recommended herbicide at the right dose, and at the right time.

Yellow rust attack: Small, bright yellow to orange pustules appear on the leaves, along the veins of the leaves. As the disease progresses, the pustules may merge and cause necrotic stripes on the

leaves. It also causes chlorosis or yellowing of leaves which affects the photosynthetic activity, resulting in stunted growth with weakened plants, reduced tillering, and shrivelled grains with only a few spikes. Grow rust-resistant (PBW Zinc 2, PBW RS1, PBW 725, Unnat PBW 550, PBW 752, WHD 943, PDW 291 and PBW 660) varieties and avoid growing unrecommended varieties, especially in sub-mountainous zone.

(By Charanjeet Kaur and Rakesh Kumar Sharma, Farm Advisory Service Centre, Gangian, Hohiarpur)



AGRIWEATHER

The Chandigarh regional centre of the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has warned of dense to very dense fog in Punjab and Haryana on Monday and Tuesday. Dense fog is likely in the states on December 27 and 28. Weather is likely to remain dry in both Punjab and Haryana till December 31.

Stockholm syndrome grips Indian agriculture

Farmers rely on arthiyas despite being exploited by them. Reforms must be driven by a process of consultations

Raghav Vaid
Pratik Modi
Gurjeet Kaur Sahi

On August 23, 1973, a peculiar psychological phenomenon came into the limelight during a six-day hostage situation at Kreditbanken in Stockholm, Sweden. Jan-Erik Olsson, an armed robber, took four bank employees hostage.

During the standoff, these hostages developed a psychological alliance with Olsson, despite the danger they were in. This phenomenon, later termed 'Stockholm Syndrome', illustrates a paradox where captives express empathy and have positive feelings towards their captors.

A parallel can be drawn between this syndrome and the relationship between farmers and arthiyas (commission agents) in States such as Punjab and Haryana.

The arthiyas, who operate in the regulated mandl (market) system, exert a significant influence over the farmers, not just in crop procurement, but also as informal moneylenders. This dual role allows them to interlock the crop and credit market, thereby earning through commissions and interest, often at the

farmers. This relationship is not just transactional but also psychological, somewhat mirroring the hostage-captor dynamic of Stockholm Syndrome. Farmers, despite recognising the exploitation, often show loyalty towards arthiyas, fearing the unknowns of direct market exposure. The arthiyas' monopoly on procurement and their role as informal credit providers have made them indispensable in the eyes of many farmers.

In 2021, the Centre's initiative to transfer the Minimum Support Price (MSP) directly to farmers' bank accounts in Punjab faced resistance from arthiyas. This resistance underlined the deep-rooted influence and control they wield over the agricultural market. The farmers, on their part, echoed similar concerns, fearing the elimination of arthiyas would lead to greater exploitation by corporate entities.

FARMER PROTESTS

The farm laws introduced by the Modi government aimed to reduce farmers' dependence on arthiyas and facilitate direct selling to institutional buyers. However, these reforms were met with widespread protests. Farmers and farmer unions perceived these laws as a



FARM REFORMS. Nuanced approach needed ARUN KULKARNI

elimination of arthiyas.

The farmers' protests, especially those from Punjab and Haryana, were not just a fight for their rights but also a manifestation of their apprehension towards a future without arthiyas. They feared that in a market dominated by large corporations, they would lose the bargaining power and support system provided by the arthiyas. This apprehension led to a fierce resistance, culminating in the government repealing the laws.

This situation is a classic example of Stockholm Syndrome in the agricultural sector. Farmers, despite being exploited by arthiyas, feel a sense of security in the existing system. The thought of

farmers' resistance was not just about preserving their livelihood but also about clinging to a known, albeit flawed, system.

The controversy surrounding the farm laws highlights the need for a nuanced approach to agricultural reform. The government's attempt to introduce these laws without adequate consultation with stakeholders, including State governments, farmers, and arthiyas, was met with criticism.

The way forward requires a balanced approach. Reforms in agricultural marketing are necessary, but they must be introduced in a manner that considers the intricate dynamics of the farmer-arthiya relationship. The government needs to engage in 'talk therapy' — open and empathetic dialogues with all stakeholders, including farmers and arthiyas. Understanding and addressing the concerns of farmers, while simultaneously regulating and making the activities of arthiyas transparent, is crucial. The goal should not be to eliminate arthiyas but to reform their role in a way that supports both their livelihood and that of the farmers. Addressing this issue requires understanding, empathy, and a commitment to reform.

THE HANS INDIA

REMODEL FOOD SYSTEMS

SUNITA NARAIN

WITH climate change in mind, there is a growing discussion on the need to re-engineer the current model of agriculture and the food we consume.

Agriculture today contributes to greenhouse gas emissions in a variety of ways — through methane emissions from rice cultivation and livestock and through nitrous oxide from the use of synthetic fertilisers and manure on fields.

The large-scale clearing of forests, including rainforests, to produce beef cattle and even palm oil adds to the crisis of our climate-risked world. Then, there is the multi-continent transport for food processing and sale. Not to mention that the sector itself is highly vulnerable to the increased frequency and intensity of extreme weather events. What, then, should be the transition plan?

This is where farms and food of our world — countries like India — provide answers. We have, as yet, in most parts not moved to an input-intensive model of livestock production. Most dairy farmers are still individuals, using combinations of open and stallfeeding for their animals. Their farms are based on agrosilvopastoral systems.

But this is changing fast. Farmers are increasingly using expensive inputs — from fertilisers to seeds to pesticides. This adds to their debt burden, making them even more vulnerable to crop losses and extreme weather impacts.

So, the elements of the agricultural model for livelihood-nutrition-nature security in our climate-risked world are as follows.

First, it has to be a low-input-based model



Illustration: Yogendra Anand / CSE

that protects the farmer from multiple risks. This will also put more money in the hands of farmers, particularly as we know that the high cost of food is unaffordable in most countries. It is clear that low-input agriculture is not necessarily lower in productivity. The conventional strategy — even what is being promoted in the name of smart agriculture — depends on high-cost inputs, which add to the cost of cultivation.

The argument is that this strategy will lead to higher yields, which will give the farmer higher income. But this works only if the costs do not wipe out the profits.

In the case of smallholder farmers, where there are little economies of scale, this is just not possible. Increasing yields will, however, require working on the health of the soil and providing irrigation to farmers when they need it most.

Climate change will also bring new pests — this makes it all the more important for agriculture to be resilient, but this does not

The climate change crisis is human-made; it is we humans who must rework our lives; we cannot go ahead with the current model of agriculture in a climate-risked world

mean increasing the use of pesticides. It can and must mean changes in the practices of agriculture as well as the use of non-chemical alternatives.

The bottom line is that climate resilience requires more ability to cope, recover, and ultimately put higher returns in the hands of farmers. This also means investing in markets that will provide opportunities for farmers to maximise gains.

Second, agriculture has to be built on the principle of risk minimisation. This would mean promoting multiple cropping systems. This will also promote biodiversity as farmers would grow more than one crop on the field. Livestock economy has to be made integral as it would allow for management of risk so that there is income from different sources. Think of it like the diversification of investment portfolios, which bankers would advise you in these times of uncertainty.

Third is the choice of crops that are both nutritive and compatible with the local environment. In other words, where there is water shortage, farmers should grow water prudent crops like millets.

But this choice is not in the hands of the farmer. Governments must enable policies — from procurement to price — to promote growing of these crops. For instance, more biodiverse and climate-appropriate millets will be grown by farmers where governments have included them in schemes such

as mid-day meals (this is one of India's most important programmes as it aims to provide hot-cooked food in every school of the country). Change of cropping patterns towards climate-resilience will need this supportive structure.

The fourth, and the most critical, element is that the choice of food that farmers grow is in the hands of consumers — us; what we eat; and why we eat it. If we change our diets, it provides signals to the farmer to grow differently. We know that food is medicine; yet we continue to eat wrong; eat junk. The food on our plates has lost the meaning of nutrition. We are in danger of losing the knowledge of good food — what our grandmothers and mothers cooked in different seasons.

This is why we must be part of this changed agriculture story. Food cuisines are about culture and biodiversity. The climate change crisis is human-made; it is we humans who have contributed to the emissions that threaten our present, and the very existence of our children's future. It is we who must rework our lives; our ways of doing business. The fact is that we cannot go ahead with this model of agriculture in a climate-risked world.

(Courtesy: Down To Earth; (Writer is Director General of CSE and Editor of Down To Earth, an environmentalist who pushes for changes in policies, practices and mindsets)

Will protect interest of farmers and trade: Devendra Fadnavis



■ Business Reporter

A DELEGATION of leading associations of manufacturers and formulators of agrochemical led by Dr Dipen Agrawal, President of Chamber of Associations of Maharashtra Industry & Trade (CAMIT) called upon Devendra Fadnavis, Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra and upraised him with the adverse effect of the Government's proposed bill to provide compensation to farmers for incurring financial losses due to the use of adulterated and spurious seeds, insecticides and fertilisers.

On the occasion Fadnavis said that it is the duty of the Government to protect interest of farmers, concerns of industry and trade," he said

The delegation consisted of Sanjiv Lal, MD of Rallis India Ltd. and Vice Chairman of FICCI Agrochemical Committee, Parikshit Mundhra, MD of Willowood Chemicals Ltd. and Chairman of Agro Chem Federation of India (ACFI), Rajesh Aggarwal, MD of Insecticides India Ltd., and Vice Chairman of CCFI, Nirmala Pathrawal, ED of Crop Care Federation of India (CCFI) and Durgesh Chandra, Secretary General of CropLife India.

Govt to set up panel on farmers' issues

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVIC

CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 19 Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann has constituted a committee to resolve pending issues, including compensation and jobs to the kin of farmers who had died during the protest against the farm laws in 2020-21.

Chairing a meeting with various farmers' organisations here, Mann said that the panel would be headed by Agriculture Minister Gurmeet Singh Khudian with senior IAS officers and representatives of the farmers' unions and agriculture expert as its members. He said that the committee would finalise its report by March 31, 2024. The Samyukt Kisan Morcha has been claiming that the kin of around 40 farmers who died during the year-long protest have not got any compensation.

Dwelling on another agenda, Mann said that he would definitely attend the meeting convened by the Union Water Resources Minister on December 28. He said that he would firmly present the case of the state before the Union Government in the meeting, adding that Punjab had no spare water to share with any other state and this would be conveyed firmly in the meeting. Later, while talking to mediapersons, Khudian said that the state did not have enough river water even for its own requirement.

The Chief Minister also

Will give report by
March 31, 2024

announced to start a special drive from January 1 to April 13 during which camps would be organised in villages for consensual division of land. He assured the farmers that if the food growers were not having any dispute regarding the ownership of land, then the division of land would be done as per the possession.

The Chief Minister further announced to lift ban on opening of new accounts in co-operative societies in villages. He also said that every type of pending compensation would be released to farmers by the end of the current fiscal year.

Mann also assured the farmers that 242 lift pumps installed for providing water at the tail end of Sirhind Feeder would be given free power from January 1. He also said that the government was mulling giving permits to farmers for tackling the issue of stray and wild animals. He also said that the state government would flag the issue of introducing the one-time settlement scheme for farmers' loans in co-operative banks with Nabard.

On an issue raised by the farmers, the Chief Minister assured them that no private agency would be given the work of distribution of power in the state.

Dhanuka Agritech signs MoU with Bikaner's agri university

Our Bureau

New Delhi

Dhanuka Agritech, a leading agro-chemical manufacturer, has signed an agreement with Bikaner-based Swami Keshwanand Rajasthan Agriculture University (SKRAU) to work closely on different segments like seeds development, soil health and plant protection.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed by Dhanuka Agritech Chairman RG Agarwal and SKRAU Vice Chancellor Arun Kumar, the company said in a statement on Wednesday.

Agarwal said knowledge on technologies, quality seeds, yield capacity of soil, water conservation and plant protection are some of the key issues before farmers today.

Dhanuka group plans to offer scholarships, internships and employment to the students of the university, he said.

As if Bales of Problems Weren't Enough, Pink Bollworm Hits Northern Farmers Hard

Cotton cultivation is in a deep crisis in India... it has been consistently sliding downward in terms of productivity since 2013-14: South Asia Biotech Centre director Choudhary

Nidhi Sharma

New Delhi: For Manish Mehta, a farmer in Dabwali village in Haryana's Sirsa district, cotton has been a reliable crop for years. This time, he grew cotton in 40 acres of land.

After all, cotton requires less water than paddy, and in the fast groundwater-depleting belt in Sirsa, it has been fetching a good price in the market — ₹10,000-11,000 per quintal.

But Mehta had not foreseen the pink bollworm attack that hit cotton output in northern India this year. The pest attacked not only affected cotton yield and quality, but has also delayed the wheat sowing period. "It has been a double whammy for the farmers," said Mehta.

The infestation has hit the cotton-growing northern zone belt of

Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan. "Pink bollworm attacks the crop at a later stage, when lerva enters the ball. We realized the pest is affecting the crop around September, but did not realise how bad the infestation would be," said Mehta. "Crop yield has come down and the quality is also affected."

Since the quality of cotton is affected, its prices have plummeted to ₹5,000 per quintal from ₹10,000-11,000 per quintal, said Mehta, adding that labour cost, too, has increased, as labourers find it difficult to pick an infested crop. "Earlier, we were paying ₹50 per kg to the labourer (he would pick 10 kg per day), but now we haven't got labourers when we are ready to pay even ₹30 per kg. The picking has been slow and wheat has not been sown on time," he said.

South Asia Biotechnology Centre director Bhagirath Choudhary, who



ZAME

works on endemic and invasive pest management, said, "This year, the pink bollworm was at the peak of infestation in the north. It destroyed the quality of cotton bolls. Cotton production

has come down to 28.4 million bales." To support farmers, the government undertakes minimum support price operations through the Cotton Corporation of India. The state-run company

begins procurement from the market when prices of fair average quality grade cotton fall below MSP. But since the quality of cotton has been affected, CCI has not been able to procure it.

"We have a quality parameter which is called F&Q cotton. At present, all F&Q-grade cotton and above is being sold in the market at a price higher than MSP. The farmers want that CCI should buy the remaining cotton in the market at MSP," Lalit Kumar Gupta, chairman and managing director of Cotton Corporation of India, told ET. "They want to push the inferior quality, which we cannot procure."

CCI has initiated MSP procurement in 30 states. "We have procured 265 lakh bales against the arrival of 60 lakh bales," said Gupta. "The procurement is in remote areas of these states but otherwise the prevalent market price

is 2-5% above MSP. The MSP is ₹6,620 per quintal for medium staple and ₹7,020 per quintal for long staple.

Choudhary, however, said there is a crisis in India, which was the primary cotton grower in the world about 10 years ago. "Cotton cultivation is in deep crisis in India. This is the only crop in the country which has been consistently sliding downward in terms of productivity since 2013-14," he said. "In that year, the production was 36.3 million bales and we had expected to produce 45 million bales by 2023. But it will come down to 28.4 million bales in 2023-24. So, effectively, we are losing 10 million bales every year. If we put the cost of 1 bale at ₹6,000, we are effectively losing ₹60,000 crore annually."

Choudhary says: "The biggest problem is the non-compliance of conditions attached to production of Bt Cotton

when it was approved in 2002." "One of the most important conditions was that the farmer should grow Bt Cotton plants. That condition was introduced because the government was addressing two main pests — American bollworm or *Helicoverpa Armigera* (which was the main cotton pest in the country) and the pink bollworm (it used to come later in the crop cycle)."

Since farmers did not stick to this condition, pink bollworm is now prevalent, he said. "Pink bollworm is a monophagous pest. It is a concealing pest which feeds inside the ball. No matter how much you spray the plant with insecticides, it is ineffective because the spray does not reach inside and curb it," said Choudhary.

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T.N. committee studies wild boar culling in Kerala to curb raiding of agriculture farms

Chief Wildlife Warden, who headed the panel comprising farmers, forest officials and wildlife experts, said the process followed by the neighbouring State had both merits and demerits

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

A committee formed by the Tamil Nadu government to provide solutions for crop damage caused by wild animals recently visited Kerala to assess their wild boar culling practice.

Headed by the Chief Wildlife Warden, a panel comprising farmers, forest officials, an Agriculture Department official and wildlife experts on December 7 visited Ottapalam in Palakkad district of Kerala, which had empowered local bodies to cull wild boars using a licensed shooter or by entrapment. The move had raised eyebrows among animal welfare activists.

In Tamil Nadu, farmers from Coimbatore, Erode, Krishnagiri and a few other districts had requested the State government to declare wild boars as vermin and give nod to cull them. Farmer organisations in Tirunelveli requested the go-



Unending menace: Maize farmers in and around Ettaiyapuram in Thoothukudi district facing crop loss due to invasion by pigs want official intervention to save their livelihood.

vernment to remove wild boars from the Scheduled List of protected animals of the Wildlife Protection Act 1972.

However, experts point out that wild boars, like any other animal, have their own role in the ecosystem.

J. Pandiyan, professor in the Department of Zoology and Wildlife Biology, AVC College, Mayiladuthurai, who is also a part of the

committee, said a study has shown that wild boars are potential seed dispersers among ungulates.

The seeds found in the wild boars' faecal matter showed that only 10% of the seeds belong to crops, and the remaining are forest plants, the professor said.

Antony Rubin, a member of the farmer-wildlife conflict management panel and the State Board for

Wildlife, said from the field visits and presentations made by Kerala authorities, it was understood that no conclusive impact study has been done yet to infer that culling was useful.

"It is up to the chair and other members of the committee to decide," he said.

Srinivas R. Reddy, Chief Wildlife Warden, said the process followed by the neighbouring State had both pros and cons.

Blight disease damages 70% tomato crop in Patiala district

AMAN SOOD
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

PATIALA, DECEMBER 17
Several farmers of Sanaur in Patiala district have claimed that their tomato and potato crops have been damaged by blight disease, triggered by bad weather and fog.

Officials of the Horticulture Department said they had visited the villages to assess the damage and a report would be sent to the government. In Sanaur, tomato is grown on around 600 acres and crop affected by the blight disease means low produce, thus resulting in price rise.

Demanding compensation from the state government, farmers said bad weather damaged their crop.

Experts said, "Blight disease mainly affects tomatoes and potatoes. Once it takes hold, spores spread rapidly and wet weather encourages development of the fungus." They advised farmers to



Farmers inspect their damaged crop at Fatehpur Rajputan village in Patiala on Sunday. TRIBUNE PHOTO

CHEMICAL SPRAY SUGGESTED

“The damage to the crop has been around 70% in Patiala. In certain pockets, where the damage is less than 50%, PAU experts have suggested chemical spray.

Navneet Kaur, HORTICULTURE DEVELOPMENT OFFICER, PATIALA

apply recommended fungicides to prevent extensive damage to the crop.

At present, the late sown tomato crop has been the worst hit. Sahib Singh of

Khudda village said, "In our village, tomato crop sown of 60 acres has been completely damaged. We used fungicide, but to no avail."

Marvinder Singh of Fateh-

pur village said his crop on six acres had been damaged by the blight disease. "Officials should prepare a damage report and ensure that the farmers do not suffer losses," he said.

Patiala Horticulture Development Officer Navneet Kaur said she along with a team of experts from the Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana, had visited the affected villages and a report had been prepared.

The PAU experts advised farmers to follow recommendations in order to prevent the harmful impact of late blight on the crops.

"Tomato crop is damaged around 70 per cent in Patiala. In certain pockets, where the damage is less than 50 per cent, the PAU experts have suggested chemical spray," said Kaur, adding that she would submit a report to the department on Monday for necessary action.

Carbon tax morally wrong, says FM

FE BUREAU
New Delhi,

WITH THE EUROPEAN Union (EU) proposing to impose a carbon tax on certain imports, finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Thursday said any move on imposition of a carbon tax by developed countries to meet their green commitments is morally wrong and goes against the interest of developing countries of the 'Global South'.

"Cross-border imposition (of tax) and that money going



Finance minister
Nirmala Sitharaman

towards somebody else's green agenda, if anything, is not moral at all," Sitharaman told the CII Global

Economic Policy Forum here on Thursday.

The minister said every country will need to generate resources to meet the green commitments made globally.

India is extremely concerned about the EU's move to impose carbon tax on imports and would rally other countries to collectively deal with the challenge it poses.

The Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) or carbon tax (a kind of import duty) will come into effect from January 1, 2026, but from October 1 this year,

domestic companies from seven carbon-intensive sectors, including steel, cement, fertiliser, aluminium and hydrocarbon products, will have to share data about carbon emissions with the EU.

According to estimates, the CBAM will result in an additional 20-35% duty on exports.

A recent G20 report identified climate risks and included pricing (carbon taxes) and non-pricing tools to tackle climate change.

It emphasised that the transition has to be inclusive and should not rely only on taxes.

Soon, agri dept crackdown on sale of insecticides without licence

Vibhor.Mohan@timesgroup.com

Chandigarh: Agriculture cooperative societies selling insecticides to farmers without getting a licence are under the scanner to ensure proper quality controls. As per sources, the agriculture department would soon carry out a survey of all cooperative societies to ensure compliance and submit a report within a fortnight.

It is feared that such unregulated sale could result in substandard insecticides being provided to farmers without proper quality checks as pesticide manufacturers often directly approach cooperative societies, besides dealers, to promote sales. Giving directions in this regard, special secretary (Agri) KAP Sinha has pointed out that as per the Insecticide Act, 1968, a license issued by the state government is mandatory for storage and sale of insecticides, even though the coopera-



File Photo

Pesticide manufacturers often approach cooperative societies directly for sale of their products

tive societies sell the products to their members. "It is very important to get a license issued for proper sale of poisonous substances so that checks can be ensured on pesticides from their manufacturing to sale," it said.

Meanwhile, following a court order in 1998, the cooperative societies are already exempted from taking license for distribution of fertilizers

to their members under the Fertilizers Control Order, 1985, after getting a letter of authorization from the state.

There are over 3,500 cooperative societies in the state set up with the objective to facilitate farmers with agriculture equipment, besides fertilizers, pesticides and seeds, which are often distributed without any profit motive.

Nirmal Singh Manuke, president of BKU (Kadian), said the secretaries of cooperative societies do not have expertise to check the quality of insecticides and it puts the farmers' crop at risk. "If they have to get a license issued, they would realise their responsibility to provide only recommended chemicals to farmers. There have also been complaints from farmers that cooperative societies tag pesticides of their choice along with fertilizers when the farmers approach them," he said.

Appreciating the move,

Varinder Kapoor, president of the Punjab Agri Input Dealers' Association, said mandatory licences would eventually safeguard farmers from the possibility of substandard pesticides being supplied to them. "When there are quality controls on sale of agricultural products by the dealers, the same should be applied to cooperative societies," he said.

Kapoor also contested the claim that cooperative societies provide agriculture inputs without keeping their profit margins to farmers. "If that is the case, then why do they have GST numbers?" he asked.

Earlier in 2015, cotton growers in the state had suffered huge losses allegedly due to spurious pesticides that had allowed whitefly to ravage the crops. The then Akali government had to act against the agriculture department for alleged irregularities in the purchase of pesticides.

CII raises GDP growth forecast for FY24 to 6.8%

BULLISH OUTLOOK. Riding on both public and private investments push, economy likely to grow 7% next fiscal, says President Dinesh

KR Srivats
New Delhi

The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has upped its GDP growth forecast for the current fiscal to 6.8 per cent from 6.7 per cent projected earlier, its President R Dinesh said. "This upward revision in projection is because of good performance of economy in first two quarters. We didn't expect the recent Q2 GDP growth number to surprise us at 7.6 per cent," Dinesh told *businessline* in an interview here.

In fact, CII has been quite conservative even now at 6.8 per cent given that already in the first half this fiscal GDP growth has touched 7.7 per cent, he said.

After assuming charge at the helm of CII in end May this year, Dinesh had projected GDP growth of 6.5-6.7 per cent for current fiscal

with his optimistic view pegged at 6.7 per cent.

"Now, we are revising it to 6.8 per cent. In fact for next fiscal (2024-25), we are now projecting a GDP growth of 7 per cent. So far, we didn't have a number for next fiscal. However, since we now have visibility, we are saying it," Dinesh added.

ON INVESTMENTS

CII President expressed confidence that investments — both private and public investments — will further go up in the second half this fiscal.

Dinesh said that both public and private investments will work in a "tango" this fiscal and already so far this fiscal both have been focused on investment push in equal measure.

He said that a significant majority of CII members are now saying that the second half is going to be better than H1 — for investments, growth and export growth.



A significant majority of CII members are now saying that the second half is going to be better than H1 — for investments, growth and export growth

R DINESH
CII President

"For three quarters, almost all sectors are talking of 75-95 per cent capacity utilisation. With these facts on the ground, I can't imagine that investments won't take place," Dinesh added.

There has to be significant focus on employment generation. Sectors like tourism, logistics and domestic consumption led sectors need to be focused. "Our government's focus

on infrastructure has completely changed the India story globally. We will continue to be an attractive destination for FDI flows so long as we keep the cost of doing business low.

"You should not look at FDI from 3-6 months. You should look at it from 12-18 months. I do see more and more MNCs setting up centres and businesses here," he said.

Industry's big ask from government will be continuity — continue infrastructure spending, making sure the fiscal deficit is well managed and employment generation happens, Dinesh said.

Dinesh said that there is clear consensus across all the States that growth is going to happen with capital expenditure focus. "If I remember right, 17 States have grown capex significantly," he said.

Government's focus on digitalisation, especially on

GST, has brought huge dividends for the economy. The macroeconomic and geopolitical tailwinds are placing India in a unique position and enhanced the attractiveness of the country as an investment destination.

"The narrative and investment strategy for global investors is no longer looking at India as China plus 1. It is India direct and it is India as a specific focus either for domestic or for export markets", he said.

JOB CREATION

Dinesh said that India should look to further incentivise industry for employment creation in the country by framing a specific scheme such as an Employment Incentive Plan (EIP) linked to job creation.

This could be patterned on the lines of production linked incentive (PLI) scheme, which has boosted investment sentiment in the

manufacturing sector in the country.

"Direct tax rebate is already there from first time employment perspective. More needs to be done to create employment and skill development. In a way providing more incentives for job creation by introducing will be Crowding in private investment to benefit the private sector," he said.

MONETARY POLICY

Asked about CII's expectations on ongoing monetary policy review (runs from Dec 6-8), Dinesh said "We don't want them (RBI) to raise policy rates, we expect them to pause".

He said that inflation issues are not entirely within the control of policy makers in India.

Several commodities' prices softening in recent months augurs well for capex spend in the country, he added.

Precision farming for all: Satyukt Analytics levels the playing field for farmers of all sizes

KUMUD DAS

TECHNOLOGY without risk management will not address farmers' problems. Why?

Technology alone may not solve farmers' problems because it often overlooks the inherent risks in agriculture. Farmers face various uncertainties, including weather, pests, and market fluctuations. Without adequate risk management strategies integrated into technology solutions, farmers may not effectively mitigate these challenges. For example, a farming app may provide crop recommendations, but it doesn't account for unforeseen weather events or market crashes. Therefore, coupling technology with risk management tools like insurance and advisory services is crucial to ensure holistic support for farmers.

What are the key tech-trends that will dominate the agriculture sector in 2023?

Three key agritech trends to watch out for in the year 2023 are:

Sustainability using modern technology: The year will witness agri industry to leverage the power of sustainable farming practices. It is very well evident that sustainable farming practices will play a crucial role in 2023 to meet the demands of the expanding population. Technologies, such as AI, will enable the use of relevant data leading to low-input agriculture and better decision-making. IoT technology can be used to optimise the use of agricultural resources and enhance crop yields.

Empowering smallholder farmers: Over the past few years, there has been a massive focus on building farmer-centric solutions for small holder farmers. We expect this trend will significantly pick up pace in 2023 and beyond. Global food system stakeholders have realised that meaningful and enduring transformation of agriculture is not possible unless smallholder farmers at the grassroots level are trained and enabled to adopt smarter, more efficient, and sustainable ways of farming.

Satellite-based pest management and productivity analysis: Pest and disease management is a problem

for farms and agribusinesses all over the world. Farmers struggle to safeguard their crops from pests and illnesses due to inadequate pest management practices. Similarly, agribusinesses may find it quite challenging to evaluate and pinpoint the most productive plots.

Agriculture IoT market may see new growth - why?

The agriculture industry is witnessing a major shift nowadays due to the technologies of industry 4.0. The farming industry benefits from technological development, from planting and irrigation to crop health and harvesting. IoT solutions are focused on helping farmers close the supply-demand gap by ensuring high yields, profitability, and protection of the environment. The approach of using IoT technology to ensure optimum application of resources to achieve high crop yields and reduce operational costs is called precision agriculture. IoT in agriculture technologies comprises specialised equipment, wireless connectivity, software, and IT services.

Kindly talk about Satyukt Analytics and its special offerings...

Satyukt provides precise information about a farm to monitor the current conditions, plan for future actions and get historical insights. The precise information helps farmers to improve their bottom line in a climate resilient and environmentally friendly manner, banks and financial institutions to find out the creditworthiness and risk of a farm, crop insurance companies for underwriting and faster claim settlements and agriculture companies to plan their supply chain optimally.

What steps the company has been taking for making farmers' life easier?

With our advanced technology, our commitment lies in revolutionising agriculture to enhance the socio-economic well-being of farmers and simplify their livelihoods. Through precision soil testing and pest and disease advisory, they not only save the cost which is spent on inputs but also increase the overall productivity and the quality of the products as the crop grows well under

optimum conditions. The data can help farmers determine the appropriate fertilisers and soil amendments to use.

Satyukt Analytics's satellite tech empowers farmers with data to optimize resources, choose crops, and fight pests

The agricultural landscape is undergoing a transformative shift, and at the forefront of this revolution stands Satyukt Analytics. Led by the visionary **Dr Sat Kumar Tomar**, Satyukt Analytics is leveraging cutting-edge technology to empower farmers and

bridge the gap between supply and demand. In an exclusive interview with **Bizz Buzz**, Dr Tomar delves into the challenges and opportunities within the agricultural sector, highlighting how Satyukt Analytics is making a tangible difference in the lives of farmers



Dr Sat Kumar Tomar, Satyukt Analytics



ing operations. Our vision, in stark contrast, is to democratize precision farming, making it accessible to every farmer, regardless of the extent of their land holdings.

What challenges do small and marginal farmers in India face, and how have they overcome them with the assistance of Sat2Farm?

Small and marginal farmers in India encounter challenges such as limited access to resources, lack of information, and vulnerability to crop failures. Sat2Farm, through satellite-based technology, provides these farmers with critical data and insights. It helps them optimise resource usage, choose the right crops, and manage pests and diseases effectively. By leveraging Sat2Farm's precision agriculture tools, small farmers can increase their yields, reduce input costs, and make informed decisions. This technology levels the playing field, empowering marginalised farmers to enhance their agricultural productivity and economic well-being.

What benefits do you offer farmers, corporates, and other entities availing Satyukt Analytics services?

- **Farmers:** Access to precise information for optimising crop management, increasing yields, and reducing costs.
- **Corporates:** Insights for supply chain optimization, risk assessment, and creditworthiness of farms.
- **Banks and financial institutions:** Information for assessing farm credit risks and improving loan disbursement efficiency.
- **Crop insurance companies:** Data for underwriting and faster claim settlements.
- **Agriculture companies:** Tools for better planning and resource allocation.

These services contribute to improved agricultural practices, financial stability, and sustainability across the agriculture ecosystem.

What is the USP of Satyukt Analytics that makes it different from competitors?

- Satyukt Analytics' unique selling proposition lies in its comprehensive and inclusive approach to agriculture technology. Its key differentiators include:
- Focus on small and marginal farmers: Tailoring technology

Our satellite-based soil testing technology provides access to these findings, which eliminates the need to travel to pick them up, providing accurate results with regard to major soil nutrients, covering NPK, SOC, and PH. Reports of soil tests are available immediately without any physical intervention

tail greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions originating from agricultural practices, thereby contributing to environmental sustainability.

- **Championing the cause of soil carbon sequestration,** a vital initiative for enhancing soil health and mitigating climate change impacts.
- **Implementing rigorous monitoring, reporting, and verification (MRV) mechanisms** to document and validate reductions in GHG emissions, ensuring transparency and accountability.
- **Empowering farmers** to augment their income, fostering economic growth in agricultural communities.

As an entrepreneur in the agri-tech space, what advice would you give to other individuals who are passionate about using technology to drive positive change in the agriculture sector?

First and foremost, I suggest shifting the focus towards comprehending the problem and discovering viable solutions, rather than fixating solely on the technology itself. It is imperative to bear in mind that technology functions as a tool to tackle challenges.

Furthermore, within the realm of agriculture, and possibly in all endeavors, patience plays a crucial role. To succeed, it's essential to invest considerable time engaging with farmers, undertaking their issues, and harnessing our technological expertise to provide meaningful solutions.

PARADIGM | SHIFT

Experts advise farmers to adopt technology

Opt for money crops: ICAR

DC CORRESPONDENT
KAKINADA

Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR) and Indian Institute of Horticulture research director Sanjay Kumar Singh underlined that India must go through a paradigm shift from conventional to commercial agriculture using technology and science.

"Only this will suit India's vast climate diversity and help India become "Viswa Guru" in the world," he emphasised. Speaking as chief guest at the inauguration of the three-day International Conference on

● THE ICAR research director said interventions are needed in improving product quality, processing and packaging for India to become a global competitive market.

"Frontiers in Tobacco and Commercial Agriculture towards Preparedness for Future Farming" on Thursday at Adikavi Nannayya University at Rajanagaram, Sanjay Kumar said partnership is very important between commercial agriculture and industry, financial institutions, Krishi Vignan Kendras (KVKs) and other stakeholders. The ICAR research director said interventions are needed

in improving product quality, processing and packaging for India to become a global competitive market. He maintained that mechanisation is important not only in crop production but also in value enhancement.

Sanjay Kumar said in this regard, Central Tobacco Research Institute (CTRI) is coordinating with farmers, industry, tobacco board and other stakeholders

in making the crop globally competitive.

YSR Horticultural University vice chancellor T. Janaki Ram said the horticultural sector is an important growth engine, contributing 30.4 per cent to the GDP and Indian economy. It is also playing a crucial role in women empowerment, skill development, value chain addition and income generation.

ITC vice president G. Krishna Kumar said that India, though with only 10 per cent of global leaf exports, has a bright opportunity of capturing the global market while competing with Brazil,

India will Launch AI Mission to Boost Agri, Healthcare: PM

GOING FORWARD Move will help in establishing sufficient AI compute power in the country

Our Bureau

New Delhi: India will launch an artificial intelligence (AI) mission to augment its computing power capacity so that small companies and startups get the required help, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said.

"The aim of this mission will be to establish sufficient AI compute power in the country. This will help India's innovators and startups get better facilities. Under this mission, AI applications in agriculture, healthcare and education-related sectors will be promoted," Modi said at the inaugural session of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI) Summit 2023.

AI, as a technology, needs to be more inclusive so that the benefits are reaped by all users, Modi said, adding that "the more inclusive, the development journey of AI, the more inclusive will be the results".

"The direction of AI development will totally depend on human and democratic values. It is up to us to keep a place for emotions along with efficiency, ethics along with effectiveness," he said.

Speaking at the event, union minister for electronics and information technology Ashwini Vaishnaw said that wide-ranging disruptive technologies such as AI raised the fundamental question of how societies should deal with them.

"India believes in harnessing the potential of AI for inclusive growth. This vision translates into AI use in sectors such as serving citizens through native language, making healthcare accessible and



DEMOCRATIC VALUES

The direction of AI development will totally depend on human and democratic values

NARENDRA MODI



Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the inaugural ceremony of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI) Summit 2023, in New Delhi on Tuesday. —PTI

improving yield through precision agriculture techniques," Vaishnaw said.

The event was also addressed by minister of state for electronics and information technology Rajeev Chandrasekhar, who said that while the work on AI had been going on for a very long time, it had been catapulted into a different orbit in the last 18 months.

The algorithms being used in the training of AI models should be transparent and free from bias to assure people that the technology is working for their benefit. Further, if upskilling and reskilling were to become a part of the growth curve of AI, it would lead to an increase in the trust people place in the technology, Modi said.

Highlighting the need for a plan to stop the misuse of AI, the prime minister said that though the technology had the potential to revolutionise the tech landscape of both India and the world, it could also be the biggest destroyer of the 21st century.

"While AI can become the biggest tool for development, it can also play a vital role in destroying the 21st century. The entire world is facing the challenge of deep fake. Apart from this, cybersecurity, data theft and terrorists getting hold of AI tools also present grave dangers for the world," Modi said.

Crystal Crop Protection buys Syngenta's Gramoxone trademark

Our Bureau

Bengaluru

Agri-input maker Crystal Crop Protection Ltd has announced the acquisition of the trademark for herbicide Gramoxone from Syngenta for use in the India market.

The addition of Gramoxone to Crystal Crop Protection's portfolio will play a vital role in extending its reach to more farmers across India and is expected to contribute significantly, the company said in a statement.

Crystal Crop Protection's non-selective herbicide portfolio already features industry-leading brands.

KEY ACQUISITIONS

This marks the eleventh acquisition for the company and the second in the year 2023. Earlier this year, Crystal acquired the Sadanand portfolio of Cotton Seeds from Kohinoor Seeds.

In 2021, the company expanded its presence by acquiring the cotton, pearl millet, mustard, and sorghum portfolio of seeds from Bayer. Between 2018 and 2022, Crystal also successfully acquired various agrochemical and Seed brands from multinational companies, including Syngenta, FMC, and Dow-Corteva.

In 2018, the company had strengthened its capabilities by acquiring a manufacturing unit from the Solvay group in Nagpur.

PARADIGM SHIFT

With the increasing herbicide adoption of 15-20 per cent in the last decade, farmers have been open to using innovative methods for increasing their crop yields.

A paradigm shift from manual weeding to the use of herbicides is expected to enhance agricultural production in India

GI-tagged agricultural products face challenges due to climate change

The challenges faced in production have drastically changed compared to the past; earlier, we feared only if it rained or did not, but now we fear off-season rains, says a farmer

C. Palanivel Rajan
MADURAI

Four of the agricultural products in the southern part of Tamil Nadu were recently given the Geographical Indication (GI) recognising their uniqueness. This identification of the products in the global market through GI tag has made it essential to safeguard and increase the uniqueness and its production respectively from the climatic challenges.

The Cumbum paneer grapes, Authoor betel leaves, Sholavandhan betel leaves and Kanniyakumari matti banana, which were granted GI this year, gained prominence for their uniqueness and quality. At the same time, the farmers fear a possible decline in production due to various factors linked to climate change.

"The recognition is promising as it would increase our demand and importance in the global market but at the same time, unpredictable climatic conditions are proving to be a challenge to our produce," said, a banana farmer S.B. Perumal of Kanniyakumari. He said that because of the identification for the matti bananas, many farmers who were reluctant earlier to grow on a



Farmers fear a possible decline in production due to factors linked to climate change. Picture shows betel leaves cultivated in Sholavandhan.

large scale have gained confidence that they could market their produce owing to their recognition across the country.

"The challenges faced in production have drastically changed compared to the past. Earlier, we feared only if it rained or did not, but now we fear off-season rains because when the plant is in the growing stage, it will uproot the whole plant," he added.

A grape farmer R.P.P. Nanthakumar of Cumbum echoed the same feeling that the grape varieties were very sensitive to water and if the soil tends to hold back water, it would rot the plant.

"As we have secured the GI tag, we could even export the fruits to foreign countries. The biggest challenge in doing so is to preserve them for the whole

time," he added.

"What an unseasonal rain would do is reduce the quality of the fruit while retaining the appearance of the fruit," said Mr. Nanthakumar. Such challenges could downgrade our product in the global market, he added.

E. Somasundaram, Director, Agri Business, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore, told *The Hindu* that there needs a change in the agrochemical usage of the farmers on the soil. "Subjecting the soil repeatedly to chemicals could make it lose its holding capacity and other nutrients, which will, in turn, reflect in the plant," he added.

Finding solutions to make the crops climate resilient, particularly the GI tagged varieties, is challenging as the solution

should not affect the intrinsic characteristics of the plant like odour, colour, and taste among others which the GI had recognised, he added.

Handling of soil would also matter as the GI process had recognised and studied the properties of the soil before granting the GI tag, said Dr. Somasundaram. "As the first stage in combating climate change, we are studying the effectiveness of decreasing the number of harvests per year to increase the quality and to give the soil enough time to rejuvenate," he added. Further studies to inculcate customised techniques suitable to the climate, soil, crop, and region among others are under way which would possibly help handle the climatic situation better, he said.

Pesticide industry opposes Maha draft Bill on aid to farmers

SANJEEB MUKHERJEE

New Delhi, 30 November

Leading pesticide manufacturers and formulators have opposed the Maharashtra government's draft Bill seeking to provide compensation to farmers for incurring financial losses due to the use of adulterated and spurious seeds, insecticides and fertilisers, saying it will lead to unfair claims and put genuine suppliers to excessive checks and scrutiny.

Following incidents of the use of adulterated insecticides, seeds and fertilisers causing financial losses to farmers, the Maharashtra government introduced the draft Bill to make provisions for special compensation to farmers.

They argue that if the legislation is enacted and implemented, farmers and end-users of insecticides and pesticides will claim compensation from manufacturers without following agricultural practices and guidelines for the safe and judicious use of pesticides.

The draft Bill has been put up for public consultation by the state government.

"Though the intention (of the draft Act) is to control spurious and substandard suppliers of agriculture inputs, fear is only genuine manufacturers are likely to be subjected to checks and analysis," they said in a memorandum.

Unfair claims will lead to probes of the industries in the state, they said.

The memo suggests that while sternest punishment should be reserved for offenders, there is no need for a separate piece of legislation for guaranteeing compensation to farmers.

"The proposed Act puts all liabilities upon a manufacturer of insecticides but fails to account for situations where a liability rises due to factors beyond the control of the manufacturer," it said.

The draft Maharashtra Payment of Compensation to Farmers (for loss caused due to adulterated, non-standard or misbranded seeds, fertilisers, or insecticides) Act, 2023 says separate legislation is proposed because producers, manufacturers, distributors, dealers and sellers are engaged in production, manufacture, distribution or sale of adulterated, non-standard or misbranded seeds, fertilisers or insecticides for making quick money.

This happens due to lenient punishments provided by existing legislation, it said.

The draft also says that the existing Seeds Act, 1966 (54 of 1966), the Insecticides Act, 1968 (46 of 1968) and the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 (10 of 1955) do not contain provisions for



What the Act says

The draft Maharashtra Payment of Compensation to Farmers (for loss caused due to adulterated, non-standard or misbranded seeds, fertilizers or insecticides) Act, 2023, proposes to enact a separate legislation to compensate the farmers for loss caused by the producers, manufacturers, distributors, dealers and sellers of adulterated, non-standard or misbranded seeds, fertilizers, or insecticides. The existing Seeds Act, 1966 (54 of 1966), the Insecticides Act, 1968 (46 of 1968) and the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 (10 of 1955) do not contain provisions for payment of compensation in such cases. The penal provisions are also lenient for such offences.

payment of compensation for the losses incurred by the farmers due to use of these adulterated and spurious products.

"The government, therefore, considers it expedient to make a new law to provide compensation to the farmers for such losses caused to them, by making the producers, manufacturers, distributors, dealers and sellers of adulterated, non-standard or misbranded seeds, fertilisers or insecticides, liable for payment of compensation," the draft reads.

Apart from the farmers' compensation draft, the pesticides industry has also objected to the amendments proposed in the section 29 of the Insecticides Act of 1968 and the draft bill to amend the Essential Commodities Act. The industry said that the proposed amendments will end up treating insecticide companies and workers as criminals.

Pink stem borer hits Muktsar wheat crop

ARCHIT WATTS
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

MUKTSAR,

The pink stem borer has hit the recently sown wheat crop in the region. Some farmers claimed that their crop was turning yellow due to the huge presence of stem borers, which would affect the yield and quality of the grain.

He added, "I have, so far, spent nearly Rs 5,000 per acre on preparing my land for wheat crop, sowing seeds, using DAP and diesel to run the machines. However, Agriculture Department officials will now visit my field and issue an advisory for use of pesticide. The pesticide will increase the input cost. The department should write to the government to help us as we did not burn the paddy stubble following their advice."

Similarly, some farmers from Dalmir Khera village in neighbouring Fazilka district have apprised the officials of the presence of pink stem borer in their wheat fields.

Gurpreet Singh, Chief Agriculture Officer, Muktsar, said,



Wheat crop infested with pink stem borer in Muktsar.

NO NEED TO PANIC

“There is nothing to panic about the situation as it can be controlled by spraying pesticide. The winter is delayed this time, otherwise the pink stem borer would have vanished. I will visit the affected fields and issue an advisory.

Gurpreet Singh, CHIEF AGRICULTURE OFFICER

“The pink stem borer generally attacks the wheat crop at seedling stage, makes holes in small plants and turns them yellow. The problem seems to have occurred in some fields, where the farmers had mulched the paddy stubble in the soil. The paddy crop there might also have been infested

with this stem borer.”

He added, “There is nothing to get panicky about the situation as it can be controlled by once spraying pesticide. The winter is delayed this time, otherwise the pink stem borer would have vanished. I will visit the affected fields and issue an advisory.”

Concern over fertiliser subsidy bill

R. SURYAMURTHY

New Delhi: The fertiliser subsidy is likely to shoot Rs 2 lakh crore in the current fiscal as the government has spent about 70 per cent of the budget sum of Rs 1.75 lakh crore from April to October.

Some economists expressed concern that the fiscal deficit for the fiscal may cross the budgeted target because of the higher subsidy.

According to the latest fertiliser ministry data, the total subsidy during April-October was Rs 1.2 lakh crore, comprising Rs 79,660.35 crore on urea and Rs 43,315.28 crore on phosphorus (P) and potash (K).

Of the total budget spend of Rs 44,000 crore for P&K subsidy, 98.4 per cent has been exhausted by October.

The government has allocated Rs 22,303-crore subsidy during the current Rabi season (October-March) for P&K fertilisers.

The Cabinet has already approved additional expenditure of over Rs 22,000 crore which is likely to be provisioned through the supplementary demands for grants to be tabled in the Winter Session beginning on Monday.

"The recent information indicates that the annual fertiliser subsidy may amount to Rs 2.25 lakh crore compared with the budget estimate of Rs 1.75 lakh crore," D.K. Srivastava, chief policy advisor, EY India, said.

He said there might be a slippage in the fiscal deficit to GDP ratio to close to 6.1 per cent from the target of 5.9 per cent assuming that the nominal magnitude of GDP remains at the level as given in the "Budget at a Glance" statement of the Union Budget for FY24. "There may be further pressure on this number

DEFICIT FEAR

- Centre spent 70% of budgeted sum of Rs 1.75 lakh crore by October
- Centre has made provisions of another Rs 22,303 crore for P&K fertiliser in this fiscal
- Analysts expect subsidy to reach Rs 2.25 lakh crore.
- The fiscal deficit target of 5.9 per cent may be breached

due to a slippage in nominal GDP growth and any shortfall in the budgeted gross tax revenues."

"The overall fertiliser subsidy for 2023-24 is to be higher by 13-14 per cent over the budgeted estimates as an increase in consumption is expected to continue in the rabi season owing to the anticipated increase in acreage under crops like wheat, mustard and potato, to name a few," Pushan Sharma, director, research, Crisil Market Intelligence and Analytics, said. Urea contributes 53-55 per cent of the total fertiliser consumption during the rabi season.

Fertiliser consumption rose 13-14 per cent during the 2023-24 kharif season, with urea up 6-7 per cent and non-urea up 23-24 per cent, according to Crisil. Urea accounted for 65 per cent of the total fertiliser subsidy for kharif this year, and non-urea for the balance 35 per cent.

For 2023-24, the Union budget in February allocated Rs 1.75 lakh crore for fertiliser subsidies, but even though global crop-nutrient rates have stabilised, actual full-year spending may rise if the

'Drone Scheme for Women SHGs in Agriculture will Boost Industry'

Annapurna.Roy
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New Delhi: The government's new drone scheme for women's self-help groups (SHGs) will boost opportunities and growth for the drone industry and create a win-win situation for both industry and agriculture, senior executives said.

"I think this is the biggest news that the drone industry has ever received, because such amounts of funds have never been allocated (in relation to the drone industry)," Agnishwar Jayaprakash, founder and CEO of drone-maker Garuda Aerospace, told ET.

The government announced on Wednesday it has approved an outlay of ₹1,261 crore for the period from 2024-25 to 2025-26 for the scheme. Under the scheme, drones will be provided to 15,000 women's SHGs during period 2023-24 to 2025-2026 to provide rental services to farmers for agriculture purposes. Tech industry apex body Nasscom told ET that the move is a vial step forward in govt's vision of inclusive Digital India growth.

AP Agri Minister flags off 'Jago Kisan Jago' campaign

The ACFI's outreach campaign aims to educate farmers about the importance of using high-quality genuine agri inputs for maximising crop yields



Andhra Pradesh Agriculture Minister Kakani Govardhan Reddy & RG Agarwal, Chairman, Kisan Kalyan Committee

BB BUREAU
VIJAYAWADA

ANDHRA Pradesh Agriculture Minister Kakani Govardhan Reddy on Sunday flagged off a fleet of five mobile vans as part of Agro Chem Foundation of India (ACFI)'s extensive outreach campaign 'Jago Kisan Jago' to educate farmers about the importance of using high-quality genuine agricultural inputs for maximising crop yields.

ACFI has launched the nationwide campaign 'Jago Kisan Jago' to educate farmers the importance of using genuine agri inputs and also obtaining proper receipts to guarantee authenticity of the agrochemical they are purchasing. Addressing the gathering of farmers and other stakeholders after launching the fleet of vans at Guntur, Reddy said the State govern-

ment has launched several initiatives to help farmers increase their income, and increase farm output as the state aims to raise its shares in the national output and exports.

The expansion of irrigation facilities and renewal of irrigation tanks has led to a significant increase in the crop acreage, resulting in improved farm productivity and enhanced prosperity for farmers, the Minister said. "In a steadfast commitment to enhancing agricultural productivity, Andhra Pradesh government has taken proactive steps so as to ensure availability of high-quality agricultural inputs to the farming community. Farmers in our State enjoy seamless access to superior seeds, fertilizers, and agrochemicals, a testament to the state's unwavering commitment to bolstering agriculture, he said.

S&P REPORT

El Nino may Impact Rain Patterns, Hit Rabi Crops

Our Bureau

New Delhi: A looming El Nino event could adversely disrupt rainfall patterns during this winter season, potentially jeopardising the production of crucial rabi crops like wheat, according to S&P Global Commodity Insights.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) climate prediction centre in the US has predicted that there are chances of "Super El Nino" in 2024, which may cause winter to be drier, affecting the wheat crop, said Elvis Kurian John, associate pricing editor, agriculture, S&P Global Commodity Insights.

India has set a wheat output target of 114 million tonnes in 2023-24, up from 110.5 million tonnes last year. However, as of November 17, wheat sowing in the country has shrunk to 8.6 million hectares from 9.1 million hectares in the same period last year.

India had banned wheat exports in May last year, to control domestic prices and food price inflation due to lower production amid adverse climatic conditions in early 2022. The government has continued the ban despite an increase in output as domestic prices have remained high in the subsequent year.

"There are rumours about India lowering import duty on wheat from the current 40% and the possibility of importing wheat from cheaper origins," John said, adding that the Indian government is yet to take a call, and officials are waiting for the current sowing of wheat crop to be completed.

India imposed a slew of curbs on grain trade in 2023 to temper rising domestic prices, fear of El Nino affecting crop production and ahead of state elections and general elections in 2024.

How crop diversification can bear fruit in Punjab

As a result of the state govt's efforts, fruit cultivation expanded from 69,800 to 96,700 hectares between 2010-11 and 2021-22. To further increase the area, a plan needs to be prepared. Initially, the focus may be on the important fruit plants and the niches having a concentration of fruit cultivation rather than thinly spreading the resources on all fruits across the state. Timely supply of quality inputs, such as nutrients, pesticides and bio-agents, and their optimal use is required to have a produce of international quality.

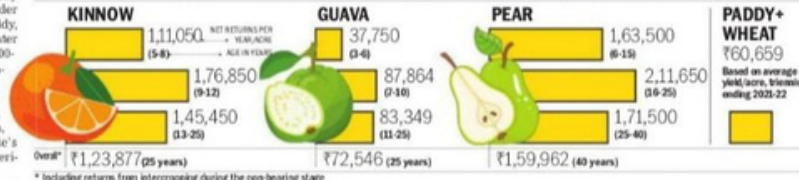
BALDEV SINGH DHILLON

PUNJAB'S agriculture has undergone a transformation during the past six decades. In the 1960s, high-yielding varieties of wheat and paddy and their production technology became available, and many policy measures were implemented to achieve national food security. Consequently, the paddy-wheat cropping system became highly remunerative. The area under this system, particularly paddy, increased manifold. The water requirement of paddy is 5,000-5,600 cubic metres/acre compared to 600-1,200 cubic metre of the crops replaced by it (pearl millet, groundnut, wheat, mung, maize, cotton, etc.). Resultantly, the state's groundwater resources got seriously strained.

As per a report titled 'Groundwater Resources of Punjab (as on March 31, 2017)', "if the present rate of extraction continues, the available groundwater resources may exhaust in 20 to 25 years." According to this report, only 22 of the 136 blocks are safe; this has decreased to 17 out of 153, as per a recent report, 'National Compilation on Dynamic Groundwater Resources of India, 2022'. Soil health and the environment have also been adversely affected. To meet these challenges, Punjab must diversify its cropping pattern. An alternative is fruit cultivation, which saves about 60 per cent of the water compared to paddy-wheat rotation, along with making a positive impact on the soil and the environment. Further, it has the potential to increase farmers' income and generate employment. However, fruit cultivation is knowledge-, labour- and capital-intensive.



Estimated net returns (₹) from fruits during their bearing period vis-a-vis paddy-wheat rotation in Punjab



Considering the area under cultivation and its growth, kinnow, guava and pear are the most important fruits. The establishment of their orchards requires about Rs 21,000 per acre and the returns start after two, four and five years in kinnow, guava and pear orchards, respectively. The estimated profitability of these fruits, worked out in consultation with horticulturists and economists, merits a close look. Further, during the non-bearing stage, farmers can earn Rs 15,000-25,000 per acre from intercrops — such as wheat, cotton, mung, cauliflower and okra — depending on the intercrop rotation. During 2021-22, fruits were cul-

tivated on 96,686 hectares (ha) in the state. The major fruits include kinnow (46,841 ha), guava (12,173 ha), mango (8,897 ha), pear (4,335 ha), sweet orange (3,800 ha), litchi (3,653 ha), lime/lemon (3,031 ha), peach (2,823 ha) and ber (1,994 ha). Among the minor fruits are amla, grapes, plum, banana, pomegranate, phalsa, sapota and papaya. Kinnow accounts for almost half of the area under fruit plants in the state. Its cultivation is concentrated in Fazilka district (78.5% of the area), followed by Sri Mukhtar Sahib (5.9%) and Hoshiarpur (4.3%). Sweet orange is also mainly confined to Fazilka district (73%). Guava is grown throughout the state.

Some commendable steps have been taken in recent years by the state government to promote fruit cultivation and processing. Fruit estates have been established to provide various facilities under one roof to enhance the productivity and quality of the produce. Citrus estates are located in Hoshiarpur, Fazilka and Sri Mukhtar Sahib districts, litchi in Pathankot, pear in Pathankot and Amritsar districts and guava in Patiala district. More horticulture estates are planned to be developed. Further, food processing is important to manage a glut and post-harvest losses and ensure remunerative returns to the farmers and the industry. Punjab Agro Juices Limited has set up horticulture processing units in Hoshiarpur and Fazilka districts. The International Mega Food Park Ltd in Fazilka district and Punjab Agro Industries Corpora-

tion Food Park in Ludhiana district have also been established. As a result of various efforts, fruit cultivation expanded from 69,800 ha to 96,700 ha between 2010-11 and 2021-22. To further increase the area, a plan needs to be prepared by considering all pros and cons and keeping in view earlier experiences. Initially, the focus may be on the important fruit plants and the niches having a concentration of fruit cultivation rather than thinly spreading the resources on all fruits across the state. In addition to continuing with the establishment of horticultural estates and strengthening food processing, the following points need to be considered. **Identification of areas:** The top five districts of Punjab in terms of the area under fruit cultiva-

tion are Fazilka (43.1%), Pathankot (6.5%), Ludhiana (6.1%), Hoshiarpur (5.7%) and Sri Mukhtar Sahib (4.9%). **Choice of fruit plants:** Kinnow is an automatic choice. The area under guava and pear has generally been on the rise in recent years. Guava, peach and plum, being early bearers, are planted as fillers in solid blocks and are in demand. The initial emphasis may be on kinnow and guava in Fazilka, Pathankot and Hoshiarpur, litchi in Pathankot and Hoshiarpur and sweet orange in Fazilka. Peach and plum may also be considered. **Provision and use of inputs:** Timely supply of quality inputs, such as nutrients, pesticides and bio-agents, and their optimal use is required to have a produce of international quality. Integrated pest management strategies based on eco-friendly approaches — for example, the management of fruit fly and psylla in citrus fruits using the PAU fruit fly trap and HMO oil, respectively — should be preferred over chemical pesticides. **Marketing support:** The farmers should be regularly provided latest information on market demand. Greater efforts are needed to tap export markets. These steps can help motivate the farmers to divert some area from the paddy-wheat cropping system to fruit cultivation. Under the prevalent circumstances, water-saving is as important as expanding fruit cultivation. Farmers should be advised not to flood orchards. Care must be taken that the focus on water-saving is not overshadowed by an emphasis on production and profit.

The author is former VC, PAU, Ludhiana

CYCLONE DAMAGES 7,126 HECTARES PADDY CROP IN TIRUPATI DISTRICT

- Collector Venkataramana Reddy informs that as per preliminary estimates, Rs 50 crore crops are damaged
- Impact of cyclone extended to 546 villages in 29 mandals

V PRADEEP KUMAR
TIRUPATI



District Collector K Venkataramana Reddy, special officer J Syamala Rao and SP P Parameswar Reddy participating in a video conference held by Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, from Tirupati Collectorate on Wednesday

SEVERE rainfall, exacerbated by the impact of Cyclone Michaung, has wreaked havoc on the standing crops in Tirupati district, witnessing substantial damage to paddy crops and horticulture plantations.

The district faced inundation of thousands of hectares of paddy fields in Srikalahasti, Chittampur, Vakadu and Kota mandals. Also, horticulture crops like banana and papaya suffered loss due to strong winds in Yerpedu and other mandals. According to officials, green chilli, banana and papaya plantations were damaged with on-ground assessments underway.

Disclosing ground situation to Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy during a video conference on Wednesday, district Collector K Venkataramana

Reddy informed that horticulture and agriculture officials were asked to submit a comprehensive report on crop damages in the district. Initial estimates suggest the cost of crop damage would be approximately Rs 50 crore. Assuring affected farmers, the Collector emphasised that compensation would be provided, with detailed information on crop losses expected within ten days. Highlighting agricultural

impact, the Collector revealed that 7,126 hectares of paddy crop, sown just a few months ago, suffered damage, along with 246 hectares of chilli and flower gardens. Aqua farm in Picchaturu incurred loss, affecting cattle, calves, sheep and goats. Damage to cattle sheds was reported.

Referring to other damages, Collector Venkataramana Reddy further stated that cyclone impact extended to 29 mandals and

546 villages. 84 rehabilitation centres were established, accommodating 6,478 people. Breakfast and meals were arranged and each family received Rs 1,000 and Rs 2,500. The Collector reported the release of funds to the RDOs concerned.

Providing aid to 22,635 cyclone-affected families, essential supplies like 25 kg rice, one litre cooking oil, 1 kg cowpea, onions and beetroot are being distributed. Power outages affected 496

villages, with 291 villages restored. Delay in the remaining 5 and 6 villages are anticipated due to transportation issues on Kota - Vakadu road and full restoration is expected soon.

Ensuring a stable water supply, generators and tankers have been deployed at boreholes. The Collector mentioned that 97 km of R&B roads and 87 km of Panchayat Raj roads were damaged. Temporary repairs have been initiated and 244 canals were affected in relation to irrigation.

Special officer for cyclone relief works J Syamala Rao, SP P Parameswar Reddy were also present.

Meanwhile, the impact is more extensive in the district, affecting mango orchards in 55,000 acres, acid lemon plantations in 9,500 acres, green chilli cultivation in 850 acres, floriculture in 450 acres and vegetable crops in 500 acres.

Farmers are appealing to the State government for compensation, emphasising the need for support in recovering from losses incurred in both standing crops and potential yields. The true extent of the damage will become clearer as officials persist in evaluating losses on the ground.

Soon, Farms to have Sensors to Track Efficient Use of Resources

Govt expects 50-70% improvement in use of resources with precision techniques

Yogima.Sharma@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: The government is planning installation of sensors in farms to track use of water, fertilisers, chemicals and pesticides to bring about more efficiency in their usage. It has begun work on smart farming, on the lines of the just announced drone scheme, said officials.

The government expects 50-70% improvement in resource use efficiency with precision techniques, depending on the crop and scale of production, they said.

"The idea is to incentivise and provide infrastructure support to farmers to undertake smart farming to maximise water efficiency and restrict the overuse of pesticides and other chemicals that often lead to health hazards," a senior government official told **ET** on condition of anonymity.

Internet of Things-based farming sensors send signals to farmers about water, fertiliser and pesticide requirements in their fields, helping them prevent excessive watering of crops or use of other inputs.

The issue of overuse of chemicals in the farm sector figures high on the government agenda, as policymakers have regularly flagged their concerns about it.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had, in his Independence Day spe-

Precision Farming

Centre wants farmers to adopt smart farming on a big scale

Centre to lay out policy road-map for states to adopt

Precision farming can lead to 50-70% gains in resource use efficiency

Policy to focus on infra support, subsidies to farmers



Global Precision Farming Market (\$ billion)



VIKASH

ech in 2019, made a fervent appeal to farmers to reduce the usage of chemical fertilizers and pesticides. "As a farmer, as a child of this soil, I have no right to damage its health," he had said.

In 2015, the government had launched the soil health card scheme to assess soil health and to determine the changes in it when used over time. But it now wants to make use of technology that can be more effective on the ground, as it can also bring about efficiency in use of resources, said the official.

The Union cabinet on Tuesday approved a central scheme to provide drones to 15,000 progressive women self-help groups with an outlay of ₹1,261 crore for two years beginning 2024-25 to help in spraying of ferti-

lers and pesticides.

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research is working on low-cost sensor-based technologies which can be scaled up with support quickly.

The technique, which is expensive, is currently being used in horticulture, largely by the private sector, and the plan is to expand its usage and deploy it for mass consumption crops such as cereals, pulses and rice, according to officials.

Jammu & Kashmir made a beginning earlier this year, they said, by approving a ₹30 crore sensor-based smart agriculture project, to enable the use of hi-tech poly houses for cultivation of cash crops with the application of IoT and automation for monitoring of microclimatic parameters of plants.

Centre to promote bio-fortified seeds

नेशनल हर कदम पाठकों के साथ

संदेश

सांध्यदैनिक

उत्पीड़न, जबरन वसूली और भ्रष्टाचार को देगा बढ़ावा कठोर कानून

कैमिट के अध्यक्ष डॉ. दीपेन अग्रवाल ने उपमुख्यमंत्री फडणवीस को दी जानकारी

बम्बयू, फेर ऑफ एक्टिविज्म ऑफ गवर्नर इंस्टीट्यूट रेंट ट्रेड (कैमिट) के अध्यक्ष डॉ. दीपेन अग्रवाल के नेतृत्व में वृष्टि संचालन (बिनावाक और जॉब्स) निर्माताओं और पारमिटरों के प्रमुख वर्गों के एक प्रतिनिधिमंडल ने वसवट्ट के उपमुख्यमंत्री और फडणवीस से मुलाकात की. मिडलवॉटर और पकटों से ऑफ ऑफिस के कारण निर्माण गुणवत्ता के लिए निगरानी को सुझावात प्रदान करने के लिए सरकार के प्रस्तावित विधेयक के प्रतिफल प्रभाव के बारे में उन्हें अवगत कराया. उन्होंने सब कि कठोर कानून को उत्पीड़न, जबरन वसूली और भ्रष्टाचार को बढ़ावा देने की आशंका है. प्रतिनिधिमंडल में रैलिस इंडिया लिमिटेड के प्रकाश निवेदन और फेडरेशन ऑफ इंडियन रैलिस ऑफ कॉमर्स एंड इंटरनैट (फिको) की कृषि संचालन समिति के अध्यक्ष श्रीराम लाल, विलोवूड केमिकल्स लिमिटेड के प्रबंध निदेशक और एचो केम फेडरेशन ऑफ इंडिया (एसीएफआई) के अध्यक्ष परीक्षित मुंधरा, इन्वेस्टिमेंट्स इंडिया लिमिटेड के प्रबंध निदेशक राजेश अग्रवाल और जॉय केयर फेडरेशन ऑफ इंडिया (सीसीएफआई) की उपाध्यक्ष निर्मला पथरावल और जॉय केयर फेडरेशन ऑफ इंडिया (सीसीएफआई) के कार्यवाहक निदेशक और जॉय लाइव इंडिया के महासचिव दुर्गेश चंद्र शामिल थे. प्रतिनिधिमंडल ने कृषि का सुदृढ़ता देकर अब मुक्यामी का स्वागत किया और एक शपथ ली. इसमें कहा गया है कि अत्याधिक विधेयक अनुचित दायों को कम देगा और वास्तविक निर्माताओं और डीलरों को अत्याधिक जीव के लिए मजबूत करेगा. कैमिट के अध्यक्ष डॉ.



दीपेन अग्रवाल ने कहा कि बिनावाक कोटेशन, बीजे और जॉब्स के उपयोग के कारण किसानों को होने वाले नुकसान को घटाया जा सकता है. उन्होंने कहा कि बिनावाक कोटेशन को घटाने से किसानों को बिनावाक मुद्रापात्रों का उपयोग करने के लिए मजबूर किया जा सकता है. उन्होंने कहा कि बिनावाक कोटेशन को घटाने से किसानों को बिनावाक मुद्रापात्रों का उपयोग करने के लिए मजबूर किया जा सकता है. उन्होंने कहा कि बिनावाक कोटेशन को घटाने से किसानों को बिनावाक मुद्रापात्रों का उपयोग करने के लिए मजबूर किया जा सकता है.



अग्रवाल उनके नेतृत्व और अनुपस्थिति उत्पीड़न का बयान बनेगा. एसीएफआई के अध्यक्ष परीक्षित मुंधरा ने कहा कि बिनावाक, अत्याचार या बलब्रूत करने वाले बीजे, जॉब्स या कोटेशन के कारण किसानों को होने वाले नुकसान को मजबूत करने के लिए कानून में कोई प्रावधान नहीं है. बीजे, कोटेशन और जॉब्स के उपयोग से होने वाले नुकसान को कम करने के लिए सरकार को तबत आगे बढ़ना चाहिए. उन्होंने कहा कि बिनावाक कोटेशन को घटाने से किसानों को बिनावाक मुद्रापात्रों का उपयोग करने के लिए मजबूर किया जा सकता है. उन्होंने कहा कि बिनावाक कोटेशन को घटाने से किसानों को बिनावाक मुद्रापात्रों का उपयोग करने के लिए मजबूर किया जा सकता है.

करने के लिए संशोधित प्रस्तावों का उपयोग करने के लिए अतीव प्रतिकूल होगा. बिनावाक कोटेशन और भ्रष्टाचार को घटाने की आशंका है. यह अत्याचार करने में सक्षम बनाए देता होगा. कृषि क्षेत्रों के अधिकारी गान्धी जंक्शन के मामले में पुलिस विस्तार और विस्तार के खतरे को देखते हुए 'बिनावाक कोटेशन' के रूप में नामित होने के लिए तैयार नहीं होंगे. जॉय लाइव इंडिया के महासचिव दुर्गेश चंद्र ने कहा कि बीजे, कोटेशन, जॉब्स आदि सभी का ठीक से कोशिश किया जाता है और निर्माताओं को निर्धारित मुक्यामी मुद्राओं को बनाने की आवश्यकता होती है. उन मुद्राओं को पूरा करने में किसी भी विघ्नता को संबोधित बीजे, कोटेशन और जॉब्स के तहत निर्धारित वैधानिक कोटेशनों के माध्यम से पर्याप्त करके स्थापित किया जाना आवश्यक है. रैलिस अग्रवाल ने कहा कि बिनावाक कोटेशन का प्रभाव किए बिना अग्रवाल को संघर्ष और बीजे-जमाना बनाने के लिए विधेयक के तहत प्रस्तावित वास्तविक प्रस्तावित प्राकृतिक रूप से निर्माताओं के खिलाफ है. उपमुख्यमंत्री देवेंद्र फडणवीस ने कहा कि उनकी सरकार कायदा करने / अनुमति सुनिश्चित करने के लिए प्रयासों में लगे हैं. रैलिस अग्रवाल ने कहा कि बिनावाक कोटेशन को घटाने से किसानों को बिनावाक मुद्रापात्रों का उपयोग करने के लिए मजबूर किया जा सकता है. उन्होंने कहा कि बिनावाक कोटेशन को घटाने से किसानों को बिनावाक मुद्रापात्रों का उपयोग करने के लिए मजबूर किया जा सकता है.

भेसळयुक्त बियाणे, खतांवर नियंत्रणासाठी समिती

उपमुख्यमंत्री देवेंद्र फडणवीस यांचे आश्वासन

म. टा. प्रतिनिधी, नागपूर

राज्य सरकारद्वारे प्रस्तावित कृषि कायद्यामध्ये भेसळयुक्त, अप्रमाणित बियाणे, खते, बनावट कीटकनाशके यांच्या विक्री आणि वापरामुळे शेतकऱ्यांची फसवणूक करणाऱ्यांवर 'राज्य विघातक कारवाया प्रतिबंधक कायदा' न्वये (एमपीडीए) कठोर कारवाई करण्याबरोबरच शेतकऱ्यांना नुकसानभरपाई मिळवून देण्याची तरतूद आहे. ही तरतूद कंपन्यांसाठी अन्यायकारक ठरणारी आहे. या पार्श्वभूमीवर भेसळयुक्त बियाणे, खतांवर नियंत्रणासाठी समिती गठीत करण्यात येईल. तसेच शेतकरी आणि कंपन्यांचे हित यामध्ये समन्वय साधण्याचा प्रयत्न



प्रस्तावित कृषि कायद्यातील जाचक अटीसंदर्भात कैमिटच्या नेतृत्वात उपमुख्यमंत्री देवेंद्र फडणवीस यांच्याशी चर्चा करण्यात आली. याप्रसंगी दीपेन अग्रवाल, परीक्षित मुंधरा, राजेश अग्रवाल, निर्मला पथरावल, दुर्गेश चंद्र यांची उपस्थिती होती.

राहील, असे आश्वासन उपमुख्यमंत्री देवेंद्र फडणवीस यांनी दिले. राज्यात बनावट बियाणे, खते, कीटकनाशके उत्पादक कंपन्यांचा सुळसुळाट झाला असून, त्यातून शेतकऱ्यांची मोठी फसवणूक होत आहे. त्यास प्रतिबंध घालण्यासाठी कठोर कायदा करण्याची घोषणा सरकारने केली आहे. यामध्ये कीटकनाशके,

बियाणे, खते यांचे उत्पादन करणाऱ्यांवर जाचक अटी लादण्यात येणार आहेत. यानुषंगाने चेंबर ऑफ असोसिएशन ऑफ महाराष्ट्र अॅण्ड इंडस्ट्री ट्रेडच्या (कॅमिट) नेतृत्वात कीटकनाशकांची निर्मिती करणाऱ्या विविध कंपन्यांच्या प्रतिनिधींनी उपमुख्यमंत्री देवेंद्र फडणवीस यांच्याशी संवाद साधला. यावेळी प्रस्तावित कायद्यातील जाचक

अटीकडे उपमुख्यमंत्रांचे लक्ष वेधण्यात आले. उपमुख्यमंत्रांनी शिष्टमंडळाचे म्हणणे ऐकून घेत कंपन्यांना जाचक अटीचा सामना करावा लागू नये, यादृष्टीने बनावट बी-बियाणे, रासायनिक खते, कीटकनाशके यांवर नियंत्रण मिळविणारी समिती गठीत करण्यात येणार असल्याचे आश्वासन दिले.

शिष्टमंडळात रैलिस इंडिया लिमिटेडचे व्यवस्थापक संचालक आणि फेडरेशन ऑफ इंडियन चेंबर्स ऑफ कॉमर्स अॅण्ड इंडस्ट्रीच्या (फिको) कृषि रसायन समितीचे उपाध्यक्ष संजीव लाल, विलोवूड केमिकल्स लिमिटेडचे व्यवस्थापक संचालक आणि अॅग्रीकेम फेडरेशन ऑफ इंडियाचे अध्यक्ष परीक्षित मुंधरा, इन्वेस्टिमेंट्स इंडिया लिमिटेडचे व्यवस्थापक संचालक राजेश अग्रवाल, क्रॉपकेयर फेडरेशन ऑफ इंडियाच्या (सीसीएफआई) उपाध्यक्ष निर्मला पथरावल, महासचिव दुर्गेश चंद्र यांची समावेश होता.

तरुण भारत

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शेतकऱ्यांच्या हितासाठी कार्यरत राहणार

**देवेंद्र फडणवीस
यांचे उद्गार**

◆ नागपूर, १९ डिसेंबर

चेंबर ऑफ असोसिएशन ऑफ महाराष्ट्र इंडस्ट्री व ट्रेडचे अध्यक्ष डॉ. दीपेन अग्रवाल यांच्या नेतृत्वात कृषी रसायन निर्मात्यांच्या शिष्टमंडळाने उपमुख्यमंत्री देवेंद्र फडणवीस यांची भेट घेऊन त्यांना नकली बिजोत्पादनामुळे होणाऱ्या शेतकऱ्यांच्या नुकसानाविषयी अक्कात केले. त्यावेळी शेतकऱ्यांच्या हितासाठी सदैव कार्यरत राहणार असल्याचे उद्गार देवेंद्र फडणवीस यांनी

काढले.

याप्रसंगी डॉ. दीपेन अग्रवाल, एसीएफआयचे अध्यक्ष परीक्षीत मुंढडा, उपाध्यक्ष राजेश अग्रवाल, कार्यकारी निर्देशक निर्मला पथरावल, क्रॉपलाईफ इंडियाचे महासचिव दुर्गेश चंद्रा यांनी विस्तृतपणे शेती, व्यापार याविषयी आपले मत मांडले. उपमुख्यमंत्र्यांनी या संदर्भात अभ्यास समिती गठीत करून आवश्यक कारवाईचे आश्वासन दिले आहे. शिष्टमंडळात रैलिस इंडिया लि. चे प्रबंध निर्देशक संजीव लाल यांच्यासह पदाधिकाऱ्यांची उपस्थिती होती. ◀(तथा वृत्तसेवा)

उत्पीड़न, जबरन वसूली और भ्रष्टाचार को देगा बढ़ावा कठोर कानून

कैमिट के अध्यक्ष डॉ. दीपेन अग्रवाल ने उपमुख्यमंत्री फडणवीस को दी जानकारी

नागपुर, चेंबर ऑफ एग्रीकल्चर ऑफ महाराष्ट्र इंडस्ट्री एंड ट्रेड (कैमिट) के अध्यक्ष डॉ. दीपेन अग्रवाल के नेतृत्व में कृषि रसायन (कीटनाशक और उर्वरक) निर्माताओं और फार्मलिटर्सों के प्रमुख संघों के एक प्रतिनिधिमंडल ने महाराष्ट्र के उपमुख्यमंत्री देवेन्द्र फडणवीस से मुलाकात की। मिलावटी और नकली बीजों के उपयोग के कारण वित्तीय नुकसान के लिए किसानों को मुआवजा प्रदान करने के लिए सरकार के प्रस्तावित विधेयक के प्रतिकूल प्रभाव के बारे में उन्हें अवगत कराया। उन्होंने कहा कि कठोर कानून से उत्पीड़न, जबरन वसूली और भ्रष्टाचार को बढ़ावा मिलने की आशंका है। प्रतिनिधिमंडल में रैलिस इंडिया लिमिटेड के अध्यक्ष निदेशक और फेडरेशन ऑफ इंडिया (सीसीएफआई) के अध्यक्ष निदेशक और फेडरेशन ऑफ इंडिया (सीसीएफआई) की उपाध्यक्ष निर्मला पथराव और क्रॉप केयर फेडरेशन ऑफ इंडिया (सीसीएफआई) के कार्यकारी निदेशक और क्रॉप लाइव इंडिया के महासचिव दुर्गा चंद्रा शामिल थे। प्रतिनिधिमंडल ने फूलों का मुलद्रस्ता देकर उपमुख्यमंत्री का स्वागत किया और एक ज्ञापन सौंपा। इसमें कहा गया है कि प्रस्तावित विधेयक अनुचित दायों को जन्म देगा और वास्तविक निर्माताओं और डीलरों को अत्याधिक जांच के लिए मजबूर करेगा, कैमिट के अध्यक्ष डॉ.



दीपेन अग्रवाल ने कहा कि मिलावटी कीटनाशकों, बीजों और उर्वरकों के उपयोग के कारण किसानों को होने वाले नुकसान की घटनाओं को देखते हुए राज्य सरकार ने किसानों को विशेष मुआवजे का प्रावधान करने के लिए मसौदा विधेयक पेश किया है। उन्होंने तर्क दिया कि यदि विधेयक को पारित कर लाया जाता है तो यह नकली किसानों और कीटनाशकों और कीटनाशकों के अंतिम उपयोगकर्ताओं के हाथों में आसानी से पैसा बनाने के लिए एक उपकरण बन जाएगा। वे मानक कृषि प्रथाओं और कीटनाशकों के सुरक्षित और विधेयकपूर्ण उपयोग के लिए दिशा-निर्देशों का पालन किए बिना भी निर्माताओं से मुआवजे का दावा करेंगे, प्रस्तावित विधेयक सभी वास्तविक निर्माताओं, विपणक, वितरकों और बीज, उर्वरकों के डीलरों को जांच और विधेयक के

अधीन करने मंभीर और अनुचित उत्पीड़न का कारण बनेगा। एसीएफआई के अध्यक्ष परीक्षित मुंभरे ने कहा कि मिलावटी, अमानक या गलत ब्रांड वाले बीजों, उर्वरकों या कीटनाशकों के कारण किसानों को होने वाले नुकसान की भरपाई के लिए कानून में कोई प्रावधान नहीं है। बीज, कीटनाशकों और उर्वरकों के उपभोक्ता होने के नाते किसान उपभोक्ता संरक्षण अधिनियम के तहत आते हैं, जो पहले से ही मिलावटी, गैर-मानक या गलत ब्रांड वाले कृषि आदानों के उपयोग के कारण किसानों को होने वाले नुकसान के लिए मुआवजे के अनुदान का प्रावधान करता है। सीसीएफआई के उपाध्यक्ष राजेश अग्रवाल ने इस बात पर प्रकाश डाला कि प्रस्तावित विधेयक पुलिस को महाराष्ट्र राज्य में कीटनाशकों के वास्तविक निर्माताओं और विक्रेताओं को परेशान

करने के लिए संशोधित प्रावधानों का उपयोग करने के लिए असंमति शक्तियां देता है, जिससे राज्य में मनमाना और भ्रष्टाचार बढ़ने की आशंका है। यह व्यवसाय करने में बड़ी बाधाएं पैदा करेगा, क्योंकि कंपनी के अधिकारी मामूली उत्पन्न के मामले में पुलिस गिरफ्तारी और हिरासत के खतरे से देखते हुए 'निम्नमूल्य व्यक्ति' के रूप में नामित होने के लिए तैयार नहीं होंगे, क्रॉप लाइव इंडिया के महासचिव दुर्गा चंद्रा ने कहा कि बीज, कीटनाशक, उर्वरक आदि सभी का टीक से परीक्षण किया जाता है और निर्माताओं को निर्धारित गुणवत्ता मानकों को बनाए रखने की आवश्यकता होती है। उन मानकों को पूरा करने में किसी भी विफलता को संशोधित बीज, कीटनाशकों और उर्वरक कानूनों के तहत निर्धारित वैज्ञानिक प्रयोगशालाओं के माध्यम से परीक्षण करके स्थापित किया जाना आवश्यक है, लेकिन अन्यथा नहीं। कानून की निर्धारित प्रक्रिया का पालन किए बिना अपराधों को संशोधित गैर-जमानती बनाने के लिए विधेयक के तहत प्रस्तावित व्यापक प्रावधान प्राकृतिक न्याय के सिद्धांतों के खिलाफ है। उप-मुख्यमंत्री देवेन्द्र फडणवीस ने कहा कि अन्यथा सरकार व्यापार करने में आसानी सुनिश्चित करने के लिए प्रयत्नशील नरेंद्र मोदी के विश्व बैंक दृष्टिकोण के लिए प्रतिबद्ध है। हालांकि साथ ही यह उनकी सरकार का कर्तव्य है कि वह किसानों को बीजों, कीटनाशक और उर्वरक के अर्थ, फलदाय-बाध-नाशक निर्माताओं, विक्रेताओं से बचाए, उनमें प्रतिनिधिमंडल से कृषि रसायन क्षेत्र में पनप रहे ऐसे तत्वों की पहचान करने और रिपोर्ट करने के तरीके और रसायन तैयार करने का अनुभव किया। उपमुख्यमंत्री ने प्रतिनिधिमंडल को उनके प्रस्तुतियों के विस्तृत अध्ययन के लिए एक समिति गठित करने और सभी हितधारकों के संतुलित दृष्टि में रामधानी की सिफारिश करने का आश्वासन दिया।



किसानों के हितों और उद्योग तथा व्यापार की चिंताओं की रक्षा की जाएगी : डीसीएम देवेन्द्र फडणवीस

कठोर कानून उत्पीड़न, जबरन वसूली और भ्रष्टाचार को बढ़ावा देगा : डॉ दीपेन अग्रवाल

कीटनाशक उद्योग द्वारा किसानों की सहायता पर मसौदा महाविधेयक का विरोध किया : कैमिट

चेंबर ऑफ एग्रीकल्चर ऑफ महाराष्ट्र इंडस्ट्री एंड ट्रेड (कैमिट) के अध्यक्ष डॉ. दीपेन अग्रवाल के नेतृत्व में कृषि रसायन (कीटनाशक और उर्वरक) निर्माताओं और फार्मलिटर्सों के प्रमुख संघों के एक प्रतिनिधिमंडल ने महाराष्ट्र के उपमुख्यमंत्री देवेन्द्र फडणवीस से मुलाकात की और नकली बीजों के उपयोग के कारण वित्तीय नुकसान के लिए किसानों को मुआवजा प्रदान करने के लिए सरकार के प्रस्तावित विधेयक के प्रतिकूल प्रभाव के बारे में उन्हें अवगत कराया।



नागपुर, रात्र संवादक चेंबर ऑफ एग्रीकल्चर ऑफ महाराष्ट्र इंडस्ट्री एंड ट्रेड (कैमिट) के अध्यक्ष डॉ. दीपेन अग्रवाल के नेतृत्व में कृषि रसायन (कीटनाशक और उर्वरक) निर्माताओं और फार्मलिटर्सों के प्रमुख संघों के एक प्रतिनिधिमंडल ने महाराष्ट्र के उपमुख्यमंत्री देवेन्द्र फडणवीस से मुलाकात की और नकली बीजों के उपयोग के कारण वित्तीय नुकसान के लिए किसानों को मुआवजा प्रदान करने के लिए सरकार के प्रस्तावित विधेयक के प्रतिकूल प्रभाव के बारे में उन्हें अवगत कराया। प्रतिनिधिमंडल में रैलिस इंडिया लिमिटेड के अध्यक्ष निदेशक और फेडरेशन ऑफ इंडिया (सीसीएफआई) के अध्यक्ष निदेशक और फेडरेशन ऑफ इंडिया (सीसीएफआई) की उपाध्यक्ष निर्मला पथराव और क्रॉप केयर फेडरेशन ऑफ इंडिया (सीसीएफआई) के कार्यकारी निदेशक और क्रॉप लाइव इंडिया के महासचिव दुर्गा चंद्रा शामिल थे। प्रतिनिधिमंडल ने फूलों का मुलद्रस्ता देकर उपमुख्यमंत्री का स्वागत किया और एक ज्ञापन सौंपा जो कहा कि प्रस्तावित विधेयक अनुचित दायों को जन्म देगा और वास्तविक निर्माताओं और डीलरों को अत्यधिक जांच

और जांच के लिए मजबूर करेगा, सीएमआईटी के अध्यक्ष डॉ. दीपेन अग्रवाल ने कहा कि मिलावटी कीटनाशकों, बीजों और उर्वरकों के उपयोग के कारण किसानों को होने वाले नुकसान को घटनाओं को देखते हुए राज्य सरकार ने किसानों को विशेष मुआवजे का प्रावधान करने के लिए मसौदा विधेयक पेश किया है। उन्होंने तर्क दिया कि यदि विधेयक को पारित कर लाया जाता है तो यह नकली किसानों और कीटनाशकों और कीटनाशकों के अंतिम उपयोगकर्ताओं के हाथों में आसानी से पैसा बनाने के लिए एक उपकरण बन जाएगा, वे मानक कृषि प्रथाओं और

कीटनाशकों के सुरक्षित और विधेयकपूर्ण उपयोग के लिए दिशा-निर्देशों का पालन किए बिना भी निर्माताओं से मुआवजे का दावा करेंगे, व्यापारिक संप्रदाय सरकार के साथ है और मानता है कि प्रस्तावित अधिनियम को पेश करने का इरादा कृषि आदानों (कृषि रसायनों) के नकली और शंकापूर्ण उत्पादों को निर्धारित करना है, हालांकि अनजाने में प्रस्तावित विधेयक सभी वास्तविक निर्माताओं, विपणक, वितरकों और बीज, उर्वरकों के डीलरों को जांच और विरोध के अधीन करने मंभीर और अनुचित उत्पीड़न का कारण बनेगा, एसीएफआई के अध्यक्ष

वास्तव में, बीज, उर्वरक या कीटनाशकों के निर्माताओं के खिलाफ किसानों द्वारा दावत कई उपभोक्ता मामले पहले से ही परिचित उपभोक्ता संघों के समक्ष खड़े हैं, उन्होंने कहा कि प्रस्तावित विधेयक किसानों को मुआवजा देने के लिए एक समतुल्य प्रक्रिया बनाता है जो केंद्रीय कानून यानी उपभोक्ता संरक्षण अधिनियम के तहत निर्धारित मौजूदा प्रक्रिया के विपरीत है। सीसीएफआई के उपाध्यक्ष राजेश अग्रवाल ने इस बात पर प्रकाश डाला कि प्रस्तावित विधेयक पुलिस को महाराष्ट्र राज्य में कीटनाशकों के वास्तविक निर्माताओं और विक्रेताओं को परेशान करने के लिए संशोधित प्रावधानों का उपयोग करने के लिए असंमति शक्तियां देता है, पुलिस को इस तरह की असंमति शक्तियां, शक्तियों के दुरुपयोग के अलावा राज्य में मनमाना और भ्रष्टाचार का प्रसार करती हैं क्योंकि पुलिस कृषि रसायन उद्योग में शामिल तकनीकी पटलुओं से निपटने के लिए तैयार नहीं है, यह व्यवसाय करने में बड़ी बाधाएं पैदा करेगा क्योंकि कंपनी के अधिकारी मामूली उत्पन्न के मामले में पुलिस गिरफ्तारी और हिरासत के खतरे को देखते हुए 'निम्नमूल्य व्यक्ति' के रूप में नामित होने के लिए तैयार नहीं होंगे, वास्तविक निर्माताओं और प्राथिक वितरक महाराष्ट्र में व्यवसाय करने में असमर्थ होंगे जिससे राज्य में महत्वपूर्ण कृषि रसायन उद्योगों की कमी हो जाएगी, किसानों की रक्षा करने के बजाय प्रस्तावित विधेयक फसल की उपज पर प्रतिकूल प्रभाव डालेगा, किसानों को कोर्टों और खाफावाजों से असुरक्षित छोड़ देगा, और डीलरों और उनके कर्मचारियों के अलावा किसानों और उनके परिवारों की आर्थिकों के लिए एक बड़ा प्राणिक डोहा, सीसीएफआई की कार्यकारी निदेशक निर्मला पथराव, बीज अधिनियम, 1966 और कीटनाशक अधिनियम, 2068, भारत के संविधान के अनुच्छेद 248 और सातवें अनुसूची के साथ अनुच्छेद 246 के तहत केंद्र सरकार द्वारा अधिनियमित विधेयक कानून हैं, उन्होंने प्रस्तुत किया कि कृषि बीज और कीटनाशकों का विनियमन राज्य सूची (सूची-II) या भारत के संविधान को सातवें अनुसूची के तहत प्राणित समवर्ती सूची (सूची-III) के तहत शामिल नहीं है, इसलिए राज्य सरकार के पास उक्त तारकों में संशोधन करने के लिए अपेक्षित अधिकार क्षेत्र का अभाव है, क्रॉपलाइव इंडिया के महासचिव दुर्गा चंद्रा ने कहा कि बीज, कीटनाशक, उर्वरक आदि सभी का टीक से परीक्षण किया जाता है और निर्माताओं को निर्धारित गुणवत्ता मानकों को बनाए रखने की आवश्यकता होती है। उन मानकों को पूरा करने में किसी भी विफलता को संशोधित बीज, कीटनाशकों और उर्वरक कानूनों के तहत निर्धारित वैज्ञानिक प्रयोगशालाओं के माध्यम से परीक्षण करके स्थापित किया जाता

आवश्यक है, लेकिन अन्यथा नहीं, कानून की निर्धारित प्रक्रिया का पालन किए बिना अपराधों को संशोधित गैर-जमानती बनाने के लिए विधेयक के तहत प्रस्तावित व्यापक प्रावधान प्राकृतिक न्याय के सिद्धांतों के खिलाफ है, उन्होंने आगे कहा कि संशोधित गैर-जमानती अपराध हथिया, बलात्कार, अहंकार आदि जैसे जघन्य अपराधों के लिए हैं, जहां तकाल कार्रवाई करने की आवश्यकता है ताकि विस्तृत जांच संचालित करते तक बड़े पैमाने पर समाज को रक्षा की जा सके, प्रतिनिधिमंडल को सैन्यपूर्वक सुनने के बाद उपमुख्यमंत्री देवेन्द्र फडणवीस ने कहा कि उनकी सरकार व्यापार करने में आसानी सुनिश्चित करने के लिए हमारे प्रधान मंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी के मिशन और दृष्टिकोण के लिए प्रतिबद्ध है, हालांकि साथ ही यह उनकी सरकार का कर्तव्य है कि वह किसानों को बीजों, कीटनाशक और उर्वरक के अर्थ, फलदाय-बाध-नाशक निर्माताओं / विक्रेताओं से बचाए, उन्होंने प्रतिनिधिमंडल से कृषि रसायन क्षेत्र में पनप रहे ऐसे तत्वों की पहचान करने और रिपोर्ट करने के तरीके और रसायन तैयार करने का अनुभव किया, उपमुख्यमंत्री ने प्रतिनिधिमंडल के लिए एक समिति गठित करने और सभी हितधारकों के संतुलित दृष्टि में समाधान की सिफारिश करने का आश्वासन दिया, डॉ. दीपेन अग्रवाल ने राज्य में व्यापार करने में आसानी बनाए रखने और मासले को देखने के आश्वासन के लिए उप मुख्यांमत्री देवेन्द्र फडणवीस के प्रति आभार व्यक्त किया,

नवभारत

कैमिट ने किया महाविधेयक का विरोध जांच के लिए होना पड़ेगा मजबूर

■ नागपुर, व्यापार प्रतिनिधि. चेंबर ऑफ एसोसिएशन ऑफ महाराष्ट्र इंडस्ट्री एंड ट्रेड (कैमिट) के अध्यक्ष दीपेन अग्रवाल के नेतृत्व में कृषि रसायन (कीटनाशक और उर्वरक)



निर्माताओं और फार्मूलेटरों के प्रमुख संघों के एक प्रतिनिधिमंडल ने उपमुख्यमंत्री देवेन्द्र फडणवीस से मुलाकात की और डीसीएम को मिलावटी और नकली बीजों के उपयोग के कारण वित्तीय नुकसान के लिए किसानों को मुआवजा प्रदान करने वाले सरकार के प्रस्तावित विधेयक के प्रतिकूल प्रभाव के बारे में अवगत कराया. प्रतिनिधिमंडल ने ज्ञापन सौंपते बताया कि प्रस्तावित विधेयक अनुचित दावों को जन्म देगा. वास्तविक निर्माताओं और डीलरों को अत्यधिक जांच और जांच के लिए मजबूर करेगा. अग्रवाल ने कहा कि मिलावटी कीटनाशकों, बीजों और उर्वरकों के उपयोग के कारण किसानों को होने वाले नुकसान की घटनाओं को देखते हुए राज्य सरकार ने किसानों को विशेष मुआवजे का प्रावधान करने के लिए मसौदा विधेयक पेश किया है. उन्होंने तर्क दिया कि यदि विधेयक को पारित

कर लागू किया जाता है, तो यह नकली किसानों और कीटनाशकों के अंतिम उपयोगकर्ताओं के हाथों में आसानी से पैसा बनाने के लिए एक उपकरण की तरह बन जाएगा. वे मानक कृषि प्रथाओं और कीटनाशकों के सुरक्षित और विवेकपूर्ण उपयोग के लिए दिशा निर्देशों का पालन किए बिना भी निर्माताओं से मुआवजे का दावा करेंगे. प्रतिनिधियों को धैर्यपूर्वक सुनने के बाद उपमुख्यमंत्री फडणवीस ने कहा कि सरकार व्यापार करने में आसानी सुनिश्चित करने के लिए प्रतिबद्ध है. प्रतिनिधिमंडल को उनके प्रस्तुतियों के विस्तृत अध्ययन के लिए एक समिति गठित करने और सभी हितधारकों के सर्वोत्तम हित में समाधान की सिफारिश करने का आश्वासन दिया. प्रतिनिधिमंडल में परीक्षित मूंदड़ा, संजीव लाल, राजेश अग्रवाल, निर्मला पथरावल व दुर्गेश चंद्रा शामिल थे.

किसानों के हित, उद्योग और व्यापार की चिंताओं की रक्षा की जाएगी : फडणवीस

नागपुर| चेंबर ऑफ एसोसिएशन ऑफ महाराष्ट्र इंडस्ट्रीएंड ट्रेड (कैमिट) के नेतृत्व में कृषि रसायन (कीटनाशक और उर्वरक)निर्माताओं और फार्मूलेटरों के प्रमुख संघों के एक प्रतिनिधिमंडल ने उपमुख्यमंत्री देवेंद्र फडणवीस से मुलाकात कर किसानों को मुआवजा प्रदान करने के लिए सरकार के प्रस्तावित विधेयक के बारे में चर्चा की। कैमिट के अध्यक्ष डॉ. दीपेन अग्रवाल ने कहा कि मिलावटी कीटनाशकों, बीजों और उर्वरकों के उपयोग से किसानों को होने वाले नुकसान की घटनाओं को देखते हुए राज्य सरकार ने किसानों को विशेष मुआवजे का प्रावधान करने के लिए मसौदा विधेयक पेश किया है। यदि विधेयक को पारित कर लागू किया जाता है तो यह नकली किसानों और कीटनाशकों के अंतिम उपयोगकर्ताओं के हाथों में आसानी से पैसा बनाने के लिए एक उपकरण बन जाएगा। प्रतिनिधियों को धैर्यपूर्वक सुनने के बाद उप-मुख्यमंत्री ने कहा कि उनकी



सरकार व्यापार करने में आसानी सुनिश्चित करने के लिए प्रधान मंत्री, नरेंद्र मोदी के मिशन और दृष्टिकोण के लिए प्रतिबद्ध है। उन्होंने प्रतिनिधिमंडल से कृषि रसायन क्षेत्र में पनप रहे ऐसे तत्वों की पहचान करने का अनुरोध किया। उपमुख्यमंत्री ने प्रतिनिधिमंडल को विस्तृत अध्ययन के लिए एक समिति गठित करने का आश्वासन दिया। प्रतिनिधिमंडल में रैलिस इंडिया लिमिटेड के प्रबंध निदेशक और फिक्की की कृषि रसायन समिति के उपाध्यक्ष संजीव लाल, एसीएफआई के अध्यक्ष परीक्षित मुंधरा, इंसेक्टिसाइड्स इंडिया के प्रबंध निदेशक राजेश अग्रवाल, सीसीएफआई की उपाध्यक्ष निर्मला पथरावल, और क्रॉपलाइफ इंडिया के महासचिव दुर्गेश चंद्रा शामिल थे।

कैमिट की किसान सहायता विधेयक के खिलाफ आवाज

नागपुर. चेंबर ऑफ एसोसिएशन ऑफ महाराष्ट्र इंडस्ट्री एंड ट्रेड (कैमिट) के अध्यक्ष डॉ. दीपेन अग्रवाल के नेतृत्व में कृषि रसायन (कीटनाशक और उर्वरक) निर्माताओं और फार्मूलेटरों के प्रमुख संघों के एक प्रतिनिधिमंडल ने महाराष्ट्र के उपमुख्यमंत्री देवेंद्र फडणवीस से मुलाकात की और मिलावटी और नकली बीजों के उपयोग के कारण वित्तीय नुकसान के लिए किसानों को मुआवजा प्रदान करने के लिए सरकार के प्रस्तावित विधेयक के प्रतिकूल प्रभाव के बारे में उन्हें अवगत कराया।

प्रतिनिधिमंडल में रैलिस इंडिया लिमिटेड के प्रबंध निदेशक और फेडरेशन ऑफ इंडियन चैंबर्स ऑफ कॉमर्स एंड इंडस्ट्री (फिक्की) की कृषि रसायन समिति के उपाध्यक्ष संजीव लाल, विलोवुड केमिकल्स लिमिटेड के प्रबंध निदेशक और एग्री केम फेडरेशन ऑफ इंडिया (एसीएफआई) के अध्यक्ष परीक्षित मुंधरा, इंसेक्टिसाइड्स इंडिया लिमिटेड के प्रबंध निदेशक राजेश अग्रवाल और क्रॉप केयर फेडरेशन ऑफ इंडिया (सीसीएफआई) की उपाध्यक्ष निर्मला पथरावल और क्रॉप केयर फेडरेशन

फडणवीस बोले, किसान, उद्योग और व्यापार के हितों की करेंगे रक्षा



बीज और कीटनाशक विनियमन की चुनौतियां

सीसीएफआई की कार्यकारी निदेशक निर्मला पथरावल, बीज अधिनियम, 1966 और कीटनाशक अधिनियम, 1968, भारत के संविधान के अनुच्छेद 248 और सातवीं अनुसूची के साथ अनुच्छेद 246 के तहत केंद्र सरकार द्वारा अधिनियमित विशेष कानून हैं। उन्होंने प्रस्तुत किया कि चूंकि बीज और कीटनाशकों का विनियमन राज्य सूची (सूची-II) या भारत के संविधान की सातवीं अनुसूची के तहत प्रणालित समवर्ती सूची (सूची-III) के तहत शामिल नहीं है, इसलिए राज्य सरकार के पास उक्त में संशोधन करने के लिए अपेक्षित अधिकार क्षेत्र का अभाव है।

ऑफ इंडिया (सीसीएफआई) के कार्यकारी निदेशक और क्रॉपलाइफ इंडिया के महासचिव दुर्गेश चंद्रा शामिल थे। प्रतिनिधिमंडल ने फूलों का गुलदस्ता देकर उप मुख्यमंत्री का स्वागत किया और एक ज्ञापन सौंपते

हुए कहा कि प्रस्तावित विधेयक अनुचित दावों को जन्म देगा और वास्तविक निर्माताओं और डीलरों को अत्यधिक जांच के लिए मजबूर करेगा। कैमिट के अध्यक्ष डॉ. दीपेन अग्रवाल ने कहा कि मिलावटी कीटनाशकों,

एक कदम समाधान की ओर

प्रतिनिधियों को धैर्यपूर्वक सुनने के बाद उप-मुख्यमंत्री, देवेंद्र फडणवीस ने कहा कि उनकी सरकार व्यापार करने में आसानी सुनिश्चित करने के लिए प्रधान मंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी के मिशन और दृष्टिकोण के लिए प्रतिबद्ध है, हालांकि साथ ही यह उनकी सरकार का कर्तव्य है कि वह किसानों को बीजों, कीटनाशक और उर्वरक के अवैध, फलाई-बाय-नाइट निर्माताओं, विक्रेताओं से बचाए। उन्होंने प्रतिनिधिमंडल से कृषि रसायन क्षेत्र में पनप रहे ऐसे तत्वों की पहचान करने और रिपोर्ट करने के तरीके और साधन तैयार करने का अनुरोध किया।

बीजों और उर्वरकों के उपयोग के कारण किसानों को होने वाले नुकसान की घटनाओं को देखते हुए राज्य सरकार ने किसानों को विशेष मुआवजे का प्रावधान करने के लिए मसौदा विधेयक पेश किया है।

किसानों के हितों और उद्योग की रक्षा की जाएगी: फडणवीस

उपमुख्यमंत्री से मिला कैमिट का शिष्टमंडल

नागपुर. चेंबर ऑफ एसोसिएशन ऑफ महाराष्ट्र इंडस्ट्री एंड ट्रेड (कैमिट) के अध्यक्ष डॉ. दीपेन अग्रवाल के नेतृत्व में कृषि रसायन निर्माताओं और फार्मूलेटरों के प्रमुख संघों के एक प्रतिनिधिमंडल ने उपमुख्यमंत्री देवेंद्र फडणवीस से मुलाकात की और मिलावटी और नकली बीजों के उपयोग के कारण वित्तीय नुकसान के लिए किसानों को मुआवजा प्रदान करने के लिए सरकार के प्रस्तावित विधेयक के प्रतिकूल प्रभाव के बारे में अवगत कराया।

प्रतिनिधिमंडल में रैलिस इंडिया लिमिटेड के प्रबंध निदेशक और फेडरेशन ऑफ इंडियन चैंबर्स ऑफ कॉमर्स एंड इंडस्ट्री की कृषि रसायन समिति के उपाध्यक्ष संजीव लाल, विलोवुड केमिकल्स



लिमिटेड के प्रबंध निदेशक और एग्री केम फेडरेशन ऑफ इंडिया (एसीएफआई) के अध्यक्ष परीक्षित मुंधरा, इंसेक्टिसाइड्स इंडिया लिमिटेड के प्रबंध निदेशक राजेश अग्रवाल, क्रॉप केयर फेडरेशन ऑफ इंडिया की उपाध्यक्ष निर्मला पथरावल और क्रॉप केयर फेडरेशन ऑफ इंडिया (सीसीएफआई) के कार्यकारी निदेशक और क्रॉपलाइफ इंडिया के महासचिव दुर्गेश चंद्रा शामिल थे।

प्रतिनिधिमंडल ने उपमुख्यमंत्री को ज्ञापन सौंपते हुए कहा कि

प्रस्तावित विधेयक अनुचित दावों को जन्म देगा और वास्तविक निर्माताओं और डीलरों को अत्यधिक जांच और जांच के लिए मजबूर करेगा।

सीसीएफआई के अध्यक्ष डॉ. अग्रवाल ने कहा कि मिलावटी कीटनाशकों, बीजों और उर्वरकों के उपयोग के कारण किसानों को होने वाले नुकसान की घटनाओं को देखते हुए राज्य सरकार ने किसानों को विशेष मुआवजे का प्रावधान करने के लिए मसौदा विधेयक पेश किया है।

उन्होंने तर्क दिया कि यदि विधेयक को पारित कर लागू किया

विस्तृत अध्ययन के लिए होगी समिति गठित

उप मुख्यमंत्री फडणवीस ने कहा कि उनकी सरकार व्यापार करने में आसानी सुनिश्चित करने के लिए प्रधान मोदी के मिशन और दृष्टिकोण के लिए प्रतिबद्ध है, हालांकि साथ ही यह उनकी सरकार का कर्तव्य है कि वह किसानों को बीजों, कीटनाशक और उर्वरक के अवैध/फलाई-बाय-नाइट निर्माताओं/विक्रेताओं से बचाए। उन्होंने प्रतिनिधिमंडल से कृषि रसायन क्षेत्र में पनप रहे ऐसे तत्वों की पहचान करने, रिपोर्ट करने के तरीके और साधन तैयार करने का अनुरोध किया। उपमुख्यमंत्री ने प्रतिनिधिमंडल को उनके प्रस्तुतियों के विस्तृत अध्ययन के लिए एक समिति गठित करने और सभी हितधारकों के सर्वोत्तम हित में समाधान की सिफारिश करने का आश्वासन दिया।

यथा है तो यह नकली किसानों और कीटनाशकों और कीटनाशकों के अंतिम उपयोगकर्ताओं के हाथों में आसानी से पैसा बनाने के लिए एक उपकरण बन जाएगा। वे मानक कृषि प्रथाओं और कीटनाशकों के सुरक्षित और क्विकरूप उपयोग के लिए दिशानिर्देशों का पालन किए बिना भी निर्माताओं से मुआवजे का दावा करेंगे।

व्यापारिक समुदाय सरकार के

साथ है और मानता है कि प्रस्तावित अधिनियम को पेश करने का इरादा कृषि आदातों (कृषि रसायनों) के नकली और घटिया आपूर्तिकर्ताओं को नियंत्रित करना है, हालांकि अनबाने में प्रस्तावित विधेयक सभी वास्तविक निर्माताओं विपणक, वित्तकों और बीज, उर्वरकों के डीलरों को जांच और विश्लेषण के अर्धन करके गंभीर और अनुचित उत्पीड़न का कारण बनेगा।

लोकमत समाचार



उपमुख्यमंत्री देवेंद्र फडणवीस से चर्चा करते दीपेन अग्रवाल व अन्य.

कड़े कानून से बढ़ेगा भ्रष्टाचार, जबरन वसूली

नागपुर: चेंबर ऑफ एसोसिएशन ऑफ महाराष्ट्र इंडस्ट्री एंड ट्रेड (कैमिट) के अध्यक्ष डॉ. दीपेन अग्रवाल के नेतृत्व में कृषि रसायन (कीटनाशक और उर्वरक) निर्माताओं और फार्मूलेटर्स के प्रमुख संघों के प्रतिनिधिमंडल ने उपमुख्यमंत्री देवेंद्र फडणवीस से हाल ही में मुलाकात की और मिलावटी व नकली बीजों से होने वाले नुकसान के लिए किसानों को मुआवजा देने हेतु प्रस्तावित विधेयक के प्रतिकूल प्रभाव से अवगत कराया. अग्रवाल ने कहा कि मिलावटी कीटनाशकों, बीजों व उर्वरकों से किसानों को होने वाले नुकसान की घटनाओं को देखकर विशेष मुआवजे का प्रावधान करने के लिए पेश मसौदा विधेयक पारित होने पर नकली किसान व कीटनाशकों के अंतिम उपयोगकर्ता मानक कृषि प्रथाओं और कीटनाशकों के सुरक्षित व विवेकपूर्ण उपयोग के

लिए दिशा निर्देशों का पालन किए बिना निर्माताओं से मुआवजे का दावा करेंगे. अनजाने में इस कानून से निर्माताओं, विपणक, वितरकों व बीज, उर्वरक डीलरों को जांच व विश्लेषण के अधीन करके गंभीर उत्पीड़न, जबरन वसूली, भ्रष्टाचार बढ़ेगा. फडणवीस ने अध्ययन के लिए समिति बनाने और हितधारकों के हित में समाधान की सिफारिश करने का आश्वासन दिया. प्रतिनिधिमंडल में फेडरेशन ऑफ इंडियन चेंबर्स ऑफ कॉमर्स एंड इंडस्ट्री की कृषि रसायन समिति के उपाध्यक्ष संजीव लाल, एग्रो केम फेडरेशन ऑफ इंडिया के अध्यक्ष परीक्षित मुंधरा, इंसेक्टिसाइड्स इंडिया के एमडी राजेश अग्रवाल और क्रॉप केयर फेडरेशन ऑफ इंडिया की उपाध्यक्ष निर्मला पथरावल और क्रॉप केयर फेडरेशन ऑफ इंडिया के ईडी दुर्गेश चंद्रा शामिल थे.

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on course to hit 6 per cent of ... deployed in this and the next

Will protect interest of farmers and trade: Devendra Fadnavis



■ Business Reporter

A DELEGATION of leading associations of manufacturers and formulators of agrochemical led by Dr Dipen Agrawal, President of Chamber of Associations of Maharashtra Industry & Trade (CAMIT) called upon Devendra Fadnavis, Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra and upraised him with the adverse effect of the Government's proposed bill to provide compensation to farmers for incurring financial losses due to the use of adulterated and spurious seeds, insecticides and fertilisers.

On the occasion Fadnavis said that it is the duty of the Government to protect interest of farmers, concerns of industry and trade," he said

The delegation consisted of Sanjiv Lal, MD of Rallis India Ltd. and Vice Chairman of FICCI Agrochemical Committee, Parikshit Mundhra, MD of Willowood Chemicals Ltd. and Chairman of Agro Chem Federation of India (ACFI), Rajesh Aggarwal, MD of Insecticides India Ltd., and Vice Chairman of CCFI, Nirmala Pathrawal, ED of Crop Care Federation of India (CCFI) and Durgesh Chandra, Secretary General of CropLife India.

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