

ACFI NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2024
ACFI IN NEWS

એગ્રો કેમ ફેડરેશન ઓફ ઈન્ડિયાએ (એસીએફઆઈ) આણંદ એગ્રીકલ્ચર યુનિવર્સિટીના સહયોગથી ૧૨ નવેમ્બરે આણંદ એગ્રીકલ્ચર યુનિવર્સિટીમાં આયોજિત કર્યો જાગૃતતા કાર્યક્રમ

ગર્વ ભૂમિ

આણંદ, ૧૨ નવેમ્બર, ૨૦૨૪: કાર્યક્રમના લક્ષ્યાંકિત પ્રેક્ષકોમાં આણંદ, ખેડા અને વડોદરા જિલ્લાના ખેડૂતો અને ડીલર ડિસ્ટ્રીબ્યુટર હતા. ડીલર ડિસ્ટ્રીબ્યુટર ખેડૂતો સુધી માહિતી પહોંચાડવામાં મહત્વની ભૂમિકા ભજવે છે. ખેડૂતો પણ હંમેશા પોતાની સમસ્યાઓ માટે તેમનો જ સંપર્ક કરે છે. તેને ધ્યાનમાં લેતા એસીએફઆઈ વિવિધ રાજ્યોમાં તેમના માટે જાગૃતતા કાર્યક્રમો સંચાલિત કરે છે. કૃષિ અધિકારીઓ અને કૃષિ યુનિવર્સિટી વૈજ્ઞાનિકોની સાથે ડીલર અને ડિસ્ટ્રીબ્યુટર્સ ખેડૂતોને કૃષિ રસાયણોના સુરક્ષિત ઉપયોગ, તેના ઉપયોગ, ખરીદ, છંટકાવ, સંગ્રહ તથા અન્ય પાસાઓ વિશે જરૂરી માહિતી પૂરી પાડે છે.



ખાતરી કરવા માટે કૃષિ રસાયણોની જરૂરિયાત પર પ્રકાશ પાડ્યો. તેમણે કૃષિ રસાયણો સાથે જોડાયેલી વિભાવનાઓ પર પણ વાત કરી. તેમના સમર્થનમાં વાત કરતા ડૉ. શૈલેષ પટેલ, ડાયરેક્ટર ડીઈઈ, આણંદ એગ્રીકલ્ચર યુનિવર્સિટી જણાવ્યું કે ભારત અન્ય વિકસિત દેશોની સરખામણીમાં ઓછી માત્રામાં જંતુનાશકોનો ઉપયોગ કરે છે. તેથી ભારતીય

તર્કપૂર્ણ યોગ્ય ઉપયોગ અને સારી પદ્ધતિઓની જરૂરિયાતો પર પણ પ્રકાશ પાડ્યો.

અન્ય પ્રવક્તામાં ડૉ. આર.જી. પરમાર, હેડ ઓફ પ્લાન્ટ પેથોલોજી, ડૉ. દિલિપ સિસોદિયા, હેડ ઓફ એગ્રીકલ્ચર એંટોમોલોજી શામેલ હતા. ઈન્ડસ્ટ્રીના દ્રષ્ટિકોણ માટે જીએસપી કોપ સાયન્સ તરફથી ડૉ. દીપક પટેલ અને ધાનુકા

એગ્રો કેમ ફેડરેશન ઓફ ઈન્ડિયાએ (એસીએફઆઈ) આણંદ એગ્રીકલ્ચર યુનિવર્સિટીના સહયોગથી ૧૨ નવેમ્બરે આણંદ એગ્રીકલ્ચર યુનિવર્સિટીમાં આયોજિત કર્યો જાગૃતતા કાર્યક્રમ

આણંદ: કાર્યક્રમના લક્ષ્યાંકિત પ્રેક્ષકોમાં આણંદ, ખેડા અને વડોદરા જિલ્લાના ખેડૂતો અને ડીલર ડિસ્ટ્રીબ્યુટર હતા. ડીલર ડિસ્ટ્રીબ્યુટર ખેડૂતો સુધી માહિતી પહોંચાડવામાં મહત્વની ભૂમિકા ભજવે છે.

ખેડૂતો પણ હંમેશા પોતાની સમસ્યાઓ માટે તેમનો જ સંપર્ક કરે છે. તેને ધ્યાનમાં લેતા એસીએફઆઈ વિવિધ રાજ્યોમાં તેમના માટે જાગૃતતા કાર્યક્રમો સંચાલિત કરે છે. કૃષિ અધિકારીઓ અને કૃષિ યુનિવર્સિટી વૈજ્ઞાનિકોની સાથે ડીલર અને ડિસ્ટ્રીબ્યુટર્સ ખેડૂતોને કૃષિ રસાયણોના સુરક્ષિત ઉપયોગ, તેના ઉપયોગ, ખરીદ, છંટકાવ, સંગ્રહ તથા અન્ય પાસાઓ વિશે જરૂરી માહિતી પૂરી પાડે છે.

એસીએફઆઈના ડિરેક્ટર જનરલ ડૉ. કલ્યાણ ગોસ્વામીએ ઉપજ વધારવા અને ખાદ્ય સુરક્ષાની ખાતરી કરવા માટે કૃષિ રસાયણોની જરૂરિયાત પર પ્રકાશ પાડ્યો. તેમણે



કૃષિ રસાયણો સાથે જોડાયેલી વિભાવનાઓ પર પણ વાત કરી. તેમના સમર્થનમાં વાત કરતા ડૉ. શૈલેષ પટેલ, ડાયરેક્ટર ડીઈઈ, આણંદ એગ્રીકલ્ચર યુનિવર્સિટી જણાવ્યું કે ભારત અન્ય વિકસિત દેશોની સરખામણીમાં ઓછી માત્રામાં જંતુનાશકોનો ઉપયોગ કરે છે. તેથી ભારતીય ખેતીમાં જંતુનાશકોનો જરૂરિયાત વધુ ઉપયોગ યોગ્ય નથી. પરંતુ સાથે જ તેમણે જંતુનાશકોની તર્કપૂર્ણ યોગ્ય ઉપયોગ

અને સારી પદ્ધતિઓની જરૂરિયાતો પર પણ પ્રકાશ પાડ્યો.

અન્ય પ્રવક્તામાં ડૉ. આર.જી. પરમાર, હેડ ઓફ પ્લાન્ટ પેથોલોજી, ડૉ. દિલિપ સિસોદિયા, હેડ ઓફ એગ્રીકલ્ચર એંટોમોલોજી શામેલ હતા. ઈન્ડસ્ટ્રીના દ્રષ્ટિકોણ માટે જીએસપી કોપ સાયન્સ તરફથી ડૉ. દીપક પટેલ અને ધાનુકા એગ્રીટેક તરફથી શ્રી મયૂર અમેટાએ પણ જાગૃતતા કાર્યક્રમમાં પોતાના વિચારો વ્યક્ત કર્યા હતા.

એગ્રો કેમ ફેડરેશન ઓફ ઈન્ડિયા દ્વારા આણંદ એગ્રીકલ્ચર યુનિ.ના સહયોગથી જાગૃતતા કાર્યક્રમ

(લોગર્પણ) આણંદ, કાર્યક્રમના લક્ષ્યાંકિત પ્રેક્ષકોમાં આણંદ, ખેડા અને વડોદરા જિલ્લાના ખેડૂતો અને ડીલર ડિસ્ટ્રીબ્યુટર હતા. ડીલર ડિસ્ટ્રીબ્યુટર ખેડૂતો સુધી માહિતી પહોંચાડવામાં મહત્વની ભૂમિકા ભજવે છે. ખેડૂતો પણ હંમેશા પોતાની સમસ્યાઓ માટે તેમનો જ સંપર્ક કરે છે. તેને ધ્યાનમાં લેતા એસીએફઆઈ વિવિધ રાજ્યોમાં તેમના માટે જાગૃતતા કાર્યક્રમો સંચાલિત કરે છે. કૃષિ અધિકારીઓ અને કૃષિ યુનિવર્સિટી વૈજ્ઞાનિકોની સાથે ડીલર અને ડિસ્ટ્રીબ્યુટર્સ ખેડૂતોને કૃષિ રસાયણોના સુરક્ષિત ઉપયોગ, તેના ઉપયોગ, ખરીદ, છંટકાવ, સંગ્રહ તથા અન્ય પાસાઓ વિશે જરૂરી માહિતી પૂરી પાડે છે. એસીએફઆઈના ડિરેક્ટર જનરલ ડૉ. કલ્યાણ ગોસ્વામીએ ઉપજ વધારવા અને ખાદ્ય સુરક્ષાની ખાતરી કરવા માટે કૃષિ રસાયણોની જરૂરિયાત પર પ્રકાશ



પાડ્યો. તેમણે કૃષિ રસાયણો સાથે જોડાયેલી વિભાવનાઓ પર પણ વાત કરી. તેમના સમર્થનમાં વાત કરતા ડૉ. શૈલેષ પટેલ, ડાયરેક્ટર ડીઈઈ, આણંદ એગ્રીકલ્ચર યુનિવર્સિટી જણાવ્યું કે ભારત અન્ય વિકસિત દેશોની સરખામણીમાં ઓછી માત્રામાં જંતુનાશકોનો ઉપયોગ કરે છે. તેથી ભારતીય ખેતીમાં જંતુનાશકોનો જરૂરિયાત વધુ ઉપયોગ યોગ્ય નથી. પરંતુ સાથે જ તેમણે જંતુનાશકોની તર્કપૂર્ણ યોગ્ય ઉપયોગ અને સારી પદ્ધતિઓની જરૂરિયાતો પર પણ પ્રકાશ પાડ્યો. અન્ય પ્રવક્તામાં ડૉ. આર.જી. પરમાર, હેડ ઓફ પ્લાન્ટ પેથોલોજી, ડૉ. દિલિપ સિસોદિયા, હેડ ઓફ એગ્રીકલ્ચર એંટોમોલોજી શામેલ હતા. ઈન્ડસ્ટ્રીના દ્રષ્ટિકોણ માટે જીએસપી કોપ સાયન્સ તરફથી ડૉ. દીપક પટેલ અને ધાનુકા એગ્રીટેક તરફથી શ્રી મયૂર અમેટાએ પણ જાગૃતતા કાર્યક્રમમાં પોતાના વિચારો વ્યક્ત કર્યા હતા.

એગ્રો કેમ ફેડરેશને જાગૃતતા કાર્યક્રમ યોજ્યો

એગ્રો કેમ ફેડરેશન ઓફ ઈન્ડિયા (એસીએફઆઈ)એ આણંદ એગ્રીકલ્ચર યુનિવર્સિટીના સહયોગથી આણંદ એગ્રીકલ્ચર યુનિવર્સિટીમાં જાગૃતતા કાર્યક્રમ આયોજિત કર્યો હતો. એસીએફઆઈના ડિરેક્ટર જનરલ ડૉ. કલ્યાણ ગોસ્વામીએ ઉપજ વધારવા અને ખાદ્ય સુરક્ષાની ખાતરી કરવા માટે કૃષિ રસાયણોની જરૂરિયાત પર પ્રકાશ પાડ્યો.

એગ્રો કેમ ફેડરેશન ઓફ ઈન્ડિયાએ (એસીએફઆઈ) આણંદ એગ્રીકલ્ચર યુનિવર્સિટીના સહયોગથી ૧૨ નવેમ્બરે આણંદ એગ્રીકલ્ચર યુનિવર્સિટીમાં આયોજિત કર્યો જાગૃતતા કાર્યક્રમ



ફોટો : મહેશ ખત્રી

આણંદ, ૧૨ નવેમ્બર, ૨૦૨૪: કાર્યક્રમના લક્ષ્યાંકિત પ્રેક્ષકોમાં આણંદ, ખેડા અને વડોદરા જિલ્લાના ખેડૂતો અને ડીલર ડિસ્ટ્રીબ્યુટર હતા. ડીલર ડિસ્ટ્રીબ્યુટર ખેડૂતો સુધી માહિતી પહોંચાડવામાં મહત્વની ભૂમિકા ભજવે છે.

ખેડૂતો પણ હંમેશા પોતાની સમસ્યાઓ માટે તેમનો જ સંપર્ક કરે છે. તેને ધ્યાનમાં લેતા એસીએફઆઈ વિવિધ રાજ્યોમાં તેમના માટે જાગૃતતા કાર્યક્રમો સંચાલિત કરે છે. કૃષિ અધિકારીઓ અને કૃષિ યુનિવર્સિટી વૈજ્ઞાનિકોની સાથે ડીલર અને ડિસ્ટ્રીબ્યુટર્સ ખેડૂતોને કૃષિ રસાયણોના સુરક્ષિત ઉપયોગ, તેના ઉપયોગ, ખરીદ, છંટકાવ, સંગ્રહ તથા અન્ય પાસાઓ વિશે જરૂરી માહિતી પૂરી પાડે છે.

એસીએફઆઈના ડિરેક્ટર જનરલ ડૉ. કલ્યાણ ગોસ્વામીએ ઉપજ વધારવા અને ખાદ્ય સુરક્ષાની ખાતરી કરવા માટે કૃષિ રસાયણોની જરૂરિયાત પર પ્રકાશ પાડ્યો. તેમણે

કૃષિ રસાયણો સાથે જોડાયેલી વિભાવનાઓ પર પણ વાત કરી. તેમના સમર્થનમાં વાત કરતા ડૉ. શૈલેષ પટેલ, ડાયરેક્ટર ડીઈઈ, આણંદ એગ્રીકલ્ચર યુનિવર્સિટી જણાવ્યું કે ભારત અન્ય વિકસિત દેશોની સરખામણીમાં ઓછી માત્રામાં જંતુનાશકોનો ઉપયોગ કરે છે. તેથી ભારતીય ખેતીમાં જંતુનાશકોનો જરૂરિયાત વધુ ઉપયોગ યોગ્ય નથી. પરંતુ સાથે જ તેમણે જંતુનાશકોની તર્કપૂર્ણ યોગ્ય ઉપયોગ અને સારી પદ્ધતિઓની જરૂરિયાતો પર પણ પ્રકાશ પાડ્યો.

અન્ય પ્રવક્તામાં ડૉ. આર.જી. પરમાર, હેડ ઓફ પ્લાન્ટ પેથોલોજી, ડૉ. દિલિપ સિસોદિયા, હેડ ઓફ એગ્રીકલ્ચર એન્ટોમોલોજી શામેલ હતા. ઈન્ડસ્ટ્રીના દ્રષ્ટિકોણ માટે જીએસપી કોપ સાયન્સ તરફથી ડૉ. દીપક પટેલ અને ધાનુકા એગ્રીટેક તરફથી શ્રી મયૂર અમેટાએ પણ જાગૃતતા કાર્યક્રમમાં પોતાના વિચારો વ્યક્ત કર્યા હતા.

Awareness program conducted in Anand Agriculture University



Ahmedabad, The target audience were the Dealers Distributors and Farmers from Anand Khera Varodra districts. Dealers Distributors are the key point of information dissemination for the farmers and farmers approach them too often with their issues, so ACFI does awareness program for them in different states. Side by side with the Agriculture officers and Agriculture University Scientists, the dealers and distributors are the ones who support the farmers about the importance of the safe use of Agrochemicals, things to do while using; buying; spraying; and storing agrochemicals & many other things. The

Director General of ACFI Dr Kalyan Goswami has set the tone explaining the need of Agrochemical for higher productivity and hence to sustain the food security. He also spoke about the wrong perception about Agrochemical. His stand was vindicated by Dr. Sailesh Patel, Director DEE , Anand Agriculture University saying that 'India uses much lower amount of Pesticides than other developed countries. So the myth about overuse of pesticides in Indian Agriculture is not right. But he has also emphasised on the need of extensive Agri extension for proper and judicious use of pesticides and follow the norms of good practices.

Godrej Agrovet partners Provivi to foray into biologicals crop protection market

Vishwanath Kulkarni

Bengaluru

Godrej Agrovet Ltd (GAVL) is foraying into the biologicals space by partnering with the US-based Provivi, a provider of pheromone-based crop protection solutions. Through this partnership, GAVL will be introducing two biological solutions to control the yellow stem borer (YSB) in rice and the dreaded fall army worm (FAW) in maize.

From the 2028-29 cropping season, GAVL will distribute Provivi's YSB eco-dispenser, specifically designed to control YSB in rice and will hold exclusive commercialization rights for the FAW eco-dispenser targeting Fall Armyworm in corn in India, said N K Rajavelu, CEO, Crop Protection Business at GAVL. "YSB and FAW continue to pose significant



NK Rajavelu, CEO, Crop Protection Business at GAVL

threats to rice and corn crops, driving up production costs for farmers. With the need for sustainable solutions in today's changing agricultural landscape, we're excited to partner with Provivi to empower farmers with innovative, eco-friendly tools to manage these two major pests. Our joint efforts in Integrated Pest Management aim to provide effective, environmentally conscious sustainable solutions to protect rice and corn cultivation," Rajavelu said.

Provivi's pheromone-based technologies will

provide Indian farmers with advanced, environmentally friendly pest management tools, supporting the livelihoods of millions of growers who depend on rice and corn cultivation. Rice and corn are key crops in India, playing pivotal roles in national food security and the economy.

As a major player in the global rice market and a significant producer of corn for various industries – including food, animal feed, and manufacturing – India is well-positioned to benefit from innovations in sustainable pest management.

Rajavelu said the company has been testing Provivi's products in India for the past one year. The Provivi YSB and FAW Eco-Dispensers are developed using biodegradable materials. The launch of these new products will strengthen the company's presence in the rice and maize segments.

30% agri land at risk amid soil degradation

India needs for urgent measures to maintain soil quality for sustainable farming: AgriMin

Soil Health

- Govt distributed over 220 mn soil health cards to farmers
- Promoting micro irrigation
- Focus on organic, natural farming methods

NEW DELHI

AGRICULTURE Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Tuesday expressed concern over soil degradation affecting 30 per cent of India's land and stressed the need for urgent measures to maintain soil quality for sustainable farming. Addressing a global conference on soil through video conferencing, Chouhan said improving soil health is crucial for achieving Sustainable Development

Goals (SDGs) related to zero hunger, climate action and life on land.

"We are producing more than 330 million tonnes foodgrains annually and exporting worth \$50 billion. This success however comes with concerns, especially regarding soil health," the minister said.

According to Chouhan, about 30 per cent of India's land is experiencing degradation due to rising fertiliser consumption, imbalanced use of fertilisers, exploitation of natural resources and wrong soil management practices.

The minister highlighted various government initiatives, including the distribution of more than 220 million soil health cards to farmers and the promotion of micro irrigation, organic



and natural farming methods. However, he emphasised that more focused efforts are needed, particularly in view of rising temperatures, erratic rainfall patterns and climate change challenges. A new programme on modern agriculture will soon be launched to bridge the gap between scientists and farmers, Chouhan added.

Speaking at the event, NITI Aayog member Ramesh Chand questioned the limited adoption of conservation agriculture and zero tillage methods in India and South Asia, despite their successful implementation in South American countries like Brazil and Argentina. While some NGOs and private companies are promot-

India's land is experiencing degradation due to rising fertiliser consumption, imbalanced use of fertilisers, exploitation of natural resources and wrong soil management practices

ing regenerative agriculture and natural farming, these initiatives remain limited in scope, Chand told the conference, calling on the Indian Soil Scientists Society (ISSS) to spearhead larger-scale solutions. The conference was attended by ICAR Director General Himanshu Pathak, Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority Chairperson Trilochan Mohapatra, and ISSS President H Pathak.

Agri dept seizes 300 bags of fake fertilisers in Bikaner

Jaipur: The agriculture department on Sunday seized 305 bags of fake diammonium phosphate (DAP) and other items from an illegally run warehouse at Mayur Vihar Colony, Bikaner, under a special quality control campaign. The action was taken following directives of Bikaner collector Namrata Vrishni.

An official said that acting on a tip-off, a team of agriculture department raided the warehouse and found 10 workers allegedly packaging 50 bags of molasses potash, three bags of Sagarika and 1,900 empty bags with two sewing machines. "The warehouse was running illegally in a rented house. Fake DAP and other materials were illegally kept and packed. These were sold to

Fake diammonium phosphate (DAP) and other items were seized from an illegally run warehouse at Mayur Vihar Colony under a special quality control campaign

fertiliser shops at cheaper prices to lure farmers."

According to sources, fake fertilisers are sold in many districts, and farmers get cheated with the attractive prices. "These fake fertilisers are of no use for crops. Genuine DAP is good to keep the crops from pests and other issues that arise during changes in the season," said the officer. TNN

IN | CONVERSATION Removal of fertilizer subsidy linked to global prices, says MD & CEO of Coromandel

Coromandel focused on domestic supply capacities

SANGEETHA G.
CHENNAI, NOV. 20

Coromandel International is focused on developing a strong fertilizer value chain amidst the disruptions in the global market, S. Sankarasubramanian, MD & CEO, Coromandel International said in an interview to Sangeetha G.

Q The government has been reducing subsidies for fertilizers. How is this affecting the sector and your company?
The Government of

India's Nutrient-Based Subsidy (NBS) policy plays a vital role in keeping fertilizers affordable. The reduction in subsidy rates for Kharif 2024 is largely attributed to the decline in global commodity prices. The demand fundamentals for the industry remained strong. The timely announcement of subsidy rates and subsidy payouts helped the industry plan raw material procurement

Q How are you strengthening your



OUR CROP Protection and Bio-pesticide products are sold in 80 countries. We are expanding in Brazil and Southeast Asia, and have established subsidiaries in the Philippines and Vietnam.
S. SANKARASUBRAMANIAN, MD & CEO of Coromandel International

business in a reducing subsidy scenario?
We have focused on developing a strong fertilizer value chain by enhancing our raw mate-

rial sourcing capabilities and investing in backward integration. Our approach to reducing import dependence has led to the expansion of

intermediate capacities. Additionally, we have entered mining operations in Senegal to secure a steady supply.

Q The availability of fertilizers globally has been a major issue since the Russia-Ukraine war. What was the impact of this on your business?

The Russia-Ukraine war caused significant supply chain disruptions, leading to price volatility and shortages of key fertilizer raw materials like potash,

phosphate, and ammonia. Coromandel successfully ran its plants at full capacity, thanks to strategic long-term supply contracts.

Q How do you see the future of nano fertilizers in India?

The future of Nano DAP in India is promising with potential to replace conventional fertilizers.

We have invested in our R&D centre Monash Academy at IIT Bombay where Gromor Nano DAP was developed.

Unidentified disease hits ginger farmers hard; experts unsure about cure

SOMWARPET, DHNS

Farmers in the Somwarpet region are losing sleep over an unidentified disease that has affected ginger.

Spurred by last year's promising prices, the farmers had expanded the area of cultivation. However, with the falling prices already causing distress, the onset of an unusual disease has escalated their anxieties.

The crop withers within a week. The disease spreads fast. The farmers, are unsure about how to contain the disease. The disease has been reported across multiple villages including Alur Siddapura, Ganaguru, Gonimaruru, Abburukatte and Banavara.

Last year, erratic rainfall and drought caused significant challenges to farmers. Many farmers, having purchased high-priced ginger rhizomes at Rs 3,500- Rs 4,000 per quintal, resort-



A ginger farm at Ganaguru affected by an unidentified disease. DH PHOTO

ed to extensive efforts to preserve the crop. They had managed to save their crops. Now, with the disease causing widespread damage, farmers worry whether they would recover even a fraction of their investment.

Currently, ginger is priced at Rs 1,600 per quintal in the market.

Kiran, a farmer from Ga-

naguru, said "The disease has devastated our crops. The plants are turning yellow. Farmers are already bearing losses. We are now staring at the problem of losing our crop."

He demanded that the government urgently step in to support ginger farmers.

Horticulture department assistant director Likhitha

said, "Scientists have suggested that the disease might be linked to climate change or fungal infections. Samples have been sent to laboratories for analysis. Until we receive the confirmation, it is unclear as to what preventive measures or treatments can be advised. Farmers will be provided with proper guidance in the coming days."

SEA bats for adoption of GM oilseed crops

GOING AGAINST THE GRAIN. Association President Sanjeev Asthana favours GMOs to improve yield, narrow demand-supply gap

Our Bureau
Mangaluru

The Solvent Extractors' Association of India (SEA) has said the adoption of genetically modified (GMO) crops could revolutionise oilseed productivity in the country.

In his letter to the members on Thursday, Sanjeev Asthana, President of SEA, said India's oilseed production is projected to grow from 35 million tonnes (mt) to 45-50 mt by 2029-30, with vegetable oil availability increasing by 5-6 mt to 15-17 mt.

However, consumption is expected to reach 28-30 mt at a 3 per cent growth rate, potentially touching 32 mt with 4 per cent growth.

The rising demand for convenience foods, including ready-to-eat and snack foods, will further increase edible oil consumption. To

address this gap, the government has launched initiatives, such as the National Oilseeds Mission and the Palm Oil Mission.

"Adoption of GMO crops such as GMO rapeseed could revolutionise oilseed productivity much like GMO cotton did in 2002. GMO adoption is vital for India's food security and should be prioritised," he said.

RAPEMEAL EXPORTS

Seeking support for the export of rapeseed meal, he said India exported 22 lakh tonnes of rapeseed meal in 2023-24, helping farmers earn better prices.

However, exports fell by 25 per cent in April-October 2024 due to uncompetitive pricing.

The association urged the government to grant a 15 per cent export incentive through higher RoDTEP (Remission of Duties and



GROWING OIL APPETITE. The rising demand for convenience foods, including ready-to-eat and snack foods, is increasing edible oil consumption

Taxes on Exported Products) rates, freight subsidies, and interest subvention.

This support will enhance

export competitiveness and ensure that domestic rapeseed prices stay above the minimum support price (MSP), thereby increasing

edible oil availability.

Stating that the government had relaxed moisture limits for soyabean procurement from 12 per cent to 15 per cent to support farmers, he said soyabean prices in the market were still below the MSP of ₹4,890 a quintal, and were trading around ₹4,200.

Full-scale procurement at MSP in key States is crucial, he said.

Additionally, reduced domestic demand for soyabean meal due to DDGS (dried distillers grain solids) substitution in feed and low international prices have further pressured the market.

Mentioning that milk prices had not decreased despite the ban imposed on the export of de-oiled ricebran in July 2023, Asthana said the ban had caused prices to plummet from ₹17,000 to ₹10,000 a tonne, harming the veget-

able oil industry.

DERIVATIVES BAN

On the ban on futures trading in certain commodities, he said the suspension of futures trading in commodities such as mustard seed, soyabean and crude palm oil since 2021 had affected price discovery mechanisms.

The association urged SEBI and the Finance Ministry to lift the suspension, emphasising that futures trading aids farmers, industry and trade without escalating prices. He said the domestic oleochemical industry faces severe challenges due to largescale imports of soap noodles at nil duty from South-East Asia.

SEA has recommended either placing these imports under the restricted items list or imposing an additional 25 per cent duty to safeguard domestic oleochemical manufacturers, he added.

Abdullah bats for organic farming to increase farmers' income

Improving production of agriculture-related items will propel exports

J&K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has called for the promotion of organic farming in order to increase the income of farmers.

Addressing the inaugural function at the agricultural summit and Kisan Mela organised by the Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agriculture and Technology (SKUAST) here, Abdullah said: "It is important to promote organic farming in order to increase the income of our farmers."

Appreciating that the SKUAST Jammu and also the SKUAST Kashmir have made a lot of progress, he said, "We must try to improve production of agriculture-related items. We can export these items if we improve our production and through agricultural exports, our economy can see a huge boost. You will find factories in some places while other places will have tourist destinations,



The Chief Minister assured all governmental support to the SKAUST in its mission to increase agricultural production

but farmers are found everywhere."

Going further, he said, "Unfortunately, our farmers are not getting due attention. Our focus is on other sectors as agriculture and its allied

sectors remain neglected. We can make a lot of economic progress if we give due attention towards agriculture and allied sectors. At present, we are forced to import everything right from milk to meat. We must try to provide adequate financial backing to farmers."

He lamented that children of the country's farmers don't want to be farmers as they are not getting good profit.

"It is the duty of SKAUST Jammu and SKAUST Srinagar to ensure that farmers get all updates about climate. Agriculture is facing many challenges, there is less snowfall now. Global warming is another big challenge for farmers," he said.

On a positive note, Abdullah said that the Basmati rice of R.S. Pura and the Rajma beans of Jammu are famous all over.

Nod to ₹2,481-cr natural farming mission

FE BUREAU
New Delhi, November 25

THE UNION CABINET on Monday approved a national mission to promote natural farming with an outlay of ₹2,481 crore, aimed at reducing the usage of chemical fertiliser and improving soil health.

The centre will have a share of ₹1,584 crore and states' contribution would be ₹897 crore till the end of the 15th Finance Commission (2025-26). In the next two years, the National Mission on Natural Farming will

be implemented across 15,000 gram panchayat clusters that would cover 10 million farmers and initiate natural farming in 750,000 hectare.

According to an official note, the mission is being launched as a shift to scientifically revive and strengthen agriculture practices towards sustainability, climate resilience and healthy food for farmer families and consumers.

"Preference will be given to

National Mission on Natural Farming will cover 10 million farmers across 15,000 panchayat clusters

areas with a prevalence of farmers already practising natural farming, state rural livelihood missions, and Farmer Producer Organisations," an official statement said. In addition, 10,000 bio-input resource centres will be set up to provide farmers with easy access to ready-to-use natural farming inputs. The mission will support farmers to reduce input cost of cultivation and dependency on

externally purchased inputs. Natural farming will maintain healthy soil ecosystems.

Atal Innovation Mission extended till March '28
The Cabinet approved the continuation of its flagship initiative, the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), for the period up to March 31, 2028, and allocated a budget of ₹2,750 crore. AIM 2.0 is a step towards "Viksit Bharat" that aims to expand, strengthen and deepen India's already vibrant innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem.

Dhanuka in pact with Bayer to acquire two active ingredients

Our Bureau

Bengaluru

Agri input maker Dhanuka Agritech has signed an agreement to acquire the international rights to active ingredients Iprovalicarb and Triadimenol, invented by Bayer AG.

Iprovalicarb is a fungicide from the carboxylic acid amines class, used for disease management caused by oomycetes species in horticulture crops.

Triadimenol is used in seed treatment for cereals and cotton as a solo formulation and as a part of multiple treatment seasonal programme in coffee as a premix. Triadimenol is a SBI class-1 demythalation inhibitor triazole fungicide to control various diseases.

EXPANDING FOOTPRINT

With this acquisition, Dhanuka plans to expand its

As part of the deal, Dhanuka Agritech will get all the rights for manufacturing and sale of Iprovalicarb and Triadimenol in over 20 countries

footprint in more than 20 countries, including the regions of Latin America, Europe, Middle East, Africa and Asia, including India, the company said.

As part of the deal, Dhanuka Agritech will get all the rights for manufacturing and sale of Iprovalicarb and Triadimenol in more than 20 countries.

Dhanuka will acquire the global rights to the associated brand Melody (for Iprovalicarb) with sub-brands like Melody Duo, Melody Compact, Melodika

and others. The financials of the deal were not disclosed.

As part of the agreement, the companies have agreed on a transition plan that allows Dhanuka to provide seamless service, ensuring no disruption for growers and customers globally. Further, Dhanuka will be shifting the manufacturing of at least one of the products to India, leveraging the capabilities of its manufacturing unit at Dahej, Gujarat.

The agreement will strengthen Dhanuka's market position by providing a jump to both the topline and bottomline by selling its products in India and global markets.

"Dhanuka is excited to embark on this journey with Bayer AG as we expand our footprint in these key markets. This agreement strengthens our market presence," said Harsh Dhanuka, Executive Director, Dhanuka Agritech.

What is Centre's new mission to promote natural farming?

HARIKISHAN SHARMA
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 26

THE UNION Cabinet on Monday approved the launch of the National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF) as a standalone centrally-sponsored scheme under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare.

The Ministry defines natural farming as a "chemical free" farming system that only uses inputs produced using livestock and plant resources. Consequently, NMNF will first be implemented across districts with high fertiliser consumption.

What is the NMNF?
The proposed NMNF improves on the Bhartiya Prakritik Krishi Paddhati (BPKP)

launched by the NDA government in its second term (2019-24). The initiative was launched under an umbrella scheme of Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY).

According to an official statement, the scheme has a total outlay of Rs 2,481 crore of which the central government will contribute Rs 1,584 crore, and the states Rs 897 crore.

EXPLAINED POLICY
Under NMNF, around 2000 NF Model Demonstration Farms shall be established at

Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs), Agricultural Universities (AUs) and farmers' fields, and shall be supported by experienced and trained Farmer Master Trainers," the statement says. The idea is to train willing farmers in these model demonstration farms on natural farming practices, preparing inputs, etc.

Eventually, some 18-25 lakh trained willing farmers will prepare inputs like

Jeevamrit, Beejamrit, etc. by using their livestock... 30,000 Krishi Saldhis will be deployed for awareness generation, mobilisation and handholding of willing farmers in the clusters," the statement says.

How has the new NDA government made a push for natural farming?

The NDA's return to power in June after the Lok Sabha elections saw a renewed focus on promoting natural farming. The NMNF was launched within the very first 100 days of the new government coming to power, with the intention to upscale the experience gained from the BPKP.

An overall area of 22 lakh hectares has been brought under natural farming to date, with 34 lakh farmers engaged in the practice, according to government data. This includes four lakh hectares under BPKP, and some 88,000 hectares under Namami Gange.



The excessive use of fertilisers and pesticides pose harm not only to the environment but also to farmers. Express

About 17 lakh hectares are covered under various state government initiatives to promote natural farming. The NMNF mission aims to bring an addi-

tional 25 lakh hectares under natural farming. According to the official statement, "in the next two years, NMNF will be implemented in 15,000 clusters in Gram Panchayats, which are willing, & reach 1 crore farmers and initiate Natural Farming".

Why have a mission for natural farming? How is the latest initiative different from previous ones?

The mission to promote natural farming aims to combat the excessive use of fertilisers, and also reduce input costs for farmers. It would focus on "rejuvenating soil health, fertility & quality and building resilience to climate risks like waterlogging, flood, drought, etc." reducing health risks to farmers from prolonged exposure to fertilisers and pesticides.

Sources told The Indian Express that the Agriculture Ministry has identified 228 dis-

tricts across 16 states with input (fertiliser) sales above the all-India average (138 kg/hectare) during 2022-23. The number of farmers practising natural farming was minimal in these districts. Thus, the Ministry will focus on districts with high chemical fertiliser sales (above 200 kg/hectare), apart from the Namami Gange region (5 kg/area) along the main stem of river Ganga.

The NMNF is different from the earlier initiatives in several ways. It has a higher budgetary outlay, and targets over one crore farmers. More importantly, it aims to create an ecosystem for sustainable natural farming in the country.

Finally, the NMNF also aims to establish "scientifically supported common standards and easy farmer friendly certification procedures for naturally grown chemical free produce." It envisages a single national brand for naturally grown chemical free produce.

Centre spent ₹3,623 crore on crop residue mgmt since 2018: Environment minister

NITIN KUMAR
New Delhi, 26 November

Since 2018, the Centre has spent ₹3,623.45 crore on crop residue management in Delhi, Punjab, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh, with ₹1,681.45 crore allocated to Punjab, the highest among the states, Union Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Kirti Vardhan Singh said in the Lok Sabha.

The funds have been used to subsidise crop residue management machinery and set up custom hiring centres (CHCs) to curb stubble burning and promote sustainable practices, the minister told the Lower House on Monday.

Over 3 lakh machines have been distributed, including 4,500 balers and rakes for collecting paddy straw for ex-situ utilisation, he said. After Punjab, Haryana received ₹1,081.71 crore, UP was allocated ₹763.67 crore, NCT of Delhi ₹6.05 crore, and Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) got ₹83.35 crore.

In 2018, the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare launched a scheme aimed at supporting the purchase of crop residue management machinery and establishment of CHCs in NCT of Delhi, Punjab, Haryana, and UP for in-situ management of paddy straw. In 2023, the ministry revised the scheme's guidelines to enhance support for establishing a crop residue/paddy straw supply chain, providing financial assistance for the capital cost of machinery and equipment. In collaboration with state authorities and key stakeholders, including Punjab, Haryana, UP, Rajasthan, and

FUND BREAK-UP

State/organisation	Amount* (₹ crore)
Punjab	1,681.45
Haryana	1,081.71
Uttar Pradesh	763.67
ICAR	83.35
NCT of Delhi	6.05

* since 2018

NCT of Delhi, along with agencies like Isro, ICAR, and the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), the government has launched a comprehensive action plan to address the widespread issue of crop residue burning.

To manage crop residues directly in the fields, the government has allocated crop residue management (CRM) machinery, essential for effectively handling paddy straw. It has also introduced high-yield, short-duration paddy varieties as substitutes for PUSA-44.

The government has mandated the use of Super Straw Management Systems with combine harvesters, which chop and evenly spread the straw across the fields, eliminating the need for burning. Additionally, the use of bio-decomposers developed by IARI is encouraged to naturally decompose paddy straw, converting it into a valuable fertiliser.

On the ex-situ front, the government is focusing on alternative ways to manage and utilize paddy straw.

CBIC sets one-year timeline to complete commercial intelligence probe against exporters, importers

Shishir Sinha
New Delhi

To facilitate ease of doing business, the Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs (CBIC) has set a timeline of one year to complete investigation into tax evasion by exporters/importers. It has also asked senior management, such as CEOs, CFOs, general managers, of large companies or PSUs to not issue summons at the first instance.

This direction is part of the new guidelines pertaining to investigation of commercial intelligence/fraud (CI) cases. These are distinct from the category generally referred to as outright smuggling cases.

"Since import and export of goods is also connected with doing business, the approach in investigating CI

cases must be in line with ease of doing business," stated a CBIC communication to field formation dated November 1.

According to the guidelines, the Commissioner is responsible for developing and approving any intelligence, investigation and its completion within her/his jurisdiction. "Every investigation must be initiated only after the Commissioner's approval," the communication said.

Further, before initiating an investigation, the intelligence inputs and relevant aspects need to be appropriately analysed.

This includes cross checking with available data, technical literature, prevalent industry practice, judicial pronouncements, extant

legal framework, precedence, among others.

INFO COLLECTION

The guidelines call for collecting details before an investigation is initiated, thereby minimising interface with exporters/importers. "Even after the initial decision to conduct an investigation has been made by the Commissioner, the general principles of ease of doing business must be kept in mind," it said. It advised that the time frame specified for appearance or producing information should be in line with the communication of the letter/summons.

"In case of CI matters, letter/summons should disclose the specific nature of inquiry. Vague or general expression must be avoided," noted the

CBIC statement further underscored the need to record the absence of evidence, if nothing objectionable was found, following the conclusion of an investigation

communication. A statement recorded under summons will need to be uploaded on the same e-file on which approval was granted. Similarly, outcome of search/inspection conducted, including panchama or mahazar (when recorded), will also be uploaded. The e-file should be submitted to the additional or joint commissioner within

four working days from the date of statement, completion of search/inspection.

The communication advised against keeping investigation pending. Moreover, the closure report, consequent to appropriate payment of government dues by the person concerned, should also not be delayed.

"Timely action in these stages are all part of preventive vigilance to ensure that there is no room for malpractices," it said. The statement further underscored the need to record the absence of evidence, if nothing objectionable was found, following the conclusion of an investigation. The Commissioner has also been advised to meet the importer or exporter in case a reasonable grievance persists.

Farmers urged to use fertilisers judiciously

Chandigarh: Stressing that excessive usage of fertilisers reduces land fertility, Punjab assembly speaker Kultar Singh Sandhwan on Sunday urged the farmers to use fertilisers as per expert-recommended quantities during the upcoming wheat sowing season.

Sandhwan advised minimising urea use and utilising DAP fertiliser as prescribed by the experts, citing the NPK as a phosphorus substitute. He said other bio fertilisers could also be used.

The speaker said in situ management of paddy straw increased soil fertility.

He also said the agriculture department had formed various teams to prevent forced sales of unnecessary products with the DAP by the dealers.

Sandhwan praised the farmers who avoided the practice of stubble burning and encouraged others to join the eco-friendly campaign. He said farmers could contact Veer Kisan Call Center at toll-free No. 18001801551 for more information. **TNN**

India sees significant gains in export competitiveness across key sectors

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's export competitiveness has witnessed healthy gains in multiple sectors particularly petroleum, gemstones, agrochemicals and sugar during the last five years, as these segments have increased their share in global trade, according to the commerce ministry data.

The other sectors where the share of India's exports has increased during 2018 and 2023 are electrical goods, pneumatic tyres, taps and valves, and semiconductor devices.

The ministry data analysis showed that petroleum exports rose to USD 84.96 billion in 2023, with India's market share surging to 12.59 per cent last year from 6.45 per cent in 2018, positioning it as the second-largest global exporter. It was ranked fifth in 2018.

In the precious and semi-precious stones segment, the country's share in global shipments has soared to 36.53 per cent last year from 16.27 per cent in 2018. It has propelled the country to the top position in the category, with exports reaching USD 1.52 billion in 2023 from USD 0.26 billion in 2018.

It was at the second spot in 2018. Similarly, in cane or beet sugar, the country's outbound shipments have more than quadrupled to USD 3.72 billion from USD 0.93 billion in 2018.

India has achieved tremendous growth in the export of cane or beet sugar, with its global market share increasing from 4.17 per cent in 2018 to 12.21 per cent in

export



2023.

"As the world's second-largest exporter of sugar, India's success can be attributed to both favourable agricultural policies and its strong production base.

The country has capitalised on the growing global demand for sugar, especially in regions like Southeast Asia and Africa," an official said. India's share of the global market for insecticides and fungicides has also shown healthy improvement.

The country increased its global share from 8.52 per cent in 2018 to 10.85 per cent in 2023, with exports reaching USD 4.32 billion.

India's ability to meet international agricultural and environmental standards and its emphasis on innovation in agrochemicals have led to this improvement, the official said. India is now the third-largest exporter globally against the 5th position in 2018, the data showed.

Further, the country's position

in the global market for rubber pneumatic tyres has also strengthened, with exports growing to USD 2.66 billion in 2023 from USD 1.82 billion in 2018.

India now holds a 3.31 per cent share of the global market, up from 2.34 per cent in 2018, and the country has moved up to the eighth position globally from 13th in 2018, indicating the rising demand for Indian-manufactured tyres, particularly in emerging markets.

The data also showed that exports of semiconductor and photosensitive devices have increased from a mere USD 0.16 billion in 2018 to USD 1.91 billion in 2023, with the country's share in the world market rising to 1.4 per cent, and the country now ranks ninth globally compared to 25th in 2018.

This underscores India's potential to become a key player in the global semiconductor supply chain.

SOWING SEEDS OF FUTURE

The seeds industry in Bengal has seen a notable transformation over recent years, fuelled by increased investment, government initiatives, technological advancements, shifting market demands and the adoption of digital platforms for production and marketing

Sarthak.G@timesofindia.com

In the 2024-25 state budget, Rs 22,620 crore was allocated to agriculture and allied activities, encouraging seed industry players to enhance production capacities and boost exports from Bengal, which leads in rice production and ranks second in potato production nationwide. The seeds market in Bengal is currently valued between Rs 400-500 crore. Local industry players are seeking investments in cold storage facilities, seed processing, and color coating facilities to support growth.

Seed production companies are increasingly using digital platforms to provide farmers with weather updates, pest and disease solutions, and crop protection tips. Additionally, they have launched e-commerce channels to expand markets beyond the state.

West Bengal's horticulture crop production stands at around 34.9 million tonnes, with vegetable seed production being a significant part of the state's agricultural output. Bengal is also a major oilseed producer, alongside states like Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, and Gujarat.

According to Sudipta Ghosh, director of Bankim Prosad Ghosh Seeds Pvt Ltd, technology advancements like hybrid varieties, off-season crop growth, and advanced oilseed production methods have driven growth. "Bengal has seen an increase in seed production, particularly in oilseeds, driven by both local consumption and export demand. Mechanization, such as drone usage for pesticide and fertilizer application, drip irrigation, mulching papers to reduce weedicides and mechanical harvesting, has improved produc-



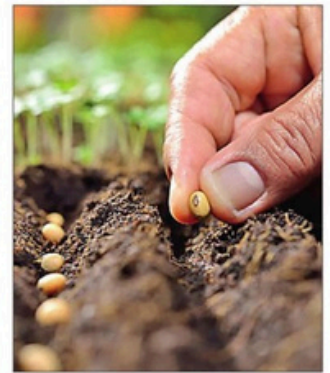
tivity and product quality," said Ghosh.

With changing agro-climatic conditions and pressures to maximise yields, Ghosh added, "We are working to develop and improve crop varieties that meet farmers' needs. Traditional germplasm are restructured through genetic methods and rigorous field selection to create new crop varieties valued for their taste and market preference."

Rice is Bengal's only self-sustained crop for seed production, with the state supplying seeds to Bihar, Jharkhand, Orissa, Assam, and Chhattisgarh. For other crops, however, Bengal's farmers rely on seeds from other states, noted Alok Marodia, MD and CEO of Pan Seeds.

Marodia said, "Farmers in Bengal are increasingly purchasing hybrid seeds instead of using home-saved seeds. These hybrids offer higher yields and better disease resistance, particularly for vegetables and maize. Farmers are also shifting from rice and wheat to maize and mustard during the Rabi season for better returns." Marodia added, "Our focus is to develop climate-resilient products, and we plan to expand into maize seeds and extend our reach to Karnataka and Tamil Nadu."

Agro-companies are relocating paddy seed production to Bengal from Telangana, with 50-60% of production now within the state. These companies are also investing in research and



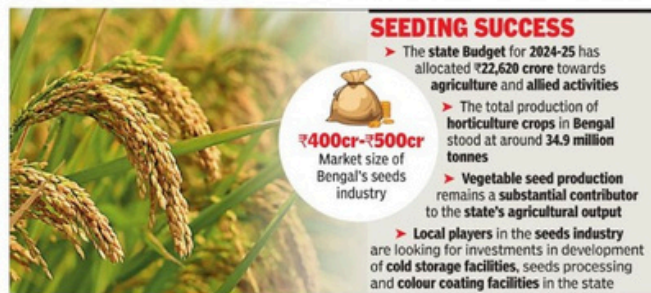
development to improve seed quality for exports. Bharat Nursery Pvt Ltd, established in 1918, has R&D facilities in Santoshpur and Panskura, while its sister company, Jyoti Biotech Pvt Ltd, also contributes to R&D and seed production.

Arijit Ghosh, executive in research and development and president of the Seedsmen Association of Bengal, explained, "Earlier, companies relied heavily on Telangana for paddy seed procurement, but they now produce seeds within Bengal, increasing hybrid vegetable seed production for export to Bangladesh, the Philippines, the Middle East, and Europe."

Agro-companies are now producing paddy seeds in Midnapore, Birbhum, and Bankura to supply eastern India, said Ghosh. "In addition to paddy, we produce mustard, pulses, and vegetable seeds on a large scale, and hybrid varieties now make up 70-80% of tomatoes, cauliflowers, cabbages, broccoli, and kohlrabi in the state."

Bengal's seed sector is witnessing strong growth as awareness of quality seeds rises, driving the seed replacement ratio to around 40%, noted Sushmita Roy, director of UACI Seeds and Biotech Pvt Ltd. However, the industry faces challenges from spurious and unregistered seed companies that sometimes sell substandard products, impacting yields and quality.

"For the seed industry, climate change remains a major challenge," said Roy. "The unpredictable monsoon, especially during the Kharif season, complicates decisions about seed varieties, often resulting in stock imbalances. Untimely rain or adverse conditions can also affect seed quality. We have technical manufacturing and seed processing units across five locations in India."

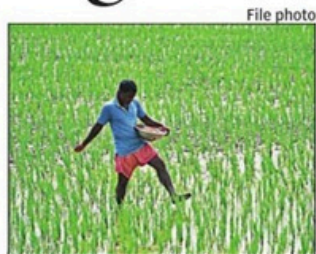


World Bank to support climate resilient agri-value chain project

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

T'puram: The World Bank's board of executive directors, in its meeting on Oct 31, approved the Kerala Climate Resilient Agri-Value Chain Modernization (KERA) Project. This new programme aims to support farmers in Kerala to adapt to climate change and promote agri-entrepreneurs to market value-added products. The total project cost will be Rs 2,365.5cr, of which the WB fund will be Rs 1,655.85cr, and the state govt share will be Rs 709.65cr.

As the leading producer of spices such as cardamom, vanilla, and nutmeg, Kerala accounts for about 20% of India's total agri-food exports. However, climate change is



GREEN BEGINNINGS: The total project cost will be Rs 2,365.5 crore, of which World Bank will provide Rs 1,655.85 crore and state govt will provide the rest

impeding these achievements. Natural disasters like floods and forest fires, as well as challenges in reaching broader markets, have been impacting farmer households.

The KERA project will help strengthen the resilien-

ce of the state's agricultural sector to climate change. "The govt intends to implement this project in the next five years," said agriculture minister P Prasad.

About four lakh farmers will benefit through better access to climate-smart practices. These include replanting climate-resilient varieties of coffee, cardamom, and rubber, and helping expand Kerala's food parks into rural areas. These parks will have essential infrastructure such as water, power, and waste management to support agribusinesses in food processing and value-added products.

"This project will further infuse private sector investment and integrate agricul-

tural value chains for the benefit of farmers and SMEs," said Auguste Tano Kouamé, World Bank's country director for India, in a statement. Moreover, it will support agri-based SMEs — especially women, who currently own only 23% of MSMEs in the state — to gain access to commercial finance by providing training for business plans and strengthening their commercial viability, said Kouamé. The project also aims to form productive alliances between farmer groups and agribusinesses. The alliances will help strengthen the linkages between producers and buyers, with the public sector playing a facilitating role. In addition, it will incubate agri-tech startups.

Crystal Crop buys I&B Seeds to expand seed biz

NEW DELHI: Agrochemical firm Crystal Crop Protection on Monday said it has acquired Bengaluru-based I&B Seeds as it seeks to strengthen its position in India's vegetable and flower-seed segment. "The deal has been fully executed with shares purchased from two major shareholders. The share transfer was completed last week on the day of Diwali," Crystal Crop Protection Managing Director Ankur Aggarwal told PTI. The company, however, did not disclose the deal amount. The acquisition was funded through internal accruals and marks Crystal Crop's fifth purchase in the seeds business and twelfth overall. "This acquisition will contribute 30 per cent to our Rs 400 crore seed business," Aggarwal said, adding that the company will retain I&B Seeds' flagship brands 'Indus' and 'SPS'. India's flower and vegetable seed market is valued at over Rs 600 crore. The integration is expected to be completed within six months.

GeM launches 170 seed categories to simplify access of seeds to farmers

The roll out of these new categories is a part of Government e-Marketplace's broader strategy to promote category-based procurement through the portal

Quality Agri Seeds

- Newly populated categories can be procured by Central, State PSUs
- Move aims to reduce time consumed in tendering processes, stimulate transparency
- 109 varieties were meant for 61 crops which include 34 field crops, 27 horticultural crops

NEW DELHI

THE Government e-Marketplace (GeM) on Monday said it has revamped and introduced 170 seed categories on the portal to simplify access to quality agricultural and horticulture seeds for farmers. "Created ahead of the upcoming cropping season, the newly populated categories feature nearly 8,000 seed varieties that can be procured by Central and State PSUs and other governing bodies for



the country," according to an official statement issued on Monday. Created after consultation with stakeholders including state seed corporations and research bodies, seed categories on GeM portal offer a ready framework for seed procurement, incorporating the extant rules & regulations by Government of India and necessary parameters, easing the entire process for procuring authorities.

The roll out of these new categories is a part of GeM's broader strategy to promote category-based procurement through the portal. With an emphasis on increasing efficiency, the move aims to

tendering processes, stimulate transparency and accountability in government procurement, while facilitating increased participation of sellers across the country.

"We invite sellers to leverage these new seed categories and list their offerings to participate freely in government tenders. We also encourage seed corporations and state bodies to utilise these new categories for cost-effective procurement of quality seeds" said Roli Khare, Deputy CEO, GeM. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had released 109 high-yielding, climate resilient and biofortified varieties of crops in August this year as part of the Centre's strategy to in-

enhance farmers incomes. The new seeds were released at the India Agricultural Research Institute in the national capital where he also interacted with the farmers and scientists on the occasion.

These 109 varieties were meant for 61 crops which include 34 field crops and 27 horticultural crops. Among the field crops, seeds of various cereals including millets, forage crops, oilseeds, pulses, sugarcane and cotton were released.

Among the horticultural crops, different varieties of fruits, vegetable crops, plantation crops, tuber crops, spices, flowers and medicinal crops will be released.

The Prime Minister highlighted the importance of sustainable farming and adoption of climate resilient methodologies. He has also emphasised on promoting the biofortified varieties of crops by linking them with the several government programmes like Mid-Day Meal, Anganwadi, etc., to make In-

Mohali fertilizer dealers warned against malpractices

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mohali: Mohali fertilizer dealers have received a stern warning against hoarding, overcharging or mandatory bundling of additional agricultural inputs. The warning was issued by deputy commissioner Aashika Jain.

She cautioned the fertilizer dealers regarding stringent legal consequences if discovered hoarding, overcharging or compelling purchase of other agricultural inputs with Di-Ammonium Phosphate (DAP) fertilizer. She also instructed the agricultural officials to conduct stock verification of dealers alongside administrative officials.

Instructions mandate each dealer to prominently showcase fertilizer inventory on a daily notice board. It also urges farmers to utilise Di-Ammonium Phosphate (DAP) alternatives. The district possesses 3033 MT of alternative inputs stock.

Addressing the issue of hoarding, overcharging or mandatory bundling of agricultural inputs with DAP fertilizer, the deputy commissioner instructed the chief agricultural officer to scrutinise agriculture input dealers' inventories in the Mohali district.



For representation

During a review meeting on Tuesday with ADC Sonam Chaudhary, chief agricultural officer (CAO) Dr Gurmail Singh and deputy registrar (cooperative societies) Gurbir Singh Dhillon at the DC office, Aashika Jain instructed them to enforce daily display of fertilizer stock by dealers and cooperative societies.

Furthermore, dealers must not overcharge for Di-Ammonium Phosphate (DAP) or mandate additional input purchases. She instructed Agriculture Officials to form inspection teams with district administrative officials for dealer verification.

The DC stated that the Mohali district maintained 3,033 MT alternative fertilizers stock, assuring farmers. They can utilise DAP

Instructions mandate each dealer to showcase fertilizer inventory on a daily notice board. It also urges farmers to utilise DAP alternatives. The district possesses 3033 MT of alternative inputs stock

alternatives including NPK (nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium), SSP (single super phosphate), TSP (triple super phosphate) available locally.

She referenced Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana, soil scientists advisory, noting DAP comprised 46% phosphorus and 18% nitrogen.

The DC elaborated that Triple Superphosphate had 46% phosphorus, utilisable in equivalent quantity to DAP, offering additional sulfur benefits, whilst NPK 10:26:26 contained 26% total phosphorus, fulfilling crop requirements whilst providing potash, absent in DAP.

She reassured farmers regarding alleged DAP "shortage", highlighting these efficacious, accessible alternatives.

Cabinet nod to open 254 new fertiliser sale centres

Govt To Reimburse Expenditure Upto Limit Of ₹1.72Cr For The Centres

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bhopal: The state cabinet, headed by chief minister Mohan Yadav, on Tuesday approved opening 254 new fertiliser sale centres for the kharif and rabi crops through 2024-25 to deal with the demand for fertilisers from farmers.

The cabinet decided that the state govt will reimburse the estimated expenditure on human resources up to a maximum limit of Rs 1.72 crore for setting up the 254 new fertiliser sales centres.

The council of ministers decided to decommission four units of the Satpura Thermal Power House, Sarni, under the MP Power Generating Company Limited. Explaining the decision, Deputy CM Rajendra Shukla said, "Two power units of 210 and 200 MWs totalling 420 MWs and two more of 210 MW each totalling 420 MW will be decommissioned. These units have been operating for more than 40 years and have completed their de-



State cabinet meeting headed by chief minister Mohan Yadav on Tuesday

signed life. Hence, the cabinet has approved the decommissioning of these units," Shukla said.

Disposal of these decommissioned units will be done by e-auction. Replacing these units will be a 660 MW ultra-supercritical unit, which is known for its efficiency in thermal power production, the Deputy CM said.

A feasibility study will be conducted by MP Power Generating Company Limited for setting up this new ultra-supercritical unit.

In another important decision, the council of ministers approved increasing the maximum age for the ap-

pointment of assistant professors for medical colleges from 40 years to 50 years. Rajendra Shukla argued, "There are multiple new medical colleges being opened in the state, and there is a requirement for more faculty members for these institutions. Keeping in mind the shortage of medical teaching staff, the decision has been taken to hike the maximum age for the appointment of assistant professors."

The cabinet on Tuesday decided to revive the previously dissolved MP Paramedical Council Act 2000 since the Centre's rules for conducting paramedical courses

and examinations are still pending before the National Commission for Allied and Healthcare Professionals. Deputy Chief Minister Rajendra Shukla argued that the amendments in the paramedical courses and examinations have not been specified yet, so the state has decided to revive its old rules and re-appoint the state Paramedical Council so courses can be conducted, and examinations held.

Once the National Commission sends its new set of rules, the state Paramedical Council Act will automatically cease to exist.

In yet another decision, the cabinet gave approval to the project for computerisation of the offices of the Registrar of Cooperative Societies under the centrally sponsored project "Strengthening of Cooperatives through IT Interventions" implemented by the Union Ministry of Cooperation. This will cost Rs 3.68 crore, of which 60% will be borne by the Centre and 40% by the state.

Now, K'taka rejects Punjab's substandard rice

2 weeks ago, samples to Arunachal Pradesh found to be of poor quality

RUCHIKA M KHANNA

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, NOVEMBER 6

In a big blow to Punjab, samples of rice grown and sent from the state to Karnataka have been found to be 'Beyond Rejection Limit' and thus unfit for human consumption.

This is the second case of rejection of rice grown in the state after it was sent to a recipient state for public distribution. Two weeks ago, samples of rice sent to Arunachal Pradesh were found to be of poor quality and unfit for human consumption.

As many as 26 samples of fortified rice were collected by teams sent by Ministry of



Over 7,000 bags were sent from Nabha to Hubballi. REPRESENTATIONAL PIC

Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution from storage depots and fair price shops in Hubballi (Karnataka).

Of these, four samples have been declared 'Beyond Rejection Limit'. The min-

istry had asked for these stacks — from which the (rejected) samples were taken — to be replaced.

While 7,304 bags (3,568.837 quintals) were sent from Nabha to Hubballi, 2,995 bags

(1,484.929 quintals) were sent from Bhogpur in Jalandhar district. Officials in Food Corporation of India (FCI) at Patiala and Jalandhar divisions have also been informed about it and asked to replace the stacks of rice whose samples were rejected because of high damage to grains.

This rejection of rice grown and procured from Punjab has raised the hackles of rice-shelling unit owners and farmers in the state, who smella "conspiracy in the sudden rejection of Punjab rice".

Rajinder Singh Deepsingh-wala, vice-president of Kirti Kisan Union, said he feared that the rice samples from

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

Address:

207, Prakash Deep Building, 7 Tolstoy Marg, New Delhi-
110001

Contact Us: 011-43065365 | Email Us: info@acfiindia.com
Visit Us: www.acfiindia.com

DISCLAIMER

The report is prepared using information of a general nature and is not intended to address the circumstances of any particular individual or entity. The report has been prepared from various public sources and the information received from these sources is believed to be reliable. The information available in the report is selective and subject to up-gradation, revision and amendment. While the information provided herein is believed to be accurate and reliable, Agro Chem Federation of India does not make any representations or warranties, expressed or implied, as to the accuracy of completeness of such information and data available in the public domain.