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ਟਿਕਾਊ, ਸੁਰੱਖਿਅਤ ਅਤੇ ਵਿਗਿਆਨਕ ਖੇਤੀ ਦੇ ਤਰੀਕਿਆਂ ਨੂੰ ਉਤਸ਼ਾਹਿਤ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ ਜਾਗਰੂਕਤਾ ਪ੍ਰੋਗਰਾਮ ਆਯੋਜਿਤ

ਪਟਿਆਲਾ, (ਪੈਗ਼ਾਮ-ਏ-ਜਗਤ) ਟਿਕਾਊ, ਸੁਰੱਖਿਅਤ ਅਤੇ ਵਿਗਿਆਨਕ ਖੇਤੀ ਦੇ ਤਰੀਕਿਆਂ ਨੂੰ ਉਤਸ਼ਾਹਿਤ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ ਐਗਰੋਕੈਮੀਕਲ ਉਦਯੋਗ ਅਤੇ ਇਸਦੇ ਡੀਲਰ ਨੈੱਟਵਰਕ ਵਿਚਕਾਰ ਸਹਿਯੋਗ ਨੂੰ ਮਜ਼ਬੂਤ ਕਰਨ ਦੇ ਮਕਸਦ ਨਾਲ, ਐਗਰੋਕੈਮੀਕਲ ਉਦਯੋਗ ਐਨਜੀਓ 'ਐਗਰੋ ਕੈਮੀਕਲ ਫੈਡਰੇਸ਼ਨ ਆਫ਼ ਇੰਡੀਆ' (ਏਸੀਐਫਆਈ) ਨੇ ਬੁੱਧਵਾਰ ਨੂੰ ਪਟਿਆਲਾ ਵਿਖੇ ਖੇਤੀਬਾੜੀ ਮਾਹਰਾਂ, ਡੀਲਰਾਂ ਅਤੇ ਡਿਸਟ੍ਰੀਬਿਊਟਰਾਂ ਲਈ ਇੱਕ ਜਾਗਰੂਕਤਾ ਅਤੇ ਵਿਚਾਰ-ਵਟਾਂਦਰਾ ਪ੍ਰੋਗਰਾਮ ਆਯੋਜਿਤ ਕੀਤਾ। ਇਸ ਮੌਕੇ ਖੇਤੀਬਾੜੀ ਮਾਹਰਾਂ ਨੇ ਜ਼ਿੰਮੇਵਾਰ ਉਤਪਾਦ ਵਰਤੋਂ, ਕਿਸਾਨਾਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਜਾਗਰੂਕਤਾ ਦੀ ਲੋੜ, ਉਦਯੋਗ ਅਤੇ ਵੰਡਕਾਰਾਂ ਦੀਆਂ ਸਾਂਝੀਆਂ ਦੇਖਭਾਲ ਪਹਿਲਕਦਮੀਆਂ, ਅਤੇ ਬਦਲਦੇ ਨਿਯਮਾਂ ਦੇ ਮਾਪਦੰਡਾਂ ਦੇ ਵਿਚਕਾਰ ਸੁਰੱਖਿਅਤ ਖੇਤੀ ਦੇ ਤਰੀਕਿਆਂ ਨਾਲ ਜੁੜੇ ਮੁੱਦਿਆਂ 'ਤੇ ਚਰਚਾ ਕੀਤੀ। ਉਹਨਾਂ ਨੇ ਭਾਰਤੀ ਖੇਤੀਬਾੜੀ ਅਤੇ ਕਿਸਾਨਾਂ ਦੀ ਭਲਾਈ ਦਾ ਸਮਰਥਨ ਕਰਦੇ ਹੋਏ ਐਗਰੋਕੈਮੀਕਲਜ਼ ਦੀ ਸੁਰੱਖਿਅਤ, ਵਿਗਿਆਨਕ ਅਤੇ ਜ਼ਿੰਮੇਵਾਰ ਵਰਤੋਂ ਨੂੰ ਉਤਸ਼ਾਹਿਤ ਕਰਨ ਵਿੱਚ ਵਧੇਰੇ ਪ੍ਰਭਾਵਸ਼ਾਲੀ ਭੂਮਿਕਾ ਨਿਭਾਉਣ ਦਾ ਸੰਕਲਪ ਲਿਆ।

ਪ੍ਰੋਗਰਾਮ ਦੌਰਾਨ ਬੋਲਦਿਆਂ, ਖੇਤੀਬਾੜੀ ਵਿਭਾਗ, ਪਟਿਆਲਾ ਦੇ ਮੁੱਖ ਖੇਤੀਬਾੜੀ ਅਫਸਰ ਡਾ. ਦਾਰਾ ਸਿੰਘ ਨੇ ਕਿਹਾ ਕਿ ਸਰਕਾਰ ਟਿਕਾਊ ਖੇਤੀਬਾੜੀ ਦੇ ਤਰੀਕਿਆਂ ਦੇ ਅਨੁਕੂਲ ਫ਼ਸਲ ਸੁਰੱਖਿਆ ਉਤਪਾਦਾਂ ਦੀ ਸੁਰੱਖਿਅਤ ਅਤੇ ਸਮਝਦਾਰੀ ਨਾਲ ਵਰਤੋਂ ਬਾਰੇ ਵਧੇਰੇ ਜਾਗਰੂਕਤਾ ਨੂੰ ਉਤਸ਼ਾਹਿਤ ਕਰਨ ਦੇ ਉਦਯੋਗ ਦੇ ਯਤਨਾਂ ਦਾ ਸਵਾਗਤ ਕਰਦੀ ਹੈ।

ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਇਸ ਗੱਲ 'ਤੇ ਵੀ ਜ਼ੋਰ ਦਿੱਤਾ ਕਿ ਡੀਲਰਾਂ ਅਤੇ ਵੰਡਕਾਰਾਂ ਦੀ ਕੈਪੇਸਿਟੀ ਬਿਲਡਿੰਗ ਜ਼ਰੂਰੀ ਹੈ, ਕਿਉਂਕਿ ਉਹ ਅਕਸਰ ਕਿਸਾਨਾਂ ਲਈ ਤਕਨੀਕੀ ਮਾਰਗਦਰਸ਼ਨ ਦਾ ਪਹਿਲਾ ਸਰੋਤ ਹੁੰਦੇ ਹਨ। ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਕਿਹਾ ਕਿ ਜ਼ਿੰਮੇਵਾਰ ਸਲਾਹ-ਮਸ਼ਵਰੇ ਨੂੰ ਉਤਸ਼ਾਹਿਤ ਕਰਕੇ, ਨਕਲੀ ਉਤਪਾਦਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਰੋਕ ਕੇ ਅਤੇ ਨਿਯਮਾਂ ਦੇ ਦਿਸ਼ਾ-ਨਿਰਦੇਸ਼ਾਂ ਦੀ ਪਾਲਣਾ ਨੂੰ ਉਤਸ਼ਾਹਿਤ ਕਰਕੇ, ਅਜਿਹੀਆਂ ਪਹਿਲਕਦਮੀਆਂ ਮਨੁੱਖੀ ਸਿਹਤ ਅਤੇ ਵਾਤਾਵਰਣ ਦੀ ਰੱਖਿਆ ਕਰਦੇ ਹੋਏ ਖੇਤੀ ਦੇ ਬਿਹਤਰ ਨਤੀਜਿਆਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਯੋਗਦਾਨ ਪਾਉਂਦੀਆਂ ਹਨ।

ਏਸੀਐਫਆਈ ਦੇ ਡਾਇਰੈਕਟਰ ਜਨਰਲ, ਕਲਿਆਣ ਗੋਸਵਾਮੀ ਨੇ ਕਿਹਾ ਕਿ ਇਹ ਸਮਾਗਮ ਜ਼ਿੰਮੇਵਾਰ ਸਲਾਹ-ਮਸ਼ਵਰੇ ਦੇ ਤਰੀਕਿਆਂ ਰਾਹੀਂ ਕਿਸਾਨਾਂ ਦਾ ਵਿਸ਼ਵਾਸ ਬਣਾਉਣ, ਕੀਟਨਾਸ਼ਕਾਂ ਦੀ ਵਰਤੋਂ ਨਾਲ ਜੁੜੀਆਂ ਭਰਮ-ਭੁਲੇਖਿਆਂ/ਗਲਤ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀਆਂ ਨੂੰ ਦੂਰ ਕਰਨ, ਉਦਯੋਗ ਅਤੇ ਵੰਡ ਨੈੱਟਵਰਕ ਵਿਚਕਾਰ ਤਾਲਮੇਲ ਨੂੰ ਮਜ਼ਬੂਤ ਕਰਨ ਅਤੇ ਜ਼ਮੀਨੀ ਪੱਧਰ 'ਤੇ ਕਿਸਾਨ ਸਿੱਖਿਆ ਵਿੱਚ ਸੁਧਾਰ ਕਰਨ 'ਤੇ ਕੇਂਦਰਿਤ ਸੀ। ਗੋਸਵਾਮੀ ਨੇ ਜ਼ੋਰ ਦੇ ਕੇ ਕਿਹਾ ਕਿ ਲੰਬੇ ਸਮੇਂ ਦੀ ਖੇਤੀਬਾੜੀ ਸਥਿਰਤਾ ਦਾ ਸਮਰਥਨ ਕਰਨ, ਸੁਰੱਖਿਅਤ ਵਰਤੋਂ ਦੇ ਤਰੀਕਿਆਂ ਬਾਰੇ ਜਾਗਰੂਕਤਾ ਵਧਾਉਣ ਅਤੇ ਉੱਭਰ ਰਹੇ ਨਿਯਮਤ ਢਾਂਚੇ ਦੀ ਪਾਲਣਾ ਨੂੰ ਮਜ਼ਬੂਤ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ ਮਜ਼ਬੂਤ ਸਹਿਯੋਗ ਬਹੁਤ ਮਹੱਤਵਪੂਰਨ ਹੋ ਗਿਆ ਹੈ।

ਖੇਤੀ ਦੇ ਟਿਕਾਊ ਤਰੀਕਿਆਂ ਨੂੰ ਉਤਸ਼ਾਹਿਤ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ ਜਾਗਰੂਕਤਾ ਪ੍ਰੋਗਰਾਮ ਆਯੋਜਤ

ਲੁਧਿਆਣਾ, 1 ਅਗੱਸਤ (ਪਰਮਜੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਮਠਾੜੂ) : ਟਿਕਾਊ, ਸੁਰੱਖਿਅਤ ਅਤੇ ਵਿਗਿਆਨਕ ਖੇਤੀ ਪ੍ਰਣਾਲੀਆਂ ਨੂੰ ਉਤਸ਼ਾਹਿਤ ਕਰਨ ਦੇ ਉਦੇਸ਼ ਨਾਲ ਐਗਰੋ ਕੈਮੀਕਲ ਫੈਡਰੇਸ਼ਨ ਆਫ਼ ਇੰਡੀਆ (ਏਸੀਐਫਆਈ) ਵੱਲੋਂ ਇੱਕ ਜਾਗਰੂਕਤਾ ਅਤੇ ਵਿਚਾਰ-ਵਟਾਂਦਰਾ ਪ੍ਰੋਗਰਾਮ ਕਰਵਾਇਆ ਗਿਆ। ਇਸ ਪ੍ਰੋਗਰਾਮ ਵਿੱਚ ਖੇਤੀਬਾੜੀ ਮਾਹਿਰਾਂ, ਅਧਿਕਾਰੀਆਂ ਅਤੇ ਉਦਯੋਗ ਨਾਲ ਜੁੜੇ ਨੁਮਾਇੰਦਿਆਂ ਨੇ ਸ਼ਮੂਲੀਅਤ ਕਰਕੇ ਸੁਰੱਖਿਅਤ ਖੇਤੀ ਤਰੀਕਿਆਂ ਸਬੰਧੀ ਆਪਣੇ ਵਿਚਾਰ ਸਾਂਝੇ ਕੀਤੇ। ਪ੍ਰੋਗਰਾਮ ਦੌਰਾਨ ਜ਼ਿੰਮੇਵਾਰ ਢੰਗ ਨਾਲ ਫ਼ਸਲ ਸੁਰੱਖਿਆ ਉਤਪਾਦਾਂ ਦੀ ਵਰਤੋਂ, ਕਿਸਾਨਾਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਜਾਗਰੂਕਤਾ ਵਧਾਉਣ, ਉਦਯੋਗ ਅਤੇ ਡੀਲਰਾਂ ਦੀ ਸਾਂਝੀ ਭੂਮਿਕਾ ਅਤੇ ਬਦਲਦੇ ਨਿਯਮਾਂ ਅਨੁਸਾਰ ਸੁਰੱਖਿਅਤ ਖੇਤੀ ਦੇ ਅਮਲਾਂ ਬਾਰੇ ਵਿਸਥਾਰ ਨਾਲ ਚਰਚਾ ਕੀਤੀ ਗਈ। ਇਸ ਮੌਕੇ ਮੁੱਖ ਖੇਤੀਬਾੜੀ ਅਫ਼ਸਰ ਡਾ. ਦਾਰਾ ਸਿੰਘ ਨੇ ਕਿਹਾ ਕਿ ਸਰਕਾਰ ਟਿਕਾਊ ਖੇਤੀਬਾੜੀ ਦੇ ਤਰੀਕਿਆਂ ਨੂੰ ਅਪਣਾਉਣ ਅਤੇ ਫ਼ਸਲ ਸੁਰੱਖਿਆ ਉਤਪਾਦਾਂ ਦੀ ਸੁਰੱਖਿਅਤ ਤੇ ਸਮਝਦਾਰੀ ਨਾਲ ਵਰਤੋਂ ਸਬੰਧੀ ਜਾਗਰੂਕਤਾ ਫੈਲਾਉਣ ਲਈ ਉਦਯੋਗ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਕੀਤੇ ਜਾ ਰਹੇ ਯਤਨਾਂ ਦਾ ਸਵਾਗਤ ਕਰਦੀ ਹੈ। ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਕਿਹਾ ਕਿ ਡੀਲਰਾਂ ਅਤੇ ਵੰਡਕਾਰਾਂ ਦੀ ਸਮਰੱਥਾ ਵਧਾਉਣਾ ਬਹੁਤ ਜ਼ਰੂਰੀ ਹੈ, ਕਿਉਂਕਿ ਉਹ ਕਿਸਾਨਾਂ ਲਈ ਤਕਨੀਕੀ ਸਲਾਹ ਦਾ ਪਹਿਲਾ ਸਰੋਤ ਹੁੰਦੇ ਹਨ। ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਨੇ ਜ਼ੋਰ ਦਿੱਤਾ ਕਿ ਜ਼ਿੰਮੇਵਾਰ ਸਲਾਹ-ਮਸ਼ਵਰਾ, ਨਕਲੀ ਉਤਪਾਦਾਂ 'ਤੇ ਰੋਕ ਅਤੇ ਨਿਯਮਾਂ ਦੀ ਪਾਲਣਾ ਨੂੰ ਯਕੀਨੀ ਬਣਾਉਣ ਨਾਲ ਨਾ ਸਿਰਫ਼ ਖੇਤੀ ਉਤਪਾਦਕਤਾ ਵਿੱਚ ਸੁਧਾਰ ਹੋਵੇਗਾ, ਸਗੋਂ ਮਨੁੱਖੀ ਸਿਹਤ ਅਤੇ ਵਾਤਾਵਰਣ ਦੀ ਸੁਰੱਖਿਆ ਵੀ ਯਕੀਨੀ ਬਣੇਗੀ। ਏਸੀਐਫਆਈ ਦੇ ਡਾਇਰੈਕਟਰ ਜਨਰਲ ਕਲਿਆਣ ਗੋਸਵਾਮੀ ਨੇ ਕਿਹਾ ਕਿ ਇਸ ਪ੍ਰੋਗਰਾਮ ਦਾ ਮੁੱਖ ਉਦੇਸ਼ ਜ਼ਿੰਮੇਵਾਰ ਸਲਾਹ-ਮਸ਼ਵਰੇ ਰਾਹੀਂ ਕਿਸਾਨਾਂ ਦਾ ਭਰੋਸਾ ਮਜ਼ਬੂਤ ਕਰਨਾ, ਕੀਟਨਾਸ਼ਕਾਂ ਬਾਰੇ ਫੈਲੀਆਂ ਗਲਤ ਧਾਰਨਾਵਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਦੂਰ ਕਰਨਾ, ਉਦਯੋਗ ਅਤੇ ਵੰਡ ਨੈੱਟਵਰਕ ਵਿਚਕਾਰ ਤਾਲਮੇਲ ਨੂੰ ਮਜ਼ਬੂਤ ਬਣਾਉਣਾ ਅਤੇ ਜ਼ਮੀਨੀ ਪੱਧਰ 'ਤੇ ਕਿਸਾਨ ਸਿੱਖਿਆ ਨੂੰ ਹੋਰ ਪ੍ਰਭਾਵਸ਼ਾਲੀ ਬਣਾਉਣਾ ਹੈ। ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਕਿਹਾ ਕਿ ਲੰਬੇ ਸਮੇਂ ਲਈ ਖੇਤੀਬਾੜੀ ਦੀ ਸਥਿਰਤਾ, ਸੁਰੱਖਿਅਤ ਵਰਤੋਂ ਦੇ ਤਰੀਕਿਆਂ ਬਾਰੇ ਜਾਗਰੂਕਤਾ ਅਤੇ ਉੱਭਰ ਰਹੇ ਨਿਯਮਤ ਢਾਂਚੇ ਦੀ ਪ੍ਰਭਾਵਸ਼ਾਲੀ ਪਾਲਣਾ ਨੂੰ ਯਕੀਨੀ ਬਣਾਉਣ ਲਈ ਸਰਕਾਰ, ਉਦਯੋਗ ਅਤੇ ਵੰਡਕਾਰਾਂ ਵਿਚਕਾਰ ਮਜ਼ਬੂਤ ਸਹਿਯੋਗ ਸਮੇਂ ਦੀ ਮੁੱਖ ਲੋੜ ਹੈ।

ਖੇਤੀ ਦੇ ਤਰੀਕਿਆਂ ਨੂੰ ਮਜ਼ਬੂਤ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ ਜਾਗਰੂਕਤਾ ਪ੍ਰੋਗਰਾਮ ਆਯੋਜਿਤ

ਸਰਬਜੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਖਾਲਸਾ
ਲੁਧਿਆਣਾ, ੩੧ ਜੁਲਾਈ

ਜੁਝਾਰ ਟਾਈਮਜ਼

ਟਿਕਾਊ, ਸੁਰੱਖਿਅਤ ਅਤੇ ਵਿਗਿਆਨਕ ਖੇਤੀ ਦੇ ਤਰੀਕਿਆਂ ਨੂੰ ਮਜ਼ਬੂਤ ਕਰਨ ਦੇ ਮਕਸਦ ਨਾਲ, ਐਨਜੀਓ , ਐਗਰੋ ਕੈਮੀਕਲ ਫੈਡਰੇਸ਼ਨ ਆਫ਼ ਇੰਡੀਆ (ਏਸੀਐਫਆਈ) ਨੇ ਇੱਕ ਜਾਗਰੂਕਤਾ ਅਤੇ ਵਿਚਾਰ-ਵਟਾਂਦਰਾ ਪ੍ਰੋਗਰਾਮ ਆਯੋਜਿਤ ਕੀਤਾ।ਇਸ ਮੌਕੇ ਖੇਤੀਬਾੜੀ ਮਾਹਰਾਂ ਨੇ ਜ਼ਿੰਮੇਵਾਰ ਉਤਪਾਦ ਵਰਤੋਂ, ਕਿਸਾਨਾਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਜਾਗਰੂਕਤਾ ਦੀ ਲੋੜ, ਉਦਯੋਗ ਅਤੇ ਵੰਡਕਾਰਾਂ ਦੀਆਂ ਸਾਂਝੀਆਂ ਦੇਖਭਾਲ ਪਹਿਲਕਦਮੀਆਂ, ਅਤੇ ਬਦਲਦੇ ਨਿਯਮਾਂ ਦੇ ਮਾਪਦੰਡਾਂ ਦੇ ਵਿਚਕਾਰ ਸੁਰੱਖਿਅਤ ਖੇਤੀ ਦੇ ਤਰੀਕਿਆਂ ਨਾਲ ਜੁੜੇ ਮੁੱਦਿਆਂ 'ਤੇ ਚਰਚਾ ਕੀਤੀ।ਪ੍ਰੋਗਰਾਮ ਦੌਰਾਨ ਬੋਲਦਿਆਂ, ਖੇਤੀਬਾੜੀ ਵਿਭਾਗ ਦੇ ਮੁੱਖ ਖੇਤੀਬਾੜੀ ਅਫ਼ਸਰ ਡਾ. ਦਾਰਾ ਸਿੰਘ ਨੇ ਕਿਹਾ ਕਿ ਸਰਕਾਰ ਟਿਕਾਊ ਖੇਤੀਬਾੜੀ ਦੇ ਤਰੀਕਿਆਂ ਦੇ ਅਨੁਕੂਲ ਫ਼ਸਲ ਸੁਰੱਖਿਆ ਉਤਪਾਦਾਂ ਦੀ ਸੁਰੱਖਿਅਤ ਅਤੇ ਸਮਝਦਾਰੀ ਨਾਲ ਵਰਤੋਂ ਬਾਰੇ ਵਧੇਰੇ ਜਾਗਰੂਕਤਾ ਨੂੰ ਉਤਸ਼ਾਹਿਤ ਕਰਨ ਦੇ ਉਦਯੋਗ ਦੇ ਯਤਨਾਂ ਦਾ ਸਵਾਗਤ ਕਰਦੀ ਹੈ।ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਇਸ ਗੱਲ 'ਤੇ ਵੀ ਜ਼ੋਰ ਦਿੱਤਾ ਕਿ ਡੀਲਰਾਂ ਅਤੇ ਵੰਡਕਾਰਾਂ ਦੀ ਕੈਪੇਸਿਟੀ ਬਿਲਡਿੰਗ ਜ਼ਰੂਰੀ ਹੈ, ਕਿਉਂਕਿ ਉਹ ਅਕਸਰ ਕਿਸਾਨਾਂ ਲਈ ਤਕਨੀਕੀ ਮਾਰਗਦਰਸ਼ਨ ਦਾ ਪਹਿਲਾ ਸਰੋਤ ਹੁੰਦੇ ਹਨ। ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਕਿਹਾ ਕਿ ਜ਼ਿੰਮੇਵਾਰ ਸਲਾਹ-ਮਸ਼ਵਰੇ ਨੂੰ ਉਤਸ਼ਾਹਿਤ ਕਰਕੇ, ਨਕਲੀ ਉਤਪਾਦਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਰੋਕ ਕੇ ਅਤੇ ਨਿਯਮਾਂ ਦੇ ਦਿਸ਼ਾ-ਨਿਰਦੇਸ਼ਾਂ ਦੀ ਪਾਲਣਾ ਨੂੰ ਉਤਸ਼ਾਹਿਤ ਕਰਕੇ, ਅਜਿਹੀਆਂ ਪਹਿਲਕਦਮੀਆਂ ਮਨੁੱਖੀ ਸਿਹਤ ਅਤੇ ਵਾਤਾਵਰਣ ਦੀ ਰੱਖਿਆ ਕਰਦੇ ਹੋਏ ਖੇਤੀ ਦੇ ਬਿਹਤਰ ਨਤੀਜਿਆਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਯੋਗਦਾਨ ਪਾਉਂਦੀਆਂ ਹਨ।ਏਸੀਐਫਆਈ ਦੇ ਡਾਇਰੈਕਟਰ ਜਨਰਲ, ਕਲਿਆਣ ਗੋਸਵਾਮੀ ਨੇ ਕਿਹਾ ਕਿ ਇਹ ਸਮਾਗਮ ਜ਼ਿੰਮੇਵਾਰ ਸਲਾਹ-ਮਸ਼ਵਰੇ ਦੇ ਤਰੀਕਿਆਂ ਰਾਹੀਂ ਕਿਸਾਨਾਂ ਦਾ ਵਿਸ਼ਵਾਸ ਬਣਾਉਣ, ਕੀਟਨਾਸ਼ਕਾਂ ਦੀ ਵਰਤੋਂ ਨਾਲ ਜੁੜੀਆਂ ਭਰਮ-ਭੁਲੇਖਿਆਂ/ਗਲਤ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀਆਂ ਨੂੰ ਦੂਰ ਕਰਨ, ਉਦਯੋਗ ਅਤੇ ਵੰਡ ਨੈੱਟਵਰਕ ਵਿਚਕਾਰ ਤਾਲਮੇਲ ਨੂੰ ਮਜ਼ਬੂਤ ਕਰਨ ਅਤੇ ਜ਼ਮੀਨੀ ਪੱਧਰ 'ਤੇ ਕਿਸਾਨ ਸਿੱਖਿਆ ਵਿੱਚ ਸੁਧਾਰ ਕਰਨ 'ਤੇ ਕੇਂਦਰਿਤ ਸੀ।ਗੋਸਵਾਮੀ ਨੇ ਕਿਹਾ ਕਿ ਲੰਬੇ ਸਮੇਂ ਦੀ ਖੇਤੀਬਾੜੀ ਸਥਿਰਤਾ ਦਾ ਸਮਰਥਨ ਕਰਨ, ਸੁਰੱਖਿਅਤ ਵਰਤੋਂ ਦੇ ਤਰੀਕਿਆਂ ਬਾਰੇ ਜਾਗਰੂਕਤਾ ਵਧਾਉਣ ਅਤੇ ਉੱਭਰ ਰਹੇ ਨਿਯਮਤ ਢਾਂਚੇ ਦੀ ਪਾਲਣਾ ਨੂੰ ਮਜ਼ਬੂਤ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ ਮਜ਼ਬੂਤ ਸਹਿਯੋਗ ਬਹੁਤ ਮਹੱਤਵਪੂਰਨ ਹੋ ਗਿਆ ਹੈ।

ਖੇਤੀ ਦੇ ਤਰੀਕਿਆਂ ਨੂੰ ਮਜ਼ਬੂਤ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ ਜਾਗਰੂਕਤਾ ਪ੍ਰੋਗਰਾਮ ਆਯੋਜਿਤ

ਲੁਧਿਆਣਾ, 31 ਜੁਲਾਈ
(ਪੈਗ਼ਾਮ-ਏ-ਜਗਤ)

ਟਿਕਾਊ, ਸੁਰੱਖਿਅਤ ਅਤੇ ਵਿਗਿਆਨਕ ਖੇਤੀ ਦੇ ਤਰੀਕਿਆਂ ਨੂੰ ਮਜ਼ਬੂਤ ਕਰਨ ਦੇ ਮਕਸਦ ਨਾਲ, ਐਨਜੀਓ , ਐਗਰੋ ਕੈਮੀਕਲ ਫੈਡਰੇਸ਼ਨ ਆਫ਼ ਇੰਡੀਆ (ਏਸੀਐਫਆਈ) ਨੇ ਇੱਕ ਜਾਗਰੂਕਤਾ ਅਤੇ ਵਿਚਾਰ-ਵਟਾਂਦਰਾ ਪ੍ਰੋਗਰਾਮ ਆਯੋਜਿਤ ਕੀਤਾ। ਇਸ ਮੌਕੇ ਖੇਤੀਬਾੜੀ ਮਾਹਰਾਂ ਨੇ ਜ਼ਿੰਮੇਵਾਰ ਉਤਪਾਦ ਵਰਤੋਂ, ਕਿਸਾਨਾਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਜਾਗਰੂਕਤਾ ਦੀ ਲੋੜ, ਉਦਯੋਗ ਅਤੇ ਵੰਡਕਾਰਾਂ ਦੀਆਂ ਸਾਂਝੀਆਂ ਦੇਖਭਾਲ ਪਹਿਲਕਦਮੀਆਂ, ਅਤੇ ਬਦਲਦੇ ਨਿਯਮਾਂ ਦੇ ਮਾਪਦੰਡਾਂ ਦੇ ਵਿਚਕਾਰ ਸੁਰੱਖਿਅਤ ਖੇਤੀ ਦੇ ਤਰੀਕਿਆਂ ਨਾਲ ਜੁੜੇ ਮੁੱਦਿਆਂ 'ਤੇ ਚਰਚਾ ਕੀਤੀ। ਪ੍ਰੋਗਰਾਮ ਦੌਰਾਨ ਬੋਲਦਿਆਂ, ਖੇਤੀਬਾੜੀ ਵਿਭਾਗ ਦੇ ਮੁੱਖ ਖੇਤੀਬਾੜੀ ਅਫ਼ਸਰ ਡਾ. ਦਾਰਾ ਸਿੰਘ ਨੇ ਕਿਹਾ ਕਿ ਸਰਕਾਰ ਟਿਕਾਊ ਖੇਤੀਬਾੜੀ ਦੇ ਤਰੀਕਿਆਂ ਦੇ ਅਨੁਕੂਲ ਫ਼ਸਲ ਸੁਰੱਖਿਆ ਉਤਪਾਦਾਂ ਦੀ ਸੁਰੱਖਿਅਤ ਅਤੇ ਸਮਝਦਾਰੀ ਨਾਲ ਵਰਤੋਂ ਬਾਰੇ ਵਧੇਰੇ ਜਾਗਰੂਕਤਾ ਨੂੰ ਉਤਸ਼ਾਹਿਤ ਕਰਨ ਦੇ ਉਦਯੋਗ ਦੇ ਯਤਨਾਂ ਦਾ ਸਵਾਗਤ ਕਰਦੀ ਹੈ।

ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਇਸ ਗੱਲ 'ਤੇ ਵੀ ਜ਼ੋਰ ਦਿੱਤਾ ਕਿ ਡੀਲਰਾਂ ਅਤੇ ਵੰਡਕਾਰਾਂ ਦੀ ਕੈਪੇਸਿਟੀ ਬਿਲਡਿੰਗ ਜ਼ਰੂਰੀ ਹੈ, ਕਿਉਂਕਿ ਉਹ ਅਕਸਰ ਕਿਸਾਨਾਂ ਲਈ ਤਕਨੀਕੀ ਮਾਰਗਦਰਸ਼ਨ ਦਾ ਪਹਿਲਾ ਸਰੋਤ ਹੁੰਦੇ ਹਨ। ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਕਿਹਾ ਕਿ ਜ਼ਿੰਮੇਵਾਰ ਸਲਾਹ-ਮਸ਼ਵਰੇ ਨੂੰ ਉਤਸ਼ਾਹਿਤ ਕਰਕੇ, ਨਕਲੀ ਉਤਪਾਦਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਰੋਕ ਕੇ ਅਤੇ ਨਿਯਮਾਂ ਦੇ ਦਿਸ਼ਾ-ਨਿਰਦੇਸ਼ਾਂ ਦੀ ਪਾਲਣਾ ਨੂੰ ਉਤਸ਼ਾਹਿਤ ਕਰਕੇ, ਅਜਿਹੀਆਂ ਪਹਿਲਕਦਮੀਆਂ ਮਨੁੱਖੀ ਸਿਹਤ ਅਤੇ ਵਾਤਾਵਰਣ ਦੀ ਰੱਖਿਆ ਕਰਦੇ ਹੋਏ ਖੇਤੀ ਦੇ ਬਿਹਤਰ ਨਤੀਜਿਆਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਯੋਗਦਾਨ ਪਾਉਂਦੀਆਂ ਹਨ।

ਏਸੀਐਫਆਈ ਦੇ ਡਾਇਰੈਕਟਰ ਜਨਰਲ, ਕਲਿਆਣ ਗੋਸਵਾਮੀ ਨੇ ਕਿਹਾ ਕਿ ਇਹ ਸਮਾਗਮ ਜ਼ਿੰਮੇਵਾਰ ਸਲਾਹ-ਮਸ਼ਵਰੇ ਦੇ ਤਰੀਕਿਆਂ ਰਾਹੀਂ ਕਿਸਾਨਾਂ ਦਾ ਵਿਸ਼ਵਾਸ ਬਣਾਉਣ, ਕੀਟਨਾਸ਼ਕਾਂ ਦੀ ਵਰਤੋਂ ਨਾਲ ਜੁੜੀਆਂ ਭਰਮ-ਭੁਲੇਖਿਆਂ/ਗਲਤ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀਆਂ ਨੂੰ ਦੂਰ ਕਰਨ, ਉਦਯੋਗ ਅਤੇ ਵੰਡ ਨੈੱਟਵਰਕ ਵਿਚਕਾਰ ਤਾਲਮੇਲ ਨੂੰ ਮਜ਼ਬੂਤ ਕਰਨ ਅਤੇ ਜ਼ਮੀਨੀ ਪੱਧਰ 'ਤੇ ਕਿਸਾਨ ਸਿੱਖਿਆ ਵਿੱਚ ਸੁਧਾਰ ਕਰਨ 'ਤੇ ਕੇਂਦਰਿਤ ਸੀ।

ਗੋਸਵਾਮੀ ਨੇ ਕਿਹਾ ਕਿ ਲੰਬੇ ਸਮੇਂ ਦੀ ਖੇਤੀਬਾੜੀ ਸਥਿਰਤਾ ਦਾ ਸਮਰਥਨ ਕਰਨ, ਸੁਰੱਖਿਅਤ ਵਰਤੋਂ ਦੇ ਤਰੀਕਿਆਂ ਬਾਰੇ ਜਾਗਰੂਕਤਾ ਵਧਾਉਣ ਅਤੇ ਉਭਰ ਰਹੇ ਨਿਯਮਤ ਢਾਂਚੇ ਦੀ ਪਾਲਣਾ ਨੂੰ ਮਜ਼ਬੂਤ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ ਮਜ਼ਬੂਤ ਸਹਿਯੋਗ ਬਹੁਤ ਮਹੱਤਵਪੂਰਨ ਹੋ ਗਿਆ ਹੈ।

कृषि विशेषज्ञों ने जागरूक किए किसान

मोहाली। टिकाऊ, सुरक्षित और वैज्ञानिक खेती के तरीकों को बढ़ावा देने के मकसद से एग्रो केमिकल फेडरेशन ऑफ इंडिया ने एक जागरूकता और चर्चा कार्यक्रम आयोजित किया। इस मौके पर कृषि विशेषज्ञों ने कई मुद्दों पर चर्चा कीए जैसे कि उत्पादों का ज़िम्मेदारी से इस्तेमालए किसानों में जागरूकता की ज़रूरतए इंडस्ट्री और डिस्ट्रीब्यूटर्स की साझा पहल और बदलते नियमों के बीच खेती के सुरक्षित तरीके। कार्यक्रम के दौरान कृषि विभाग के मुख्य कृषि अधिकारी डा. दारा सिंह ने कहा कि सरकार इंडस्ट्री की उन कोशिशों का स्वागत करती है जो टिकाऊ खेती के तरीकों के अनुकूल फसल सुरक्षा उत्पादों के सुरक्षित और सही इस्तेमाल के बारे में जागरूकता बढ़ाती हैं। उन्होंने डीलरों और डिस्ट्रीब्यूटर्स की क्षमता बढ़ाने पर भी ज़ोर दियाए क्योंकि वे अक्सर किसानों के लिए तकनीकी सलाह का पहला ज़रिया होते हैं। उन्होंने कहा कि ज़िम्मेदार सलाह को बढ़ावा देकरए नकली उत्पादों को रोककर और नियमों का पालन करने के लिए प्रोत्साहित करकेए ऐसी पहल इंसानी सेहत और पर्यावरण की रक्षा करते हुए खेती के बेहतर नतीजों में योगदान देती हैं।

ਸੁਰੱਖਿਅਤ ਅਤੇ ਵਿਗਿਆਨਕ ਖੇਤੀ ਦੇ ਤਰੀਕਿਆਂ ਨੂੰ ਉਤਸ਼ਾਹਿਤ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ ਕਰਵਾਇਆ ਜਾਗਰੂਕਤਾ ਪ੍ਰੋਗਰਾਮ

ਪਟਿਆਲਾ, 29 ਜੁਲਾਈ (ਰਾਜੇਸ਼ ਪੰਜੋਲਾ)- ਟਿਕਾਊ, ਸੁਰੱਖਿਅਤ ਅਤੇ ਵਿਗਿਆਨਕ ਖੇਤੀ ਦੇ ਤਰੀਕਿਆਂ ਨੂੰ ਉਤਸ਼ਾਹਿਤ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ ਐਗਰੋਕੈਮੀਕਲ ਉਦਯੋਗ ਅਤੇ ਇਸ ਦੇ ਡੀਲਰ ਨੈੱਟਵਰਕ ਵਿਚਕਾਰ ਸਹਿਯੋਗ ਨੂੰ ਮਜ਼ਬੂਤ ਕਰਨ ਦੇ ਮਕਸਦ ਨਾਲ, ਐਗਰੋਕੈਮੀਕਲ ਉਦਯੋਗ ਐਨ. ਜੀ. ਓ 'ਐਗਰੋ ਕੈਮੀਕਲ ਫੈਡਰੇਸ਼ਨ ਆਫ਼ ਇੰਡੀਆ' (ਏ. ਸੀ. ਐੱਫ. ਆਈ.) ਨੇ ਬੁੱਧਵਾਰ ਨੂੰ ਪਟਿਆਲਾ ਵਿਖੇ ਖੇਤੀਬਾੜੀ ਮਾਹਿਰਾਂ, ਡੀਲਰਾਂ ਅਤੇ ਡਿਸਟ੍ਰੀਬਿਊਟਰਾਂ ਲਈ ਇਕ ਜਾਗਰੂਕਤਾ ਅਤੇ ਵਿਚਾਰ-ਵਟਾਂਦਰਾ ਪ੍ਰੋਗਰਾਮ ਆਯੋਜਿਤ ਕੀਤਾ।

ਇਸ ਮੌਕੇ ਖੇਤੀਬਾੜੀ ਮਾਹਿਰਾਂ ਨੇ ਜ਼ਿੰਮੇਵਾਰ ਉਤਪਾਦ ਵਰਤੋਂ, ਕਿਸਾਨਾਂ 'ਚ ਜਾਗਰੂਕਤਾ ਦੀ ਲੋੜ, ਉਦਯੋਗ ਅਤੇ ਵੰਡਕਾਰਾਂ ਦੀਆਂ ਸਾਂਝੀਆਂ ਦੇਖਭਾਲ ਪਹਿਲਕਦਮੀਆਂ ਅਤੇ ਬਦਲਦੇ ਨਿਯਮਾਂ ਦੇ ਮਾਪਦੰਡਾਂ ਦੇ ਵਿਚਕਾਰ ਸੁਰੱਖਿਅਤ ਖੇਤੀ ਦੇ

ਜਾਗਰੂਕਤਾ ਪ੍ਰੋਗਰਾਮ ਨੂੰ ਸੰਬੋਧਨ ਕਰਦੇ ਏ. ਸੀ. ਐੱਫ. ਆਈ. ਦੇ ਅਹੁਦੇਦਾਰ ਅਤੇ ਹਾਜ਼ਰੀਨ। (ਰੰਜੋਲਾ)

ਤਰੀਕਿਆਂ ਨਾਲ ਜੁੜੇ ਮੁੱਦਿਆਂ 'ਤੇ ਚਰਚਾ ਕੀਤੀ। ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਭਾਰਤੀ ਖੇਤੀਬਾੜੀ ਅਤੇ ਕਿਸਾਨਾਂ ਦੀ ਭਲਾਈ ਦਾ ਸਮਰਥਨ ਕਰਦਿਆਂ ਐਗਰੋ ਕੈਮੀਕਲਜ਼ ਦੀ ਸੁਰੱਖਿਅਤ, ਵਿਗਿਆਨਕ ਅਤੇ ਜ਼ਿੰਮੇਵਾਰ ਵਰਤੋਂ ਨੂੰ ਉਤਸ਼ਾਹਿਤ ਕਰਨ 'ਚ ਵਧੇਰੇ ਪ੍ਰਭਾਵਸ਼ਾਲੀ ਭੂਮਿਕਾ ਨਿਭਾਉਣ ਦਾ ਸੰਕਲਪ ਲਿਆ।

ਪ੍ਰੋਗਰਾਮ ਦੌਰਾਨ ਬੋਲਦਿਆਂ, ਖੇਤੀਬਾੜੀ ਵਿਭਾਗ, ਪਟਿਆਲਾ ਦੇ ਮੁੱਖ ਖੇਤੀਬਾੜੀ ਅਫ਼ਸਰ ਡਾ. ਦਾਰਾ ਸਿੰਘ ਨੇ ਕਿਹਾ ਕਿ ਸਰਕਾਰ ਟਿਕਾਊ ਖੇਤੀਬਾੜੀ ਦੇ ਤਰੀਕਿਆਂ ਦੇ ਅਨੁਕੂਲ ਫਸਲ ਸੁਰੱਖਿਆ ਉਤਪਾਦਾਂ ਦੀ ਸੁਰੱਖਿਅਤ ਅਤੇ ਸਮਝਦਾਰੀ ਨਾਲ ਵਰਤੋਂ ਬਾਰੇ ਵਧੇਰੇ ਜਾਗਰੂਕਤਾ ਨੂੰ ਉਤਸ਼ਾਹਿਤ ਕਰਨ ਦੇ ਉਦਯੋਗ ਦੇ ਯਤਨਾਂ ਦਾ ਸਵਾਗਤ ਕਰਦੀ ਹੈ।

ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਇਸ ਗੱਲ 'ਤੇ ਵੀ ਜ਼ੋਰ ਦਿੱਤਾ ਕਿ ਡੀਲਰਾਂ ਅਤੇ ਵੰਡਕਾਰਾਂ ਦੀ ਕੈਪੇਸਿਟੀ ਬਿਲਡਿੰਗ ਜ਼ਰੂਰੀ ਹੈ ਕਿਉਂਕਿ ਉਹ ਅਕਸਰ ਕਿਸਾਨਾਂ ਲਈ ਤਕਨੀਕੀ ਮਾਰਗਦਰਸ਼ਨ ਦਾ ਪਹਿਲਾ ਸਰੋਤ ਹੁੰਦੇ ਹਨ।

ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਕਿਹਾ ਕਿ ਜ਼ਿੰਮੇਵਾਰ ਸਲਾਹ-ਮਸ਼ਵਰੇ ਨੂੰ ਉਤਸ਼ਾਹਿਤ ਕਰਕੇ, ਨਕਲੀ ਉਤਪਾਦਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਰੋਕ ਕੇ ਅਤੇ ਨਿਯਮਾਂ ਦੇ ਦਿਸ਼ਾ-ਨਿਰਦੇਸ਼ਾਂ ਦੀ ਪਾਲਣਾ ਨੂੰ ਉਤਸ਼ਾਹਿਤ ਕਰ ਕੇ ਅਜਿਹੀਆਂ ਪਹਿਲਕਦਮੀਆਂ ਮਨੁੱਖੀ ਸਿਹਤ ਅਤੇ ਵਾਤਾਵਰਣ ਦੀ ਰੱਖਿਆ ਕਰਦੇ ਹੋਏ ਖੇਤੀ ਦੇ ਬਿਹਤਰ ਨਤੀਜਿਆਂ ਵਿਚ ਯੋਗਦਾਨ ਪਾਉਂਦੀਆਂ ਹਨ।

ਏ. ਸੀ. ਐੱਫ. ਆਈ. ਦੇ ਡਾਇਰੈਕਟਰ ਜਨਰਲ, ਕਲਿਆਣ ਗੋਸਵਾਮੀ ਨੇ ਕਿਹਾ ਕਿ ਇਹ ਸਮਾਗਮ ਜ਼ਿੰਮੇਵਾਰ ਸਲਾਹ ਮਸ਼ਵਰੇ ਦੇ ਤਰੀਕਿਆਂ ਰਾਹੀਂ ਕਿਸਾਨਾਂ ਦਾ ਵਿਸ਼ਵਾਸ ਬਣਾਉਣ, ਕੀਟਨਾਸ਼ਕਾਂ ਦੀ ਵਰਤੋਂ ਨਾਲ ਜੁੜੀਆਂ ਭਰਮ-ਭੁਲੇਖਿਆਂ/ਗਲਤ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀਆਂ ਨੂੰ ਦੂਰ ਕਰਨ, ਉਦਯੋਗ ਅਤੇ ਵੰਡ ਨੈੱਟਵਰਕ ਵਿਚਕਾਰ ਤਾਲਮੇਲ ਨੂੰ ਮਜ਼ਬੂਤ ਕਰਨ ਅਤੇ ਜ਼ਮੀਨੀ ਪੱਧਰ 'ਤੇ ਕਿਸਾਨ ਸਿੱਖਿਆ ਵਿਚ ਸੁਧਾਰ ਕਰਨ 'ਤੇ ਕੇਂਦਰਿਤ ਸੀ।

ਗੋਸਵਾਮੀ ਨੇ ਜ਼ੋਰ ਦੇ ਕੇ ਕਿਹਾ ਕਿ ਲੰਬੇ ਸਮੇਂ ਦੀ ਖੇਤੀਬਾੜੀ ਸਥਿਰਤਾ ਦਾ ਸਮਰਥਨ ਕਰਨ, ਸੁਰੱਖਿਅਤ ਵਰਤੋਂ ਦੇ ਤਰੀਕਿਆਂ ਬਾਰੇ ਜਾਗਰੂਕਤਾ ਵਧਾਉਣ ਅਤੇ ਉਭਰ ਰਹੇ ਨਿਯਮਤ ਢਾਂਚੇ ਦੀ ਪਾਲਣਾ ਨੂੰ ਮਜ਼ਬੂਤ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ ਮਜ਼ਬੂਤ ਸਹਿਯੋਗ ਬਹੁਤ ਮਹੱਤਵਪੂਰਨ ਹੋ ਗਿਆ ਹੈ।

ਖੇਤੀ ਦੇ ਤਰੀਕਿਆਂ ਨੂੰ ਮਜ਼ਬੂਤ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ ਜਾਗਰੂਕਤਾ ਪ੍ਰੋਗਰਾਮ ਆਯੋਜਿਤ

ਲੁਧਿਆਣਾ 1 ਅਗਸਤ (ਕੁਲਵਿੰਦਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਸਲੇਮ ਟਾਬਰੀ) ਟਿਕਾਊ, ਸੁਰੱਖਿਅਤ ਅਤੇ ਵਿਗਿਆਨਕ ਖੇਤੀ ਦੇ ਤਰੀਕਿਆਂ ਨੂੰ ਮਜ਼ਬੂਤ ਕਰਨ ਦੇ ਮਕਸਦ ਨਾਲ, ਐਨਜੀਓ,ਐਗਰੋ ਕੈਮੀਕਲ ਫੈਡਰੇਸ਼ਨ ਆਫ਼ ਇੰਡੀਆ (ਏਸੀਐਫਆਈ) ਨੇ ਇੱਕ ਜਾਗਰੂਕਤਾ ਅਤੇ ਵਿਚਾਰ-ਵਟਾਂਦਰਾ ਪ੍ਰੋਗਰਾਮ ਆਯੋਜਿਤ ਕੀਤਾ। ਇਸ ਮੌਕੇ ਖੇਤੀਬਾੜੀ ਮਾਹਰਾਂ ਨੇ ਜ਼ਿੰਮੇਵਾਰ ਉਤਪਾਦ ਵਰਤੋਂ, ਕਿਸਾਨਾਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਜਾਗਰੂਕਤਾ ਦੀ ਲੋੜ, ਉਦਯੋਗ ਅਤੇ ਵੰਡਕਾਰਾਂ ਦੀਆਂ ਸਾਂਝੀਆਂ ਦੇਖਭਾਲ ਪਹਿਲਕਦਮੀਆਂ, ਅਤੇ ਬਦਲਦੇ ਨਿਯਮਾਂ ਦੇ ਮਾਪਦੰਡਾਂ ਦੇ ਵਿਚਕਾਰ ਸੁਰੱਖਿਅਤ ਖੇਤੀ ਦੇ ਤਰੀਕਿਆਂ ਨਾਲ ਜੁੜੇ ਮੁੱਦਿਆਂ 'ਤੇ ਚਰਚਾ ਕੀਤੀ। ਪ੍ਰੋਗਰਾਮ ਦੌਰਾਨ ਬੋਲਦਿਆਂ, ਖੇਤੀਬਾੜੀ ਵਿਭਾਗ ਦੇ ਮੁੱਖ ਖੇਤੀਬਾੜੀ ਅਫ਼ਸਰ ਡਾ. ਦਾਰਾ ਸਿੰਘ ਨੇ ਕਿਹਾ ਕਿ ਸਰਕਾਰ ਟਿਕਾਊ ਖੇਤੀਬਾੜੀ ਦੇ ਤਰੀਕਿਆਂ ਦੇ ਅਨੁਕੂਲ ਫ਼ਸਲ ਸੁਰੱਖਿਆ ਉਤਪਾਦਾਂ ਦੀ ਸੁਰੱਖਿਅਤ ਅਤੇ ਸਮਝਦਾਰੀ ਨਾਲ ਵਰਤੋਂ ਬਾਰੇ ਵਧੇਰੇ ਜਾਗਰੂਕਤਾ ਨੂੰ ਉਤਸ਼ਾਹਿਤ ਕਰਨ ਦੇ ਉਦਯੋਗ ਦੇ ਯਤਨਾਂ ਦਾ ਸਵਾਗਤ ਕਰਦੀ ਹੈ। ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਇਸ ਗੱਲ 'ਤੇ ਵੀ ਜ਼ੋਰ ਦਿੱਤਾ ਕਿ ਡੀਲਰਾਂ ਅਤੇ ਵੰਡਕਾਰਾਂ ਦੀ ਕੈਪੇਸਿਟੀ ਬਿਲਡਿੰਗ ਜ਼ਰੂਰੀ ਹੈ, ਕਿਉਂਕਿ ਉਹ ਅਕਸਰ ਕਿਸਾਨਾਂ ਲਈ ਤਕਨੀਕੀ ਮਾਰਗਦਰਸ਼ਨ ਦਾ ਪਹਿਲਾ ਸਰੋਤ ਹੁੰਦੇ ਹਨ। ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਕਿਹਾ ਕਿ ਜ਼ਿੰਮੇਵਾਰ ਸਲਾਹ-ਮਸ਼ਵਰੇ ਨੂੰ ਉਤਸ਼ਾਹਿਤ ਕਰਕੇ, ਨਕਲੀ ਉਤਪਾਦਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਰੋਕ ਕੇ ਅਤੇ ਨਿਯਮਾਂ ਦੇ ਦਿਸ਼ਾ-ਨਿਰਦੇਸ਼ਾਂ ਦੀ ਪਾਲਣਾ ਨੂੰ ਉਤਸ਼ਾਹਿਤ ਕਰਕੇ, ਅਜਿਹੀਆਂ ਪਹਿਲਕਦਮੀਆਂ ਮਨੁੱਖੀ ਸਿਹਤ ਅਤੇ ਵਾਤਾਵਰਣ ਦੀ ਰੱਖਿਆ ਕਰਦੇ ਹੋਏ ਖੇਤੀ ਦੇ ਬਿਹਤਰ ਨਤੀਜਿਆਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਯੋਗਦਾਨ ਪਾਉਂਦੀਆਂ ਹਨ। ਏਸੀਐਫਆਈ ਦੇ ਡਾਇਰੈਕਟਰ ਜਨਰਲ, ਕਲਿਆਣ ਗੋਸਵਾਮੀ ਨੇ ਕਿਹਾ ਕਿ ਇਹ ਸਮਾਗਮ ਜ਼ਿੰਮੇਵਾਰ ਸਲਾਹ-ਮਸ਼ਵਰੇ ਦੇ ਤਰੀਕਿਆਂ ਰਾਹੀਂ ਕਿਸਾਨਾਂ ਦਾ ਵਿਸ਼ਵਾਸ ਬਣਾਉਣ, ਕੀਟਨਾਸ਼ਕਾਂ ਦੀ ਵਰਤੋਂ ਨਾਲ ਜੁੜੀਆਂ ਭਰਮ-ਭੁਲੇਖਿਆਂ/ਗਲਤ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀਆਂ ਨੂੰ ਦੂਰ ਕਰਨ, ਉਦਯੋਗ ਅਤੇ ਵੰਡ ਨੈੱਟਵਰਕ ਵਿਚਕਾਰ ਤਾਲਮੇਲ ਨੂੰ ਮਜ਼ਬੂਤ ਕਰਨ ਅਤੇ ਜ਼ਮੀਨੀ ਪੱਧਰ 'ਤੇ ਕਿਸਾਨ ਸਿੱਖਿਆ ਵਿੱਚ ਸੁਧਾਰ ਕਰਨ 'ਤੇ ਕੇਂਦਰਿਤ ਸੀ।

ਗੋਸਵਾਮੀ ਨੇ ਕਿਹਾ ਕਿ ਲੰਬੇ ਸਮੇਂ ਦੀ ਖੇਤੀਬਾੜੀ ਸਥਿਰਤਾ ਦਾ ਸਮਰਥਨ ਕਰਨ, ਸੁਰੱਖਿਅਤ ਵਰਤੋਂ ਦੇ ਤਰੀਕਿਆਂ ਬਾਰੇ ਜਾਗਰੂਕਤਾ ਵਧਾਉਣ ਅਤੇ ਉਭਰ ਰਹੇ ਨਿਯਮਤ ਢਾਂਚੇ ਦੀ ਪਾਲਣਾ ਨੂੰ ਮਜ਼ਬੂਤ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ ਮਜ਼ਬੂਤ ਸਹਿਯੋਗ ਬਹੁਤ ਮਹੱਤਵਪੂਰਨ ਹੋ ਗਿਆ ਹੈ।

वैज्ञानिक कृषि पद्धतियों को बढ़ावा देने के लिए किया जागरूक

पटियाला, 30 जुलाई (ट्रिन्यू)

टिकाऊ, सुरक्षित और वैज्ञानिक कृषि पद्धतियों को बढ़ावा देने के उद्देश्य से एग्रोकेमिकल फेडरेशन ऑफ इंडिया (एसीएफआई) ने पटियाला में कृषि विशेषज्ञों, डीलरों और वितरकों के लिए जागरूकता एवं संवाद कार्यक्रम आयोजित किया। कार्यक्रम का उद्देश्य एग्रोकेमिकल उद्योग और डीलर नेटवर्क के बीच सहयोग मजबूत करना तथा किसानों तक सुरक्षित कृषि संबंधी जानकारी पहुंचाना था।

कार्यक्रम में विशेषज्ञों ने फसल सुरक्षा उत्पादों के जिम्मेदार उपयोग, किसानों में जागरूकता बढ़ाने, उद्योग और वितरकों की संयुक्त भूमिका तथा बदलते नियामक मानदंडों के अनुरूप सुरक्षित कृषि पद्धतियों पर चर्चा की। उन्होंने एग्रोकेमिकल्स के वैज्ञानिक और जिम्मेदार उपयोग को बढ़ावा देने का संकल्प भी लिया।

पटियाला कृषि विभाग के मुख्य कृषि अधिकारी डॉ. दारा सिंह ने कहा कि सरकार टिकाऊ खेती के अनुरूप फसल सुरक्षा उत्पादों के सुरक्षित और विवेकपूर्ण उपयोग को बढ़ावा देने के प्रयासों का स्वागत करती है। उन्होंने कहा कि डीलर और वितरक किसानों के लिए तकनीकी सलाह का प्रमुख स्रोत होते हैं, इसलिए उनकी क्षमता वृद्धि आवश्यक है।

एसीएफआई के डायरेक्टर जनरल कल्याण गोस्वामी ने कहा कि कार्यक्रम का उद्देश्य किसानों का विश्वास मजबूत करना, कीटनाशकों से जुड़ी भ्रांतियां दूर करना, उद्योग और वितरण नेटवर्क के समन्वय को बढ़ाना तथा किसान शिक्षा को सशक्त बनाना है।

ਫੈਡਰੇਸ਼ਨ ਦੀ ਮੀਟਿੰਗ ਵਿਚ ਡਾ. ਕਲਿਆਣ ਗੋਸਵਾਮੀ ਡਾਇਰੈਕਟਰ ਜਨਰਲ ਨੂੰ ਸਨਮਾਨਿਤ ਕੀਤੇ ਜਾਣ ਦਾ ਦ੍ਰਿਸ਼।

ਖੇਤੀ ਸਮੱਗਰੀ ਦੇ ਨਮੂਨੇ ਲੈਣ ਸੰਬੰਧੀ ਨਿਯਮਾਂ 'ਚ ਸੋਧ ਕੀਤੀ ਜਾਏ— ਪੰਜਾਬ ਇਨਪੁੱਟਸ ਡੀਲਰਜ਼

ਪਟਿਆਲਾ, 30 ਜੁਲਾਈ (ਭਗਵਾਨ ਦਾਸ)- ਇੱਥੇ ਐਗਰੋ ਕੈਮੀਕਲਜ਼ ਫੈਡਰੇਸ਼ਨ ਆਫ਼ ਇੰਡੀਆ ਦੇ ਡਾ. ਕਲਿਆਣ ਗੋਸਵਾਮੀ ਡਾਇਰੈਕਟਰ ਜਨਰਲ ਦੀ ਪ੍ਰਧਾਨਗੀ 'ਚ ਹੋਈ ਮੀਟਿੰਗ ਵਿਚ ਪੰਜਾਬ ਐਗਰੋ ਇੰਨਪੁਟਸ ਡੀਲਰਜ਼ ਐਸੋਸੀਏਸ਼ਨ ਦੇ 50 ਦੇ ਕਰੀਬ ਮੈਂਬਰਾਂ ਨੇ ਭਾਗ ਲੈਂਦਿਆਂ ਮੰਗ ਕੀਤੀ ਕਿ ਖੇਤੀਬਾੜੀ ਤੇ ਕਿਸਾਨ ਭਲਾਈ ਵਿਭਾਗ ਦੇ ਮੰਤਰਾਲਿਆ ਨੂੰ ਖੇਤੀ ਸਮੱਗਰੀ ਦੇ ਨਮੂਨੇ ਲੈਣ ਸੰਬੰਧੀ ਬਣਾਏ ਨਿਯਮਾਂ 'ਚ ਸੋਧ ਕੀਤੀ ਜਾਵੇ ਕਿ ਜਦੋਂ ਕਿਸੇ ਡੀਲਰ ਕੋਲ ਲਾਈਸੈਂਸ, ਵਿਕਰੇਤਾਵਾਂ ਦਾ ਪੱਕਾ ਬਿੱਲ ਸਮੇਤ ਬੈਚ ਨੰਬਰ ਆਦਿ ਨਾਲ ਹੋਵੇ ਤਾਂ ਉਸ ਨੂੰ ਕਾਨੂੰਨੀ ਤੌਰ ਤੇ ਉਸ ਨਾਲ ਚਲਾਏ ਜਾਣ ਵਾਲੇ ਕੇਸ ਦੀਆਂ ਉਲਝਣਾਂ ਤੋਂ ਮੁਕਤ ਕੀਤਾ ਜਾਵੇ। ਡਾ. ਦਾਰਾ ਸਿੰਘ ਮੁੱਖ ਖੇਤੀਬਾੜੀ ਅਫ਼ਸਰ ਪਟਿਆਲਾ ਜੋ ਮੁੱਖ ਮਹਿਮਾਨ ਸਨ ਡਾ. ਅਮਨ ਸੰਧੂ ਖੇਤੀ ਵਿਕਾਸ ਅਫ਼ਸਰ ਅਤੇ ਡਾ. ਰਸ਼ਪਿੰਦਰ ਬਿਲਿੰਗ ਖੇਤੀ ਵਿਕਾਸ ਅਫ਼ਸਰ ਸਣੇ ਮੀਟਿੰਗ 'ਚ ਹਾਜ਼ਰ ਸਨ। ਇਸ ਤੋਂ ਇਲਾਵਾ ਪੰਜਾਬ ਐਗਰੋ ਇਨਪੁਟਸ ਡੀਲਰਜ਼ ਐਸੋਸੀਏਸ਼ਨ ਦੇ ਪ੍ਰਧਾਨ ਬਰਿੰਦਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਕਪੂਰ, ਗੋਕੁਲ ਪ੍ਰਕਾਸ਼ ਗੁਪਤਾ ਜਨਰਲ ਸਕੱਤਰ ਅਤੇ ਧਰਮ ਬਾਂਸਲ ਮੀਤ ਪ੍ਰਧਾਨ ਵੀ ਹਾਜ਼ਰ ਸਨ। ਮੀਟਿੰਗ ਵਿਚ ਬੁਲਾਰਿਆਂ ਨੇ ਖੇਤੀ ਸਮੱਗਰੀ ਦੀ ਵਰਤੋਂ ਸੰਬੰਧੀ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਦਿੱਤੀ। ਸਿਮਰਪ੍ਰੀਤ ਕੌਰ ਨੇ ਵੀ ਮੀਟਿੰਗ ਨੂੰ ਸੰਬੋਧਨ ਕੀਤਾ। ਡਾ. ਗੋਸਵਾਮੀ ਨੇ ਡੀਲਰਾਂ ਦੀ ਪ੍ਰਸ਼ੰਸਾ ਕਰਦੇ ਹੋਏ ਕਿਹਾ ਕਿ ਉਹ ਕਿਸਾਨਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਸਹੀ ਤੇ ਪੂਰੀ ਸਲਾਹ ਦਿੰਦੇ ਹਨ। ਐਸੋਸੀਏਸ਼ਨ ਦੀ ਮੀਟਿੰਗ ਵਿਚ ਡੀਲਰਾਂ ਵਲੋਂ ਡਾ. ਕਲਿਆਣ ਗੋਸਵਾਮੀ ਨੂੰ ਸਨਮਾਨਿਤ ਕੀਤਾ ਗਿਆ।

ਖੇਤੀ ਦੇ ਤਰੀਕਿਆਂ ਨੂੰ ਮਜ਼ਬੂਤ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ ਜਾਗਰੂਕਤਾ ਪ੍ਰੋਗਰਾਮ ਕਰਵਾਇਆ

ਲੁਧਿਆਣਾ, 31 ਜੁਲਾਈ (ਚ.ਨ.ਸ.): ਟਿਕਾਊ, ਸੁਰੱਖਿਅਤ ਅਤੇ ਵਿਗਿਆਨਕ ਖੇਤੀ ਦੇ ਤਰੀਕਿਆਂ ਨੂੰ ਮਜ਼ਬੂਤ ਕਰਨ ਦੇ ਮਕਸਦ ਨਾਲ, ਐਨਜੀਓ , ਐਗਰੋ ਕੈਮੀਕਲ ਫੈਡਰੇਸ਼ਨ ਆਫ਼ ਇੰਡੀਆ (ਏਸੀਐਫਆਈ) ਨੇ ਇੱਕ ਜਾਗਰੂਕਤਾ ਅਤੇ ਵਿਚਾਰ-ਵਟਾਂਦਰਾ ਪ੍ਰੋਗਰਾਮ ਆਯੋਜਿਤ ਕੀਤਾ।

ਇਸ ਮੌਕੇ ਖੇਤੀਬਾੜੀ ਮਾਹਰਾਂ ਨੇ ਜ਼ਿੰਮੇਵਾਰ ਉਤਪਾਦ ਵਰਤੋਂ, ਕਿਸਾਨਾਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਜਾਗਰੂਕਤਾ ਦੀ ਲੋੜ, ਉਦਯੋਗ ਅਤੇ ਵੰਡਕਾਰਾਂ ਦੀਆਂ ਸਾਂਝੀਆਂ ਦੇਖਭਾਲ ਪਹਿਲਕਦਮੀਆਂ, ਅਤੇ ਬਦਲਦੇ ਨਿਯਮਾਂ ਦੇ ਮਾਪਦੰਡਾਂ ਦੇ ਵਿਚਕਾਰ ਸੁਰੱਖਿਅਤ ਖੇਤੀ ਦੇ ਤਰੀਕਿਆਂ ਨਾਲ ਜੁੜੇ ਮੁੱਦਿਆਂ 'ਤੇ ਚਰਚਾ ਕੀਤੀ।

ਪ੍ਰੋਗਰਾਮ ਦੌਰਾਨ ਬੋਲਦਿਆਂ, ਖੇਤੀਬਾੜੀ ਵਿਭਾਗ ਦੇ ਮੁੱਖ ਖੇਤੀਬਾੜੀ ਅਫ਼ਸਰ ਡਾ. ਦਾਰਾ ਸਿੰਘ ਨੇ ਕਿਹਾ ਕਿ ਸਰਕਾਰ ਟਿਕਾਊ ਖੇਤੀਬਾੜੀ ਦੇ ਤਰੀਕਿਆਂ ਦੇ ਅਨੁਕੂਲ ਫ਼ਸਲ ਸੁਰੱਖਿਆ ਉਤਪਾਦਾਂ ਦੀ ਸੁਰੱਖਿਅਤ ਅਤੇ ਸਮਝਦਾਰੀ ਨਾਲ ਵਰਤੋਂ ਬਾਰੇ ਵਧੇਰੇ ਜਾਗਰੂਕਤਾ ਨੂੰ ਉਤਸ਼ਾਹਿਤ ਕਰਨ ਦੇ ਉਦਯੋਗ ਦੇ ਯਤਨਾਂ ਦਾ ਸਵਾਗਤ ਕਰਦੀ ਹੈ।

ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਇਸ ਗੱਲ 'ਤੇ ਵੀ ਜ਼ੋਰ ਦਿੱਤਾ ਕਿ ਡੀਲਰਾਂ ਅਤੇ ਵੰਡਕਾਰਾਂ ਦੀ ਕੈਪੇਸਿਟੀ ਬਿਲਡਿੰਗ ਜ਼ਰੂਰੀ ਹੈ, ਕਿਉਂਕਿ ਉਹ ਅਕਸਰ ਕਿਸਾਨਾਂ ਲਈ ਤਕਨੀਕੀ ਮਾਰਗਦਰਸ਼ਨ ਦਾ ਪਹਿਲਾ ਸਰੋਤ ਹੁੰਦੇ ਹਨ। ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਕਿਹਾ ਕਿ ਜ਼ਿੰਮੇਵਾਰ ਸਲਾਹ-ਮਸ਼ਵਰੇ ਨੂੰ ਉਤਸ਼ਾਹਿਤ ਕਰਕੇ, ਨਕਲੀ ਉਤਪਾਦਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਰੋਕ ਕੇ ਅਤੇ ਨਿਯਮਾਂ ਦੇ ਦਿਸ਼ਾ-ਨਿਰਦੇਸ਼ਾਂ ਦੀ ਪਾਲਣਾ ਨੂੰ ਉਤਸ਼ਾਹਿਤ ਕਰਕੇ, ਅਜਿਹੀਆਂ ਪਹਿਲਕਦਮੀਆਂ ਮਨੁੱਖੀ ਸਿਹਤ ਅਤੇ ਵਾਤਾਵਰਣ ਦੀ ਰੱਖਿਆ ਕਰਦੇ ਹੋਏ ਖੇਤੀ ਦੇ ਬਿਹਤਰ ਨਤੀਜਿਆਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਯੋਗਦਾਨ ਪਾਉਂਦੀਆਂ ਹਨ।

ਏਸੀਐਫਆਈ ਦੇ ਡਾਇਰੈਕਟਰ ਜਨਰਲ, ਕਲਿਆਣ ਗੋਸਵਾਮੀ ਨੇ ਕਿਹਾ ਕਿ ਇਹ ਸਮਾਗਮ ਜ਼ਿੰਮੇਵਾਰ ਸਲਾਹ-ਮਸ਼ਵਰੇ ਦੇ ਤਰੀਕਿਆਂ ਰਾਹੀਂ ਕਿਸਾਨਾਂ ਦਾ ਵਿਸ਼ਵਾਸ ਬਣਾਉਣ, ਕੀਟਨਾਸ਼ਕਾਂ ਦੀ ਵਰਤੋਂ ਨਾਲ ਜੁੜੀਆਂ ਭਰਮ-ਭੁਲੇਖਿਆਂ/ ਗਲਤ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀਆਂ ਨੂੰ ਦੂਰ ਕਰਨ, ਉਦਯੋਗ ਅਤੇ ਵੰਡ ਨੈੱਟਵਰਕ ਵਿਚਕਾਰ ਤਾਲਮੇਲ ਨੂੰ ਮਜ਼ਬੂਤ ਕਰਨ ਅਤੇ ਜ਼ਮੀਨੀ ਪੱਧਰ 'ਤੇ ਕਿਸਾਨ ਸਿੱਖਿਆ ਵਿੱਚ ਸੁਧਾਰ ਕਰਨ 'ਤੇ ਕੇਂਦਰਿਤ ਸੀ।

ਗੋਸਵਾਮੀ ਨੇ ਕਿਹਾ ਕਿ ਲੰਬੇ ਸਮੇਂ ਦੀ ਖੇਤੀਬਾੜੀ ਸਥਿਰਤਾ ਦਾ ਸਮਰਥਨ ਕਰਨ, ਸੁਰੱਖਿਅਤ ਵਰਤੋਂ ਦੇ ਤਰੀਕਿਆਂ ਬਾਰੇ ਜਾਗਰੂਕਤਾ ਵਧਾਉਣ ਅਤੇ ਉਭਰ ਰਹੇ ਨਿਯਮਤ ਢਾਂਚੇ ਦੀ ਪਾਲਣਾ ਨੂੰ ਮਜ਼ਬੂਤ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ ਮਜ਼ਬੂਤ ਸਹਿਯੋਗ ਬਹੁਤ ਮਹੱਤਵਪੂਰਨ ਹੋ ਗਿਆ ਹੈ।

ਖੇਤੀ ਦੇ ਤਰੀਕਿਆਂ ਨੂੰ ਮਜ਼ਬੂਤ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ ਜਾਗਰੂਕਤਾ ਪ੍ਰੋਗਰਾਮ ਆਯੋਜਿਤ

ਪੰਜਾਬ ਟਾਇਮਜ਼ ਵਿਸ਼ੇਸ਼

ਐਸ ਏ ਐਸ ਨਗਰ 31 ਜੁਲਾਈ (ਗੁਰਵਿੰਦਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਹੈਪੀ):- ਟਿਕਾਊ, ਸੁਰੱਖਿਅਤ ਅਤੇ ਵਿਗਿਆਨਕ ਖੇਤੀ ਦੇ ਤਰੀਕਿਆਂ ਨੂੰ ਮਜ਼ਬੂਤ ਕਰਨ ਦੇ ਮਕਸਦ ਨਾਲ, ਐਨਜੀਓ , ਐਗਰੋ ਕੈਮੀਕਲ ਫੈਡਰੇਸ਼ਨ ਆਫ਼ ਇੰਡੀਆ (ਏਸੀਐਫਆਈ) ਨੇ ਇੱਕ ਜਾਗਰੂਕਤਾ ਅਤੇ ਵਿਚਾਰ-ਵਟਾਂਦਰਾ ਪ੍ਰੋਗਰਾਮ ਆਯੋਜਿਤ ਕੀਤਾ। ਇਸ ਮੌਕੇ ਖੇਤੀਬਾੜੀ ਮਾਹਰਾਂ ਨੇ ਜ਼ਿੰਮੇਵਾਰ ਉਤਪਾਦ ਵਰਤੋਂ, ਕਿਸਾਨਾਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਜਾਗਰੂਕਤਾ ਦੀ ਲੋੜ, ਉਦਯੋਗ ਅਤੇ ਵੰਡਕਾਰਾਂ ਦੀਆਂ ਸਾਂਝੀਆਂ ਦੇਖਭਾਲ ਪਹਿਲਕਦਮੀਆਂ, ਅਤੇ ਬਦਲਦੇ ਨਿਯਮਾਂ ਦੇ ਮਾਪਦੰਡਾਂ ਦੇ ਵਿਚਕਾਰ ਸੁਰੱਖਿਅਤ ਖੇਤੀ ਦੇ ਤਰੀਕਿਆਂ ਨਾਲ ਜੁੜੇ ਮੁੱਦਿਆਂ 'ਤੇ ਚਰਚਾ ਕੀਤੀ।

ਪ੍ਰੋਗਰਾਮ ਦੌਰਾਨ ਬੋਲਦਿਆਂ, ਖੇਤੀਬਾੜੀ ਵਿਭਾਗ ਦੇ ਮੁੱਖ ਖੇਤੀਬਾੜੀ ਅਫ਼ਸਰ ਡਾ. ਦਾਰਾ ਸਿੰਘ ਨੇ ਕਿਹਾ ਕਿ ਸਰਕਾਰ ਟਿਕਾਊ ਖੇਤੀਬਾੜੀ ਦੇ ਤਰੀਕਿਆਂ ਦੇ ਅਨੁਕੂਲ ਫ਼ਸਲ ਸੁਰੱਖਿਆ ਉਤਪਾਦਾਂ ਦੀ ਸੁਰੱਖਿਅਤ ਅਤੇ ਸਮਝਦਾਰੀ ਨਾਲ ਵਰਤੋਂ ਬਾਰੇ ਵਧੇਰੇ ਜਾਗਰੂਕਤਾ ਨੂੰ ਉਤਸ਼ਾਹਿਤ ਕਰਨ ਦੇ ਉਦਯੋਗ ਦੇ ਯਤਨਾਂ ਦਾ ਸਵਾਗਤ ਕਰਦੀ ਹੈ। ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਇਸ ਗੱਲ 'ਤੇ ਵੀ ਜ਼ੋਰ ਦਿੱਤਾ ਕਿ ਡੀਲਰਾਂ ਅਤੇ ਵੰਡਕਾਰਾਂ ਦੀ ਕੈਪੇਸਿਟੀ ਬਿਲਡਿੰਗ ਜ਼ਰੂਰੀ ਹੈ, ਕਿਉਂਕਿ ਉਹ ਅਕਸਰ ਕਿਸਾਨਾਂ ਲਈ ਤਕਨੀਕੀ ਮਾਰਗਦਰਸ਼ਨ ਦਾ ਪਹਿਲਾ ਸਰੋਤ ਹੁੰਦੇ ਹਨ। ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਕਿਹਾ ਕਿ ਜ਼ਿੰਮੇਵਾਰ ਸਲਾਹ-ਮਸ਼ਵਰੇ ਨੂੰ ਉਤਸ਼ਾਹਿਤ ਕਰਕੇ, ਨਕਲੀ ਉਤਪਾਦਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਰੋਕ ਕੇ ਅਤੇ ਨਿਯਮਾਂ ਦੇ ਦਿਸ਼ਾ-ਨਿਰਦੇਸ਼ਾਂ ਦੀ ਪਾਲਣਾ ਨੂੰ ਉਤਸ਼ਾਹਿਤ ਕਰਕੇ, ਅਜਿਹੀਆਂ ਪਹਿਲਕਦਮੀਆਂ ਮਨੁੱਖੀ ਸਿਹਤ ਅਤੇ ਵਾਤਾਵਰਣ ਦੀ ਰੱਖਿਆ ਕਰਦੇ ਹੋਏ ਖੇਤੀ ਦੇ ਬਿਹਤਰ ਨਤੀਜਿਆਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਯੋਗਦਾਨ ਪਾਉਂਦੀਆਂ ਹਨ। ਏਸੀਐਫਆਈ ਦੇ ਡਾਇਰੈਕਟਰ ਜਨਰਲ, ਕਲਿਆਣ ਗੋਸਵਾਮੀ ਨੇ ਕਿਹਾ ਕਿ ਇਹ ਸਮਾਗਮ ਜ਼ਿੰਮੇਵਾਰ ਸਲਾਹ-ਮਸ਼ਵਰੇ ਦੇ ਤਰੀਕਿਆਂ ਰਾਹੀਂ ਕਿਸਾਨਾਂ ਦਾ ਵਿਸ਼ਵਾਸ ਬਣਾਉਣ, ਕੀਟਨਾਸ਼ਕਾਂ ਦੀ ਵਰਤੋਂ ਨਾਲ ਜੁੜੀਆਂ ਭਰਮ-ਭੁਲੇਖਿਆਂ/ਗਲਤ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀਆਂ ਨੂੰ ਦੂਰ ਕਰਨ, ਉਦਯੋਗ ਅਤੇ ਵੰਡ ਨੈੱਟਵਰਕ ਵਿਚਕਾਰ ਤਾਲਮੇਲ ਨੂੰ ਮਜ਼ਬੂਤ ਕਰਨ ਅਤੇ ਜ਼ਮੀਨੀ ਪੱਧਰ 'ਤੇ ਕਿਸਾਨ ਸਿੱਖਿਆ ਵਿੱਚ ਸੁਧਾਰ ਕਰਨ 'ਤੇ ਕੇਂਦਰਿਤ ਸੀ।

ਗੋਸਵਾਮੀ ਨੇ ਕਿਹਾ ਕਿ ਲੰਬੇ ਸਮੇਂ ਦੀ ਖੇਤੀਬਾੜੀ ਸਥਿਰਤਾ ਦਾ ਸਮਰਥਨ ਕਰਨ, ਸੁਰੱਖਿਅਤ ਵਰਤੋਂ ਦੇ ਤਰੀਕਿਆਂ ਬਾਰੇ ਜਾਗਰੂਕਤਾ ਵਧਾਉਣ ਅਤੇ ਉਭਰ ਰਹੇ ਨਿਯਮਤ ਢਾਂਚੇ ਦੀ ਪਾਲਣਾ ਨੂੰ ਮਜ਼ਬੂਤ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ ਮਜ਼ਬੂਤ ਸਹਿਯੋਗ ਬਹੁਤ ਮਹੱਤਵਪੂਰਨ ਹੋ ਗਿਆ ਹੈ।

सुरक्षित व साइंटिफिक कृषि पद्धति को बढ़ावा देने पर जागरूकता कार्यक्रम

उत्तम हिन्दू न्यूज़ नेटवर्क

पटियाला. टिकाऊ, सुरक्षित और साइंटिफिक कृषि पद्धतियों को बढ़ावा देने के लिए एग्रोकेमिकल उद्योग और उसके डीलर नेटवर्क के बीच सहयोग को मजबूत करने के उद्देश्य से, एग्रोकेमिकल उद्योग एनजीओ एग्रो केमिकल फेडरेशन ऑफ इंडिया (एसीएफआई) ने कृषि विशेषज्ञों, डीलरों और वितरकों के लिए अवेयरनेस व इन्टरैक्शन कार्यक्रम आयोजित किया। इस अवसर पर, कृषि विशेषज्ञों ने जिम्मेदार उत्पाद उपयोग, किसानों में जागरूकता की आवश्यकता, उद्योग और वितरकों की संयुक्त देखरेख पहलों, तथा बदलते नियामक मानदंडों के बीच सुरक्षित कृषि प्रथाओं से जुड़े मुद्दों पर चर्चा की।

इस मौके मुख्य कृषि अधिकारी डॉ. दारा सिंह ने कहा कि सरकार टिकाऊ कृषि प्रथाओं के अनुरूप फसल सुरक्षा उत्पादों के सुरक्षित और विवेकपूर्ण उपयोग पर अधिक जागरूकता को प्रोत्साहित करने के उद्योग के प्रयासों का स्वागत करती है। उन्होंने इस बात पर भी जोर दिया कि डीलरों और वितरकों की कैपेसिटी बिल्डिंग आवश्यक है, क्योंकि वे अक्सर किसानों के लिए तकनीकी मार्गदर्शन का पहला स्रोत होते हैं। एसीएफआई के डायरेक्टर जनरल कल्याण गोस्वामी ने कहा कि यह आयोजन जिम्मेदार परामर्श प्रथाओं के माध्यम से किसानों का विश्वास बनाने, कीटनाशकों के उपयोग से जुड़ी भ्रांतियों/गलत जानकारियों को दूर करने, उद्योग और वितरण नेटवर्क के बीच समन्वय को मजबूत करने तथा ज़मीनी स्तर पर किसान शिक्षा में सुधार करने पर केंद्रित था।

टिकाऊ, सुरक्षित और साइंटिफिक कृषि पद्धतियों को बढ़ावा देने पर जागरूकता कार्यक्रम आयोजित

पटियाला (न्यूज टुडे / जगमीत सिंह ग्रुमान)। टिकाऊ, सुरक्षित और साइंटिफिक कृषि पद्धतियों को बढ़ावा देने के लिए एग्रोकेमिकल उद्योग और उसके डीलर नेटवर्क के बीच सहयोग को मजबूत करने के उद्देश्य से, एग्रोकेमिकल उद्योग एनजीओ एग्रो केमिकल फेडरेशन ऑफ इंडिया (एसीएफआई) ने बुधवार को पटियाला में कृषि विशेषज्ञों, डीलरों और वितरकों के लिए अवेयरनेस व इन्टरैक्शन कार्यक्रम आयोजित किया। इस अवसर पर, कृषि विशेषज्ञों ने जिम्मेदार उत्पाद उपयोग, किसानों में जागरूकता की आवश्यकता, उद्योग और वितरकों की संयुक्त देखरेख पहलों, तथा बदलते नियामक मानदंडों के बीच सुरक्षित कृषि प्रथाओं से जुड़े मुद्दों पर चर्चा की। उन्होंने भारतीय कृषि और किसानों के कल्याण का समर्थन करते हुए एग्रोकेमिकल्स के सुरक्षित, वैज्ञानिक और जिम्मेदार उपयोग को बढ़ावा देने में अधिक प्रभावी भूमिका निभाने का संकल्प लिया।

कार्यक्रम के दौरान बोलते हुए, कृषि विभाग, पटियाला के मुख्य कृषि अधिकारी डॉ. दारा सिंह ने कहा कि सरकार टिकाऊ कृषि प्रथाओं के अनुरूप फसल सुरक्षा उत्पादों के सुरक्षित और विवेकपूर्ण उपयोग पर अधिक जागरूकता को प्रोत्साहित करने के उद्योग के प्रयासों का स्वागत करती है।

उन्होंने इस बात पर भी जोर दिया कि डीलरों और वितरकों की कैपेसिटी बिल्डिंग आवश्यक है, क्योंकि वे अक्सर किसानों के लिए तकनीकी मार्गदर्शन का पहला स्रोत होते हैं। उन्होंने कहा कि जिम्मेदार परामर्श को बढ़ावा देकर, नकली उत्पादों को रोककर और नियामक दिशानिर्देशों के अनुपालन को प्रोत्साहित करके, ऐसी पहल मानव स्वास्थ्य और पर्यावरण की रक्षा करते हुए खेती के बेहतर परिणामों में योगदान देती हैं।

एसीएफआई के डायरेक्टर जनरल कल्याण गोस्वामी ने कहा कि यह आयोजन जिम्मेदार परामर्श प्रथाओं के माध्यम से किसानों का विश्वास बनाने, कीटनाशकों के उपयोग से जुड़ी भ्रांतियों/गलत जानकारियों को दूर करने, उद्योग और वितरण नेटवर्क के बीच समन्वय को मजबूत करने तथा ज़मीनी स्तर पर किसान शिक्षा में सुधार करने पर केंद्रित था।

साइंटिफिक कृषि पद्धतियां पर जागरूकता कार्यक्रम आयोजित

चंडीगढ़, 31 जुलाई (विशेष संवाददाता): टिकाऊ, सुरक्षित और साइंटिफिक कृषि पद्धतियां को बढ़ावा देने के उद्देश्य से, एनजीओ एग्रो केमिकल फेडरेशन ऑफ इंडिया (एसीएफआई) ने अवेयरनेस व इंटरैक्शन कार्यक्रम आयोजित किया। इस अवसर पर, कृषि विशेषज्ञों ने जिम्मेदार उत्पाद उपयोग, किसानों में जागरूकता की आवश्यकता, उद्योग और वितरकों की संयुक्त देखरेख पहलों, तथा बदलते नियामक मानदंडों के बीच सुरक्षित कृषि प्रथाओं से जुड़े मुद्दों पर चर्चा की। कार्यक्रम के दौरान बोलते हुए, कृषि विभाग के मुख्य कृषि अधिकारी डॉ. दारा सिंह ने कहा कि सरकार टिकाऊ कृषि प्रथाओं के अनुरूप फसल सुरक्षा उत्पादों के सुरक्षित और विवेकपूर्ण उपयोग पर अधिक जागरूकता को प्रोत्साहित करने के उद्योग के प्रयासों का स्वागत करती है। उन्होंने इस बात पर भी जोर दिया कि डीलरों और वितरकों की कैपेसिटी बिल्डिंग आवश्यक है, क्योंकि वे अक्सर किसानों के लिए तकनीकी मार्गदर्शन का पहला स्रोत होते हैं।

टिकाऊ, सुरक्षित और साइंटिफिक कृषि पद्धतियों को बढ़ावा देने पर जागरूकता कार्यक्रम आयोजित

संबोधित करते कल्याण गोस्वामी एवं उपस्थित डीलर।

सवेरा न्यूज/कामरा

पटियाला, 29 जुलाईः टिकाऊ, सुरक्षित और साइंटिफिक कृषि पद्धतियों को बढ़ावा देने के लिए एग्रोकैमिकल उद्योग और उसके डीलर नैटवर्क के बीच सहयोग को मजबूत करने के उद्देश्य से, एग्रोकैमिकल उद्योग एनजीओ एग्रो कैमिकल फैडरेशन ऑफ इंडिया (एसीएफआई) ने बुधवार को कृषि विशेषज्ञों, डीलरों और वितरकों के लिए अवेयरनैस व इन्टरैक्शन कार्यक्रम आयोजित किया। कृषि विभाग पटियाला के मुख्य कृषि अधिकारी डा. दारा सिंह ने कहा कि सरकार टिकाऊ कृषि प्रथाओं के अनुरूप फसल सुरक्षा उत्पादों के सुरक्षित और विवेकपूर्ण उपयोग पर अधिक जागरूकता को प्रोत्साहित करने के उद्योग के प्रयासों का स्वागत करती है। एसीएफआई के डायरैक्टर जनरल कल्याण गोस्वामी ने कहा कि यह आयोजन जिम्मेदार परामर्श प्रथाओं के माध्यम से किसानों का विश्वास बनाने, कीटनाशकों के उपयोग से जुड़ी भ्रांतियों/गलत जानकारियों को दूर करने, उद्योग और वितरण नेटवर्क के बीच समन्वय को मजबूत करने तथा जमीनी स्तर पर किसान शिक्षा में सुधार करने पर केंद्रित था।

Awareness program to promote sustainable, safe and scientific farming practices held

Top News Report

JAMMU / PATIALA, Jul 29: Agrochem industry NGO, Agro Chem Federation of India organized an awareness and interaction programme for agri experts, dealers & distributors in Patiala on Wednesday to strengthen collaboration between the agrochemical industry and its dealer network to promote sustainable, safe and scientific farming practices.

During the occasion, the agri experts discussed issues pertaining to responsible product use, need for farmer awareness, industry & distributors joint stewardship initiatives, and safe agricultural practices amid evolving regulatory expectations. They also vowed to play a stronger role in promoting the safe, scientific, and responsible use of agrochemicals while supporting Indian agriculture and farmers' welfare.

Speaking during the occasion, Dr Dara Singh, Chief Agriculture Officer, Department of Agriculture, Patiala said that the government welcomes the efforts of the industry towards encouraging greater awareness on the safe and judicious use of crop protection products in line with sustainable agriculture practices.

He also emphasised that the capacity building of dealers and distributors is essential because they are often the first source of technical guidance for farmers.

By promoting responsible advisory, preventing counterfeit products and encouraging compliance with regulatory guidelines, such initiatives contribute to better farm outcomes while protecting human health and the environment, he said.

Dr Kalyan Goswami, Director General, ACFI, said that the event focused on building farmer trust through responsible advisory practices, addressing misinformation around pesticide usage, strengthening coordination between industry and distribution networks, and improving farmer education at the grassroots level.

Stronger collaboration has become increasingly important to support long-term agricultural sustainability, improve awareness on safe usage practices and strengthen compliance with evolving stewardship and regulatory frameworks, Goswami asserted.

ਖੇਤੀ ਤਰੀਕਿਆਂ ਨੂੰ ਉਤਸ਼ਾਹਿਤ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ ਜਾਗਰੂਕਤਾ ਪ੍ਰੋਗਰਾਮ

ਪੱਤਰ ਪ੍ਰੇਰਕ, ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਜਾਗਰਣ, ਪਟਿਆਲਾ : ਟਿਕਾਊ, ਸੁਰੱਖਿਅਤ ਤੇ ਵਿਗਿਆਨਕ ਖੇਤੀ ਨੂੰ ਉਤਸ਼ਾਹਿਤ ਕਰਨ ਦੇ ਉਦੇਸ਼ ਨਾਲ ਐਗਰੋਕੈਮੀਕਲ ਉਦਯੋਗ ਦੀ ਸੰਸਥਾ ਐਗਰੋ ਕੈਮੀਕਲ ਫੈਡਰੇਸ਼ਨ ਆਫ਼ ਇੰਡੀਆ (ਏਸੀਐਫਆਈ) ਵੱਲੋਂ ਬੁੱਧਵਾਰ ਨੂੰ ਪਟਿਆਲਾ 'ਚ ਖੇਤੀਬਾੜੀ ਮਾਹਰਾਂ, ਡੀਲਰਾਂ ਤੇ ਡਿਸਟ੍ਰੀਬਿਊਟਰਾਂ ਲਈ ਜਾਗਰੂਕਤਾ ਤੇ ਵਿਚਾਰ-ਵਟਾਂਦਰਾ ਪ੍ਰੋਗਰਾਮ ਕਰਵਾਇਆ ਗਿਆ। ਮੁੱਖ ਖੇਤੀਬਾੜੀ ਅਫ਼ਸਰ, ਪਟਿਆਲਾ ਡਾ. ਦਾਰਾ ਸਿੰਘ ਨੇ ਕਿਹਾ ਕਿ ਸਰਕਾਰ ਟਿਕਾਊ ਖੇਤੀਬਾੜੀ ਦੇ ਅਨੁਕੂਲ ਫ਼ਸਲ ਸੁਰੱਖਿਆ ਉਤਪਾਦਾਂ ਦੀ ਸੁਰੱਖਿਅਤ ਤੇ ਸਮਝਦਾਰੀ ਨਾਲ ਵਰਤੋਂ ਬਾਰੇ ਜਾਗਰੂਕਤਾ ਵਧਾਉਣ ਲਈ ਉਦਯੋਗ ਦੇ ਯਤਨਾਂ ਦਾ ਸਵਾਗਤ ਕਰਦੀ ਹੈ। ਏਸੀਐਫਆਈ ਦੇ ਡਾਇਰੈਕਟਰ ਜਨਰਲ ਕਲਿਆਣ ਗੋਸਵਾਮੀ ਨੇ ਕਿਹਾ ਕਿ ਇਸ ਪ੍ਰੋਗਰਾਮ ਦਾ ਮਕਸਦ ਕਿਸਾਨਾਂ ਦਾ ਭਰੋਸਾ ਮਜ਼ਬੂਤ ਕਰਨਾ, ਕੀਟਨਾਸ਼ਕ ਸਬੰਧੀ ਫੈਲ ਰਹੀਆਂ ਗਲਤਫਹਿਮੀਆਂ ਨੂੰ ਦੂਰ ਕਰਨਾ ਅਤੇ ਉਦਯੋਗ ਤੇ ਵੰਡ ਨੈੱਟਵਰਕ ਵਿਚਕਾਰ ਬਿਹਤਰ ਤਾਲਮੇਲ ਸਥਾਪਤ ਕਰਨਾ ਹੈ।

NEWS

Saini, Shivraj Chouhan launch farm mission to strengthen rural economy

Khet Bachao Abhiyan concludes at College of Agriculture in Rewari

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

REWARI, JUNE 30

The state government on Tuesday launched the Haryana FPO Mission-2026 to strengthen Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs), improve market access and boost rural incomes through collective agricultural entrepreneurship.

The mission was launched by Union Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and CM Nayab Singh Saini during the concluding ceremony of the month-long Khet Bachao Abhiyan at the College of Agriculture, Bawal, in the district.

Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini on a tractor during the agricultural event, in Rewari on Tuesday. ANI

Addressing the gathering, Saini said nearly 775 FPOs working in the agriculture, horticulture and dairy sectors were currently active in Haryana. The mission will strengthen the organisations, and improve supply chains and processing facilities.

Saini said the initiative would particularly benefit small and marginal farmers by encouraging collective farming and improving their bargaining power in the market. The mission was expected to generate employment opportunities in rural areas.

Chouhan said the country could not become a developed nation without prosperous farmers and a vibrant agriculture sector. Stressing sustainable farming, he urged cultivators to adopt balanced and scientific use of fertilisers, warning that excessive application of chemicals such as urea and DAP was harming soil health and the environment.

Chouhan said the state had emerged as a national model through farmer-centric initiatives such as MSP procurement on 24 crops, Bhavantar Bharpai Yojana, Meri Fasal-Mera Byora and Mera Pani-Meri Virasat. He said Haryana continued to play a vital role in the country's food security despite accounting for only 1.3 per cent of India's geographical area.

The two leaders also inaugurated an exhibition showcasing modern farming technologies and honoured six progressive farmers from Rewari, Mahendragarh and Jhajjar districts.

India mounts legal challenge to proposed US tariffs

Commerce Ministry, CII, FICCI and exporters to defend labour standards before USTR panel

WASHINGTON

INDIA will mount a coordinated challenge next week to a proposed US tariff on its exports, with government officials and leading industry bodies arguing that Washington's findings on forced labour are legally flawed, unsupported by evi-dence and could disrupt supply chains linking the world's largest and fifth-largest economies.

The challenge will be presented before the Office of the US Trade Representa-tive's (USTR) Section 301 Committee on July 8.

Poornima Shenoy of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and In-dustry (FICCI) and Shuchita Sonalika of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) are scheduled to testify during Panel 8.

They will be followed in Panel 9 by Dr Brij Mohan of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and Shubham Arora of the Agricultural and Processed Food Prod-ucts Export Development Authority (APEDA). Vinnie Mehta, Director General of the Automotive Component Manufacturers Association (ACMA), will testify on July 9.

The hearings follow USTR's proposal to impose an additional 12.5 per cent duty on imports from India under a Section 301 investigation into whether countries prohibit and effectively enforce restrictions on imports of goods produced with forced labour. The proposal is open for public comments before a final decision is taken. India's Ministry of Commerce and Industry has rejected the USTR's conclusions.

In its submission, the ministry says India has a "robust domestic legal regime re-flecting a structured and progressive approach combining statutory prohibitions, institutional mechanisms, and ongoing policy measures aimed at reducing vul-nerability to forced labour."

It also argues there is "inadequate and insufficient evidence" that India's import regime burdens or restricts US commerce, a requirement for action under Section 301.

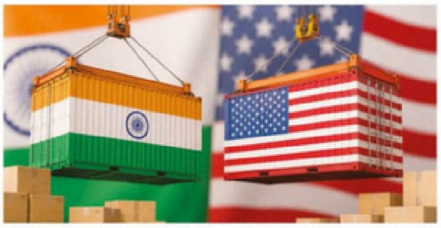
The Confederation of Indian Industry has made a detailed legal and economic case against the proposed action.

CII says India's policy framework does not qualify as "unreasonable" or "discrim-inatory" under Section 301 of the US Trade Act. It says India's legal safeguards are anchored in Article 23 of the Constitution and reinforced by the Bonded La-bour System (Abolition) Act, the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Act and the four Labour Codes adopted between 2019 and 2020.

The industry body also points to mandatory Environmental, Social and Governance reporting and Business Responsibility and Sustainability Reporting re-quirements for listed companies. It notes that India has ratified key International Labour Organisation conventions against forced labour and child labour.

CII disputes examples cited in the USTR report

It says India imported no rice from Myanmar and no tobacco from Malawi dur-ing the 2021-2025 review period. It argues these examples do not establish any direct link between



India's imports and forced labour. CII also notes that India imported US$1.537 billion worth of American cotton between 2021 and 2025, almost twice its imports from China. It says this demonstrates there is "no material evidence" that India's policies unfairly burden US commerce. CII further argues that sectors such as forgings, foundries and agricultural machinery are capital-intensive, skill-dependent and globally integrated. It says the use of forced labour is fundamentally incompatible with these industries. It also says Indian exporters supplying American manufacturers already operate under buyer-directed compliance systems and voluntary certification programmes.

"The proposed 12.5 per cent additional duty would raise costs for US manufacturers dependent on Indian inputs without addressing the stated policy objective," CII says. It urges USTR to pursue "compliance-based cooperation through the established India-US Trade Policy Forum as a more effective and proportionate alternative to punitive tariffs."

FICCI also opposed the proposal

The industry body says Indian export supply chains serving the US market al-ready operate within "well-established compliance frameworks" built around traceability, supplier due diligence, independent audits and responsible sourcing. It argues that broad-based tariffs would increase costs for American businesses and consumers while disrupting resilient supply chains that have expanded sig-nificantly in recent years.

APEDA plans to defend India's agricultural exports before the committee

Its submission says India's rice sector "does not engage forced labour nor does it import inputs made with or using forced labour." It argues that Indian rice ex-ports comply with recognised standards and should not be subject to the pro-posed additional duties.

ACMA has focused on the impact on mfg

It says India's automotive component industry is organised, technology-driven and governed by established labour compliance frameworks. The association has asked USTR to exempt automotive components. It argues that additional duties would disrupt integrated supply chains, increase costs for US manufacturers and create sourcing uncertainty for the American automotive industry.

The Section 301 investigations cover 60 economies and focus on whether countries have imposed and effectively enforced legal prohibitions on imports pro-duced wholly or partly with forced labour.

Trade talks with US in final stage, India to get competitive edge: Piyush Goyal

NEW DELHI

THE India-US bilateral trade agreement (BTA) talks have entered the final stage, with most key issues having been sorted out and both sides working towards a deal that gives New Delhi an ad-vantage over its competitors, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Thursday.

Goyal said he does not foresee any major hurdles in concluding the US trade agreement despite recent legal and policy developments in Washington.

"We don't see any difficulties with the US," Goyal said, adding that "concessions and other ele-ments have largely been finalised." He said India has consistently sought preferential market access over competing nations, a position that has been understood by the US administration.

Following the US Supreme Court's decision to strike down tariffs imposed under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA), Goyal said Washington is now working on an alter-native mechanism that would preserve India's competitive advantage. He added that US Trade Representative (USTR) Jamieson Greer has acknowledged India's position during the negotiations.

Despite higher tariffs, India's exports to the US have remained resilient. Goyal said bilateral trade has continued to grow and projected that India's merchandise exports in the April-June quarter will rise about 15 per cent year-on-year.

Goyal further stated that the India-UK Free Trade Agreement (FTA) will take effect on July 15, opening up new opportunities for Indian exporters.

Besides, the legal scrutiny of the India-European Union Free Trade Agreement is expected to con-clude within 10 to 12 days, after which it will move through the approval process, he added.

India-Peru FTA talks to resume after new govt takes office in Lima

T E Raja Simhan
Chennai

The negotiations for the proposed India-Peru Free Trade Agreement (FTA), which were expected to conclude by July this year, are likely to resume in the second half of 2026 after Peru's newly-elected government takes office, said Javier Manuel Paulinich Velarde, Peru's Ambassador to India

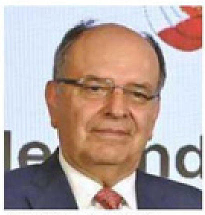
The negotiations have been delayed following Peru's recent presidential elections. The new government is scheduled to take office at the end of July and will first need to appoint ministers before resuming the trade discussions, he told *businessline*.

"There is interest from both countries to continue the negotiations," the Ambassador said, expressing optimism that the talks would restart once the new administration is in place.

So far, nine rounds of negotiations have been completed.

LATEST ROUND

The latest round took place nearly a year ago, after which the country's election campaign slowed progress.



Javier Manuel Paulinich Velarde, Ambassador of Peru to India BIJOY GHOSH

The Ambassador said the incoming government would decide the timeline for the next round of negotiations but reiterated Peru's commitment to moving the agreement forward.

The proposed India-Peru FTA is expected to deepen bilateral trade and create new opportunities across sectors such as mining, pharmaceuticals, agriculture, renewable energy and manufacturing, while providing Indian companies greater access to Peru's abundant reserves of critical minerals.

On opportunities beyond the FTA, he highlighted Peru's vast mining potential, saying the country had around $60 billion worth of mineral exploration and exploitation projects, presenting significant opportunities for global investors, including from India.

MEGA PORT PROJECT

The Ambassador invited Indian companies to participate in Peru's infrastructure development, particularly a proposed $6 billion mega port project, the country's second such facility after the Chancay port.

'States executing low-cost protected cultivation model for smallholders'

Our Bureau
Mangaluru

Kheyti, a Hyderabad-based agri-tech social enterprise, has said that the governments in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh, and Nabard have adapted its low-cost protected cultivation model.

A media statement said that Kheyti had re-engineered the conventional greenhouse into a low-cost protected cultivation structure that costs a fraction of a standard greenhouse and is sized for a small farmer's plot, paired with an AI-powered advisory delivered through field agronomists and a mobile decision-support tool.

After proving the model directly with more than 7,000 farmers across eight States, Kheyti has begun working alongside State governments and Central institutions to carry it to the millions of smallholder farmers it aims to reach, it said.

SHADE-NET DESIGN

On March 7, the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), under the Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, wrote to the State Horticulture Mission Directors across the country, asking them to consider promoting low-cost protected cultivation for small and marginal farmers.

The statement said the advisory cited a technical evaluation by the ICAR-Indian Institute of Horticultural Research (IIHR), Bengaluru, which assessed Kheyti's low-cost shade net design and found it "very much cost effective", and said that it "can be recommended for the farmers".

CLIMATE RESILIENCE

Citing the institute, the statement said: "Low-cost, small-sized net-house models may be included in the protected cultivation schemes under MIDH."

Quoting Saumya, Co-founder and Head of Public and Government Partnerships, Kheyti, the statement said: "India's State governments and Nabard have shown over the past two years that climate resilience for smallholder farmers is solvable — when the model is built end-to-end for smallholder economics, and when public institutions choose to put their delivery capacity behind it. Kheyti's role is to democratise the technology and provide farmers with AI-driven advisory to ensure their success."

Subsidy on food, fertilizer, fuel jumps 47% in April-May

WIDENING GAP. Fiscal deficit surges 9.6% to ₹1.62 lakh crore in end-May

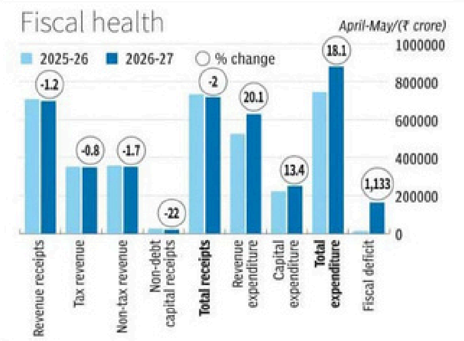
Shishir Sinha
New Delhi

Subsidy on food, fertilizer and fuel surged over 47 per cent in the first two months (April-May) period of FY27, data from the Controller General of Accounts (CGA) showed on Tuesday. With de-growth in total receipts, the Centre's fiscal deficit, the gap between expenditure and income, surged 9.6 per cent.

Fiscal deficit was ₹1.62 lakh crore in value terms at the end of May, CGA data showed. At the end of May 2025, the Centre's fiscal deficit had reduced to 0.8 per cent of the BE of 2025-26 or ₹13,163 crore. The Centre has set a fiscal deficit target of 4.3 per cent of the GDP or ₹16.96 lakh crore in the current fiscal.

BUDGET ALLOCATION

Data also revealed 18 per cent of budget allocation on account of key subsidy had been spent in two months; urea subsidy alone exhausted nearly 1/4th of the 12 months fund. Still, experts feel that fiscal deficit likely to overshoot the budget estimates lower that earlier projection.



Source: CGA

As per the CGA data, net tax receipts stood at ₹3.48 lakh crore, while non-tax receipts were ₹3.51 lakh crore. The total expenditure of the Central government stood at ₹8.81 lakh crore at the end of May, including capital expenditure of ₹2.51 lakh crore.

According to DK Srivastava, Chief Policy Advisor, EY India, CGA data for April and May reflect three basic developments: first, the effect of the ongoing West Asian crisis, second, the sustained impact of the major GST reforms undertaken in September 2025 and third, substantive transfer of dividends from the RBI to the GoI.

As far as GoI's gross tax revenues (GTR) are concerned, the revenue performance of direct and indirect taxes indicate directionally opposite trends.

DIRECT TAXES

In the case of direct taxes, there has been a growth of 10.5 per cent during April-May period of FY27 over the corresponding period of FY26 in which the major contribution came from the corporate income tax. On the other hand, indirect taxes showed a contraction of (-)7.5 per cent. GST revenues contracted by (-)12.2 per cent during these two months. "While growth in GoI's GTR was 1.8 per cent, its net tax revenues contracted because a higher growth of 7.4 per cent was provided in assignment to States during the first two months of 2026-27," Srivastava said.

ICRA Chief Economist Aditi Nayar said looking ahead, the sharp dip in global energy prices following the cooling of tensions in West Asia has improved the outlook for the GoI's fiscal position in FY27.

At 20%, kharif sowing picks up pace, but far from last year's 62%

Abhijeet.Patil@timesofindia.com

Kolhapur: As scattered showers finally begin to lash Maharashtra, the long-awaited kharif season has stirred into motion — though not without anxiety and uneven progress.

As of July 1, sowing data shows a mixed trend. Planting has accelerated sharply, reaching about 20% of the average kharif cultivation area (excluding sugar cane), up nearly 10% points in just three days. It, however, remains far below last year's 62% coverage at this point.

"Among the major crops, cotton leads with 35% sowing completed, followed by maize (28%), tur (19%) and soybean (14%). Of Maharashtra's average kharif area of 1.57 crore hectares, sowing has so far been done on 27.8 lakh hectares. This includes a sluggish start to sugar cane plantation at 43,642 hectares against a typical of 13.11 lakh hectares," an agriculture official said, citing the data.

Soybean and cotton together dominate the fields, accounting for an average 57% of all kharif sowing. But this year, state govt has urged farmers to opt for short-duration crops that mature in about 90 days, instead of traditional varieties that take 120 days or more.

Raju Sanadi

Workers sow seeds in a Karad village

The reason behind the state's appeal is simple. Fields need to be cleared in time for the rabi season. "Farmers are gradually moving towards short-duration crops. Crops like tur (pigeon pea) take four to five months, so their cultivation may drop. Maize and soybean are becoming more attractive," Haridas Hawale, agriculture development officer from Solapur, said.

Across the state, the monsoon's uneven rhythm is clearly visible. Of 36 districts, 13 have received less than 100mm rainfall by June-end — far below the required level for ensuring adequate soil moisture within a short 3-5 day window.

"The worst-hit is the Nashik division, where all five districts (Nashik, Dhule, Nandurbar, Jalgaon and Ahilyanagar) are yet to receive sufficient rainfall. Pune division (Pune, Solapur, Satara) and parts of Nagpur division (Bhandara, Gondia, Gadchiroli) follow closely, each with three districts still parched. Even Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar division has two districts struggling with inadequate rain," another official said.

For farmers in the ghat regions, the India Meteorological Department's agrometeorology unit has issued a cautious call, saying complete rice nursery sowing where possible, but do not rush into large-scale operations without reliable rainfall.

On the ground uncertainty hangs heavy. Dharmaraj Patil, a farmer near Dharashiv-Latur border, has taken a calculated risk. "I have begun soybean sowing after a few good showers in the last three to four days. But just a few kilometres away, there's no rain at all. Sowing is already delayed by 15 days. Still, I am hoping the monsoon regains strength later," he said.

Meanwhile, sugar cane — one of the most water-intensive crops — remains the slowest to take root. Just 3% of the average planting area has been covered so far. With its long growing period of 16-18 months, farmers are treading cautiously, holding back till they are certain water availability will sustain the crop.

UoH hosts Indonesian delegation to boost agricultural cooperation

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JULY 1

As Indonesia works towards food self-sufficiency, a 12-member team from its higher education and research ecosystem visited the University of Hyderabad (UoH) on Tuesday to study agricultural research and explore collaborations in food security and sustainable farming.

The visit was organised under the 'Lesson Learn Agricultural Alternatives' programme, a joint initiative of Indonesia's Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology and the Ministry of State Secretariat. UoH said the programme is linked to Indonesia's national priority of strengthening food security and reducing dependence on imports.

The delegation included Junaidi Khotib, secretary, Directorate General of Research and Development, Ministry of higher education, science and technology, along with representatives from universities and government institutions.

Delegation from Indonesia's research institutions interacts with UoH officials.

Vice-Chancellor (in-charge) J. Anuradha said collaborations between institutions in India and Indonesia could help address shared challenges in sustainability, agriculture and food systems through joint research and knowledge exchange.

Faculty from the School of Life Sciences and Department of Plant Sciences presented UoH's work in dryland agricultural management, natural farming, permaculture, digital agriculture technologies, climate-resilient food systems and sustainable crop production. Discussions also covered agricultural policies, AI and mechanisation in farming, and opportunities for human resource development and academic exchanges. The delegation later visited laboratories and research facilities to gain a closer understanding of UoH's work. According to the university, the interaction laid the groundwork for future collaborations in research, training and knowledge sharing, particularly in food security, sustainable agriculture and climate resilience.

Govt may use ammonia from coal gasification to produce urea

SANJEEB MUKHERJEE
New Delhi, 2 July

The government is exploring the possibility of using ammonia derived from coal gasification as the key feedstock instead of conventional imported liquefied natural gas for seven planned urea plants.

The government is looking to boost domestic urea production through the commissioning of seven plants — both greenfield and brownfield — as part of its new investment policy. The old policy expired in December 2025.

Sources said the government in recent meetings with industry players raised the issue of using domestic ammonia produced from coal gasification as feedstock for running these new setups. The framework for this could be on the lines of the current mechanism through which fertiliser plants use imported LNG for making urea.

The move to opt for ammonia produced from coal gasification has gathered added urgency after the West Asia crisis exposed India's urea sector steep price hikes and supply shocks. The sector suffered similar shocks during the Russia-Ukraine war in 2022. Almost 95 per cent of India's domestic urea production capacity depends on natural gas, with a significant portion sourced through imported LNG. Sources said although coal-based urea projects require higher capital expenditure than conventional gas-based plants, they offer some significant advantages. These include lower operating costs; complete feedstock security; insulation from international LNG price volatility; lower carbon capture costs due to concentrated carbon dioxide streams and substantial long-term foreign exchange savings.

According to industry assessments, coal-based urea can reduce production costs by $50–75 per tonne compared with LNG-linked facilities under prevailing market conditions. "After capital recovery, production costs could potentially fall to $300–350 per tonne, making Indian coal-based urea globally competitive," an industry official said.

The fact that the government has announced coal gasification support programmes worth over ₹37,500 crore, including the ₹8,500 crore exclusively for urea, can further help in synergising the two.

According to industry estimates, supporting 10-15 coal-based fertiliser projects today could save India tens of thousands of crores annually in import bills and subsidy outgo. Sources said the industry is seeking government support in the form of a dedicated coal-to-urea investment policy; parity support with gas-based fertiliser projects; infrastructure status for coal gasification plants; tax and customs incentives for capital-intensive projects; and long-term offtake assurance mechanisms.

On the new investment policy on urea, the sources said the policy which is in the works is aimed at raising India's urea production by almost 9-10 mt over the next eight years.

Key advantages and targets for coal-based urea

- Lower operating costs than LNG-linked facilities
- Complete feedstock security from domestic coal
- Reduces production costs by $50 to $75 per tonne
- Supporting 10-15 fertiliser projects could save India tens of thousands of crores annually in import bills and subsidy outgo, according to industry assessments
- Industry seeks dedicated coal-to-urea investment policy

Field trials highlight potential of biofertilizers at TNAU meet in Bhavanisagar

The Hindu Bureau
ERODE

A field day and State-level stakeholders' interaction on the use of biofertilizers was held at the Agricultural Research Station (ARS), Bhavanisagar, on Tuesday to showcase the results of field trials conducted under the Biostimulants Efficacy Testing Structure (BETS) project, funded by the Gates Foundation.

The project, implemented at the station since June 2023, aims to validate the efficacy of bioinoculant technologies across different crops and cropping systems in the State. Field evaluations are being carried out in rice, maize, sorghum, pearl millet, black gram, cowpea and soybean using different combinations of biofertilizers.

Around 100 participants, including farmers, bio-input manufacturers and distributors, scientists of the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU), and officials of the Department of Agriculture, attended the programme.

Farmers during the field day at Bhavanisagar in Erode district on Tuesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Addressing the gathering, M. Raveendran, Director of Research, TNAU, and D. Balachandar, Professor of Agricultural Microbiology, highlighted the role of beneficial microbes in improving soil health and reducing the use of inorganic fertilizers without affecting crop yield.

Representatives of bio-input companies discussed the commercial potential of biofertilizers, while scientists and agriculture officials spoke on the challenges in adoption, quality standards and strategies to increase their use among farmers and cultivators.

P. Balasubramaniyan, Director (Open and Distance Learning), TNAU, stressed the need to promote biofertilizers to protect soil health and ensure sustainable agriculture.

Progressive farmers from different parts of the State shared their experiences in using bioinoculants in organic farming.

Exhibition

An exhibition of biofertilizers developed by TNAU and the results of field demonstrations was organised as part of the event.

Paddy farmers told to wait till July-end amid water shortage

DAVANGERE, DHNS

Farmers across the district, particularly paddy growers, have been advised to wait until the end of July before deciding to take up paddy cultivation this season.

According to the Agriculture Department officials, there is no guaranteed irrigation facility as the water level` in the Bhadra dam, the lifeline for paddy cultivation in the district, remains low. The dam authorities have also clarified that water will not be released into the canals due to the deficit rainfall recorded in June. As a result, paddy growers in the district have little choice but to wait until the end of July before deciding whether to take up paddy cultivation this season.

Speaking to *DH*, Joint Director of Agriculture Ziaullah Khan said the rainfall received in the district so far is inadequate for both paddy and millet cultivation. "Given the current rain pattern, conditions are not conducive for sowing either crop. Farmers should wait and hope for good spells of rain in the coming days before taking a decision," he said.

Workers plant paddy seedlings in Davangere district.

DH FILE PHOTO

He also noted that paddy is grown on around 63,000 hectares of farming land in the district. This is likely to come down by more than 50% this year due to deficit rainfall.

He pointed out that the paddy seedlings can be planted even in August. Hence, growers can be hopeful. However, their economic activities would be affected. This would not affect rice consumers as a huge quantity of paddy has been stored in warehouses across the state that can be used for another two years, he said.

He also informed that if there is a rise in water inflow to the Bhadra dam in the coming days, farmers can go for paddy cultivation. If not, millets can be grown. However, a minimum 5mm rainfall is the need of the hour.

He said farmers would get compensation from the government in case of crop loss. As of now, farming activities have to be suspended, he added.

Indonesia eyes ICRISAT support for drought-resilient crops

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AGRI PRODUCTIVITY IN FOCUS

- Indonesian delegation plans to collaborate with leading institutions, including ICRISAT
- Move aimed at accessing drought-resilient sorghum & millet germplasm for developing crop varieties suited to country's topography
- ICRISAT said delegation visited institute & explored possible collaborations that can be implemented back in their country
- Delegation also visited University of Hyderabad, IIT Hyderabad, Beforest Hyderabad Collective and Prasad Labs, among others

A high-level Indonesian delegation during their visit in Hyderabad

Hyderabad: Sorghum and millet germpalsm (seed varieties) from Hyderabad may soon find their way into the drylands of Indonesia.

A high-level Indonesian delegation currently in Hyderabad told **STOI** that it plans to collaborate with leading institutions, including the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), to access drought-resilient sorghum and millet germplasm for developing crop varieties suited to the country's topography. The initiative is part of Indonesia's efforts to improve agricultural productivity in areas facing water stress and challenging agro-climatic conditions.

Members part of the delegation said they chose Hyderabad because its semi-arid conditions and dryland farming practices are similar to those found in parts of Indonesia.

New varieties

"The most prominent ones that we can use are millet and sorghum. We already grow them in Indonesia, but the problem is the germplasm is limited. So, if we can have collaboration with ICRISAT, we can bring all the germplasm needed and release new varieties," said Hafith Furqoni, secretary, department of agronomy and horticulture, IPB University. Furqoni said that Indonesian researchers will select 10 to 20 crop germpalsms from ICRISAT's massive collection -- among the largest in the world -- that are best suited to their conditions. "We can use them for a breeding programme in Indonesia and then release new varieties. We have already got ICRISAT's consent," he added.

The delegation, comprising representatives from Indonesia's ministry of higher education, science and technology, ministry of state secretariat and leading universities, will return home this week and present its findings to the govt.

Based on the visit, Indonesia plans to draw up an action plan next year to implement projects in three identified locations, with funding already earmarked for the initiative.

"Three locations in Java, Kalimantan and the Nusa Tenggara region, which have extensive dryland areas, have been identified where insights gathered during the Hyderabad visit will be applied and adapted," said I Ketut Adnyana, director of research and community Service (directorate general of research and development), ministry of higher education, science and technology.

ICRISAT officials confirmed that a delegation from Indonesia visited the institute and explored possible collaborations that can be implemented back in their country.

The delegation also visited the University of Hyderabad, IIT Hyderabad, Beforest Hyderabad Collective and Prasad Labs, among other institutions. Members said the permaculture and regenerative agriculture practices demonstrated at Beforest (a firm building collective living spaces and self-sustaining ecosystems) could offer useful lessons for restoring degraded drylands in Indonesia. They were particularly impressed by how a barren tract of land had been transformed into a self-sustaining ecosystem within about two years, and said some of the concepts could be adapted to local conditions back home.

Farmers demand higher fund allocation in agriculture budget

Times News Network

TOI

DEMANDS GALORE: Farmers want complete waiver of all crop loans

Trichy: Farmer representatives have demanded a complete waiver of all crop loans, provision of pending electricity connections and allocation of agriculture budget funds on a par with the health and education sectors during an agriculture budget consultation meeting held in Thanjavur on Friday.

Agriculture minister R Vinoth and minority welfare minister A M Shajahan took part in the meeting which saw active participation from farmers across Cauvery delta region and nine other districts.

Farmers urged the govt to provide one lakh free electricity connections annually to clear the backlog for nearly four lakh awaiting farmers, particularly those dependent on Cauvery water from Mettur dam. They highlighted delays in cultivation due to power shortages. They also called for immediate action to remove silt and invasive growth obstructing water flow in Cauvery and Vennar rivers from Kallanai (Grand Anicut) head.

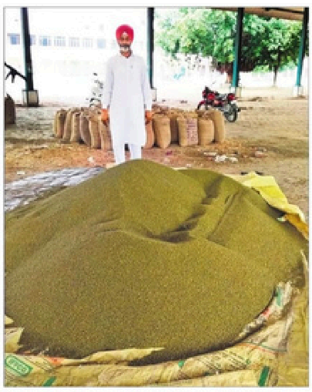
In light of delta region's status as an agricultural protection zone, participants demanded cancellation of previous decisions to set up Sipcot industrial parks. They also sought priority for natural farming, ₹25 lakh compensation for farmers affected by natural calamities, electrocution, or attacks, and the introduction of a new CM's farmers life insurance scheme.

Other key demands included procuring paddy at ₹3,500 a quintal as per the election manifesto and removal of all conditions from the existing cooperative loan waiver scheme to ensure full benefits. They called for additional storage godowns, procurement of paddy with up to 22% moisture content, and govt takeover of the crop insurance scheme.

Farmers further proposed a dedicated 'war room' to address Cauvery water issue legally and politically, along with desilting funds and a memorial hall-museum at Kallanai honouring Nammalvar and Arthur Cotton.

{ QUALITY WOES }

Farmers forced to sell moong below MSP for fourth straight season



Moong was cultivated on nearly 1 lakh acres across various districts this year, up from around 67,000 acres in 2025. HT

Vishal Joshi
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PVT TRADERS ARE BUYING THE CROP AROUND ₹7,200 A QUINTAL AGAINST THE MSP OF ₹8,780; EXPERTS ATTRIBUTE LOWER PRICES TO MONSOON-RELATED MOISTURE AND DISCOLOURATION

BATHINDA: As harvesting of summer moong (green gram) picks up in Punjab, the crop is once again fetching prices at an average of 18% below the minimum support price (MSP) of ₹8,780 per quintal for the fourth consecutive season.

Experts say that the harvesting of the 65-day rabi zaid (crop sown between rabi and kharif seasons) coincides with the monsoon, leading to high moisture content and discolouration, which lowers the crop's market value.

Ludhiana and Barnala account for nearly 80% of the state's zaid crop, and the trend shows that the moong is being purchased at an average rate of ₹7,200 per quintal by private players.

According to provisional estimates, moong was cultivated on nearly one lakh acres across various districts this year, up from around 67,000 acres in 2025.

After the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government came to power in 2022, the government announced procurement of the crop at MSP, subject to the condition that farmers must take up either PR-126 or Basmati after harvesting the moong crop.

The government procured nearly 55,000 quintals of moong in 2022, but purchases dropped to 25,000 quintals the following year. From 2024 onwards, the state government stepped back as the majority of the crop brought to the mandis failed to meet the quality standards.

Officials of the state agriculture department said that India imports a substantial quantity of 'moong' every year for domestic consumption, and that, if incentivised, the crop's cultivation can be increased manifold in the state.

Punjab mandi board secretary Kumar Amit did not respond to phone calls and text messages to ascertain the pulse's purchase details.

Traders estimated this season's total production at around 8 lakh quintals.

Market information gathered from various private players indicates that nearly 5 lakh tonnes of moong has arrived at mandis in various districts by July 4, and the entire produce was purchased by traders below the MSP.

Gurmat Pal Singh, district mandi officer (DMO) in Ludhiana, said that Jagraon, one of the main hubs for moong purchases, has recorded sales of 1.75 lakh quintals till June 30.

He said Jagraon has seven units to process the pulse, and the town has emerged as the most preferred destination to market moong.

"Jagraon recorded the sale of 1.75 lakh tonnes till June 30. No grain was purchased at the MSP. In 2025, 2.58 lakh tonnes of summer moong were purchased, whereas 3.02 lakh tonnes of pulses were bought by private players in 2024, and no farmer received the MSP here," he said.

According to the information, Barnala recorded the arrival of around 1.60 lakh tonnes. Barnala DMO Bir Inder Sidhu said that in 2025, a total of 4.76 lakh quintals was purchased below MSP at Tapa by private players.

"Last year, the average rate was ₹7,200 per quintal and this time the rate has seen a slight improvement at ₹7,300 per quintal," Sidhu said.

According to the president of Jagraon arthiya association, Kanhaiya Gupta, traders expect the arrival to touch the 4 lakh quintal mark.

"Green gram has a demand in the market, but the crop brought generally to the mandis misses the quality benchmark. High moisture content, discolouration and small size of grains are the key factors that farmers get lower rates," he said.

A moong grower from Bathinda, Jasdev Singh, said it costs around ₹10,000-₹12,000 per acre to cultivate moong.

"If a farmer could harvest 4-5 quintals from an acre and the produce gets MSP, the moong grower can get a handsome return from the 65-day crop. In several seasons, we could barely recover the cost as untimely rains could damage the crop completely or adversely affect the quality," he added.

Harpreet Kaur Virk, an expert on pulses at the Punjab Agricultural University (PAU) said that summer moong is a remunerative crop and field reports say that farmers are getting up to ₹8,000 per quintals and, which is above the input cost.

"It is known for fixing soil nitrogen, and it can also improve the financial position of farmers. In case the state farmers are incentivised by way of MSP, the production of moong can be enhanced manifold in Punjab," she added.

Clouded under El Nino skies

RAIN OR SHINE?
With the El Nino event confirmed by several global weather agencies, the fear seems real now. Here's a look at how it could impact agriculture, allied sectors and markets, should there be a weak monsoon this year

Nalinakanthi V

Come May, one event that is most-awaited and tracked by India Inc and investors is the onset of the South-West monsoon and its progression.

The 2026 South-West monsoon season has opened on a weak note, with the country recording a 40 per cent deficient rainfall in June. However, the IMD expects monsoon to progress, beginning this week.

One word that is frequently making the headlines is El Nino. And with several global weather agencies having confirmed the event, the fear seems real now. But is El Nino something investors should really worry about?

For those who are unfamiliar with the Spanish word, it basically denotes the adverse changes (rapid increase) in the sea-surface temperature (SST) over central and eastern Pacific region. This affects the trade wind formation and movement, eventually resulting in below-normal rainfall in Australia and South-East Asian regions such as Indonesia and also has an impact on India's monsoon rainfall.

But an El Nino event does not necessarily spell doom. Much depends on its timing. If conditions intensify only after September, the impact on India is likely to be limited, as the South-West monsoon accounts for nearly two-thirds of the country's annual rainfall.

The intensity of the El Nino event is very crucial. The Nino 3.4 Index, in addition to trade winds, atmospheric response and sub-surface ocean temperatures, is the basis for ascertaining the event. If the SST value is above 0.5 for five consecutive three-month overlapping seasons, then it's a weak El Nino. An SST value between 0.5 and 1.5 implies a moderate El Nino; while any value above 1.5 indicates a stronger event.

We have had two El Nino episodes in the last three decades — 2015 and 2023. But in 2015, which is considered moderate El Nino, the overall rainfall deficit was 12.7 of the Long period Average (LPA). Interestingly, in 2009, which was a drought year, the SST values during the season were under 0.5, indicating a no El Nino year. Likewise, 2014, too, was not an El Nino year.

It is clear that El Nino is not the only reason for a poor monsoon. Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) is a climate phenomenon caused by variations in sea temperatures in the Indian Ocean. Its positive, negative and neutral phases can influence the Indian monsoon. A positive IOD brings good rainfall to India, while a negative IOD results in lower seasonal rainfall.

Other factors include Madden Julien Oscillation (MJO), more of a short-term phenomenon lasting for about 60 days, unlike an IOD or El Nino, which last for several months.

What is the current status of El Nino, IOD and MJO, and what are the implications for our South-West monsoon season?

As per SST data published by the IMD, the SST value was -0.1 for the March-May period, which is an increase from -0.9 in the December-February period. However, as per the latest data released by Columbia Climate school, the SST anomaly measured using Nino 3.4 Index, which was at 0.48 degree Celsius in March-May period, has increased swiftly to 0.94 degree Celsius by May and further increased to 1.7 by June 17. This indicates a strong possibility of a moderate-to-severe El Nino event this season. Multiple agencies, including National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, have confirmed the El Nino event.

The IOD, which was positive to neutral at the start of the year, is now showing a swing towards negative zone — with the May IOD at -0.39 in the IMD website. MJO is possibly not presenting clear indications yet.

However, the IMD has indicated widespread rainfall this week, supported by formation of a 'low'. While the rainfall progress in July remains extremely crucial, the Indian government has launched an emergency plan to protect crops in 315 districts with irrigation infrastructure gaps and significant deficiency in rainfall and the farming community is preparing itself for the worst. The government is helping the farming community to navigate this phase by shifting to crops, such as millets and pulses, which can thrive on less water, use of climate-resistant and short-duration crops, etc.

Efforts such as these can help minimise the impact of weak rainfall on farm incomes, as foodgrain production bears the biggest brunt of a weak-rainfall season. Directionally, the impact is visible, either through flattish output or a marginal decline in output during the years when the monsoon has been below normal. For instance, in 2009-10, which followed the 2009 drought year, foodgrain production slipped 7 per cent. In the following years — 2014 and 2015 — production was lower by 4.9 per cent and 0.2 per cent, respectively. Similarly, in 2019, when the rainfall was a tad lower, the growth in foodgrain production was flat. As foodgrain production is highly sensitive to monsoon rainfall, this needs to be closely monitored. Meaningful improvement in rainfall will be crucial to keeping food inflation under check.

Levels of farm income and food inflation are two important variables that have a bearing on economy and interest rates and thereby on the markets.

However, India has, over the last three decades, managed to increase the area under irrigation — from 33.6 per cent in 1990-91 to 39 per cent by 2001 and 59 per cent by 2023, is worth noting. States such as Punjab and Tamil Nadu have seen significant improvement in the irrigation penetration, while Maharashtra continues to be significantly dependent on the monsoon, making it more vulnerable, given that the State is a key producer of sugarcane and cotton.

SECTORS THAT NEED TO BE WATCHED

While conventional wisdom suggests that agri and allied sectors may be the first casualty of a weak monsoon, what does historical data point to?

Contrary to our conventional wisdom that monsoon weakness may have a direct and significant impact on the sales of agri-inputs, historical data show resilience. For instance, when we study the trend in fertilizer sales, it has remained strong even during weak monsoon years. For instance, during the drought year of 2009, fertilizer consumption grew 6.4 per cent year-on-year. Similarly, in 2014 and 2015, when the rainfall was lower than the LPA by 12 per cent and 14 per cent, respectively, fertilizer sales grew 4.5 per cent and 4.3 per cent, respectively. This is largely because of two reasons. First, the purchases typically happen ahead of the season and hence remain unaffected by the rainfall. Second, the high government subsidy on urea and complex fertilizers has also supported consumption. Stocks such as Chambal Fertilisers and Chemicals, and Coromandel International have delivered healthy gains irrespective of the monsoon concerns and stocks are up 9-10x in the last 12 years.

Interestingly, the sector has seen significant improvement in profitability over the last decade, thanks to the initiatives to bring in operational efficiencies. This aside, government efforts such as direct benefit transfer for subsidy and timely payment of subsidies, have helped improve the sector's balance sheet.

Chambal Fertilisers, a leading producer of urea, for which the subsidy continues to account for a significant portion of the total realisation, has seen its debtor-days reduce from 100+ levels in FY15 to less than a week in FY24 and FY25, although it has increased to about a month in 2026. For Coromandel International, among the country's largest complex fertiliser players, debtor-days halved from over 40 days in FY15 to about 20 days by FY24. However, FY26 has seen an increase in the debtor-days.

Even as the broader demand is expected to remain steady in 2026-27, the significant jump in input costs for the sector due to the US-Iran war could result in an increase in the working capital needs for companies and impact profitability. The reason: Even though the government continues to shoulder the burden of higher input costs through subsidy, payment can be back-ended as the subsidy for complex fertilisers were announced ahead of the crude rally.

Sulphur, a crude derivative used to make phosphoric acid, which in turn is used in complex fertilisers, has risen from $350 per tonne in 2025 to almost $850 per tonne in 2026. The cost of anhydrous ammonia has also increased from $500 a tonne last year to over $750 this year. Gas prices globally witnessed sharp rise in 2026 due to the war.

Agrochemicals has traditionally seen some correlation to monsoon rainfall. This is because, unlike fertilisers, only the purchase of preventive sprays happen ahead of the monsoon. For instance, in 2014 and 2015, when the country saw two consecutive years of deficient rainfall, the overall industry witnessed growth stagnation at about ₹20,000 crore. However, they staged strong recovery post 2015. For an industry that was reeling under pressure due to global destocking and price-cuts driven by China since 2023, the de-stocking completion came as a hope. However, the input price hike due to the US-Iran war may play spoilsport in the short term.

Besides impact on the sectors that are directly connected with agriculture, a weak monsoon may have a cascading effect on other sectors, too, like FMCG companies.

BENEFICIARIES

However, there are some sectors that cheer a weak monsoon. Construction and building materials sectors, for instance, always share an inverse relationship with the South-West monsoon. A poor monsoon rainfall means uninterrupted construction activity and consequently, there is stronger demand for materials such as cement, steel, paints, etc. Cement dispatch, for instance, grew at a healthy 8 per cent plus in 2009, even as the country was grappling with drought. While the sector's prospects are more closely aligned with the overall economic activity, uninterrupted construction during monsoon can boost sales.

Mining is another industry which benefits from a weak monsoon season. Traditionally, mining activity remains lull during monsoon and in the absence of rainfall, mining continues to remain steady, thereby helping companies in this space achieve higher revenue and earnings.

Power generation - coal and also solar - which could be disrupted during the monsoon season, may see higher output, should rainfall not pan out as expected.

FARM INCOME

Sectors riding the rural consumption wave may see an indirect impact from weak monsoon rainfall. Two-wheeler producers and farm equipment makers have traditionally seen tepid sales in years of lower agricultural output. For instance, M&M saw its revenue and operating profit decline 3 per cent and 13 per cent, respectively in FY15.

Another sector that has had a reversal of fortunes over the past decade is FMCG. Within the FMCG universe, the fortunes of the companies that get a significant share of revenues from the rural market, share a strong correlation with the monsoon rainfalls, with a lag effect though. Sample this: Hindustan Unilever's revenue and operating profit declined 13 per cent and 4 per cent respectively, in FY10, following the drought in 2009. In 2014-15, after two consecutive weak monsoons, the company reported flat revenues and a 4 per cent operating profit decline in FY16.

P&G Hygiene and Healthcare saw the weakness continue until 2017 at the revenue level, even as its operating profit margin witnessed improvement during this period. Dabur and Marico also saw their revenue growth stagnate in the FY15-17 period. The stagnation in revenue and profit happened with a two-year lag in FY17-18 after weak monsoons for five consecutive years. The FMCG sector, measured by the Nifty FMCG Index, also mirrored the weak growth of the companies in this space, declining 13 per cent and 5 per cent in 2002 and 2004, and a flat performance in 2015.

Initiatives such as crop rotation and planting of crops that can be managed with limited water can only help partially mitigate the impact of weak monsoon on rural income.

MONSOON AND INFLATION

The effect of a weak monsoon on the food and beverage (F&B) consumer price inflation (CPI) is evident, though with a one-year lag. For instance, after two consecutive weak monsoon phases in 2014 and 2015, monthly CPI on F&B remained elevated at over 5 per cent during 2015-16.

Likewise, after the weak 2023 monsoon, the F&B monthly CPI shot up to a new high of over 10 per cent in 2024 and remained high until 2025.

Another important agricultural product to be monitored is sugar. A sharp spike in sugar can have a cascading effect on packaged foods, FMCG, beverages, etc and can also have a rub-off impact on inflation. The implications are significant with India contemplating curbs on sugar exports in order to meet the country's energy needs, given the focus on ethanol blending programme (EBP), especially due to the spurt in crude oil prices. With sugarcane diversion to ethanol expected to increase, any reduction in cane acreage or yield can risk not only the country's domestic sugar availability, but its ambitious EBP too. Cane acreage and yield are important variables to track.

MONSOON AND MARKET

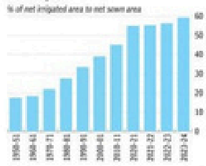
India's equity indices have historically remained unaffected by the monsoon vagaries. Key benchmark Nifty 50 Index's performance over the weak monsoon phases such as 2004, 2009 and 2023 has remained strong and resilient. Except for calendar year 2015, when the Nifty 50 index corrected about 4 per cent, the benchmark index had actually delivered positive returns during the earlier periods of weak monsoon such as 2002 (3.6 per cent), 2004 (9 per cent), 2009 (71 per cent) and 2023 (30 per cent). Index composition, with significant weightage for banks, financial services, IT services, oil & gas, and metals, is also possibly the key reason behind the resilience. However, the stellar rally in 2009 was after the mayhem in 2008, following the global financial crisis.

Overall, history indicates the impact of El Nino weak monsoon on markets is not broad-based and only affects few sectors. At the same time, there are a few risks now which are different from the past. The impact of inflation arising from reduction in agri produce and the risk to consumption due to fall in rural incomes, can add to the pressure on an already volatile market grappling for positive news.

Even though historical data do not point to any serious risks from a weak monsoon as a standalone factor, the current geopolitical situation and crude price volatility and the weakening of Indian rupee against the US dollar need to be tracked by investors from here. One cannot rule out the possibility of a knee-jerk reaction in the market should the rainfall situation continue to remain weak without any significant meaningful improvement in July and August.

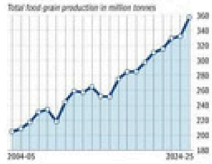
Higher irrigation penetration has helped

% of net irrigated area to net sown area



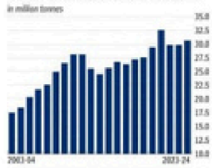
Foodgrain production: has managed to keep pace with the demand

Total food-grain production in million tonnes



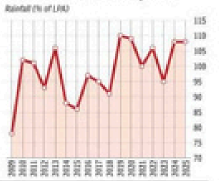
Fertilizer consumption in nutrient terms - NPK has remained resilient

in million tonnes



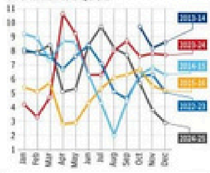
Monsoon trend over the years

Rainfall (% of LPA)



Inflation plays a catch up

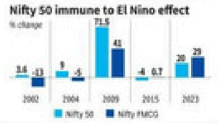
CPI of food and beverages (%)



Agrochemicals bear the brunt of weak monsoon % change in consumption y-o-y

Nifty 50 immune to El Nino effect

% change



UP rapidly advancing towards digital identity of farmers; Over 82 pc of target completed

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, 4 July

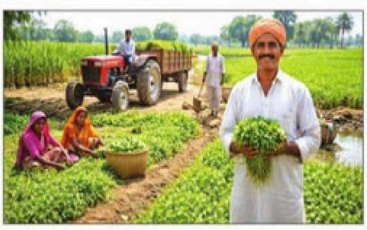
The Uttar Pradesh government is working rapidly to complete the Farmer Registry across the state, with over 2.38 crore farmers registered so far. The digital identity will help provide farmers transparent and timely access to government schemes.

The Farmer Registry work has been completed 100% in Ghaziabad and Rampur districts.

Owing to the proactive initiatives of the state government, 2,38,72,418 farmers have been registered so far, which is 82.69% of the target set by the Central Government.

Officials here on Saturday said the Farmer Registry campaign in the state was launched on November 5, 2024 and the Central Government has set a target of registering 2,88,70,495 farmers in Uttar Pradesh. The registration of approximately 4998,007 farmers is still pending. According to official data, the target is to be achieved within the next 90 days, that is, by September 26, 2026.

The UP government has been implementing this campaign in mission mode and has directed the district administration, the Revenue Department, the Agriculture Department and local-level personnel to complete the work expeditiously.



The government's objective is to prepare an integrated digital database of farmers so that they can receive the benefits of Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi, crop insurance, agricultural subsidies, credit facilities and other schemes directly and transparently.

The priority of the state government is not limited to registration alone but to also making land and farmers' records completely digital and transparent.

In this sequence, the work of "Ansh Nirdharan" is also progressing rapidly. According to available data, 87.53% of the Ansh Nirdharan work has been completed in Uttar Pradesh. This will improve the accuracy of land records and help reduce disputes in the future.

According to departmental officials, the Farmer Registry has the potential to bring a major transformation in Uttar Pradesh's agricultural system. It will help the government identify genuine farmers, monitor schemes and make agriculture-based policies more effective. At the same time, it will make it easier for farmers to receive government assistance.

The State government is continuously promoting technology-based governance. Through digital governance, online services and data-driven implementation of schemes, Uttar Pradesh is being advanced towards a modern and transparent administrative system.

The Farmer Registry campaign is also being considered an important part of this broader transformation, which would prove beneficial for crores of farmers in the state in the coming years.

YSR University to help farmers use drones

New scientific drone SOPs for fruit, veg plants upkeep

SAMPAT G. SAMRITAN | DC
VIJAYAWADA, JULY 3

Dr YSR Horticulture University trains students on the use of drones. — BY ARRANGEMENT

● **THE UNIVERSITY is taking up research for standardisation of procedures for detection of diseases affecting plants of the vegetables and fruits, as also likely deficit of micronutrients and rectification procedures like spraying of pesticides and fertilisers. The university has also taken up a training programme on usage of drones.**

The Dr YSR Horticulture University is developing scientifically approved standard operating procedures (SOPs) for use of drones in cultivation of vegetable and fruit crops.

The university is taking up research for standardisation of procedures for detection of diseases affecting plants of the vegetables and fruits, as also likely deficit of micronutrients and rectification procedures like spraying of pesticides and fertilisers.

Though drones are already being used for spraying of fertilisers, pesticides and nutritional supplements to both the agricultural and horticultural crops, YSRHU intends to come up with scientifically approved standardisation of procedures.

YSRHU's agricultural engineering associate professor and principal investigator B. Chennakesavulu said, "This will be of immense benefit to the farmers to protect their crops and get good yields."

The university has also taken up a training programme on usage of drones for 180 students pursuing undergraduate courses in the four constituent colleges of the university as part of a research work sponsored by the ICAR under SC Sub-Plan project at a cost of ₹1 crore.

The one-week training programme comprises theory classes on how to operate and fly drones, training on simulators, live flying and a workshop to explain the major components, assembling and dismantling of the drones.

The university roped in private agency Infotech Solution through e-bidding to train the students on flying drones.

The university is using basic drones for the training purposes and the students who successfully complete the one-week training programme would get certificates.

Later, the students would be encouraged to go for further skill upgradation and set up startups for providing drone services to those who need specialised services and take up manufacturing of drones.

To cut import dependence on urea, Govt allows ammonia for farming

AGRI BOOST. If successful, India will be the fourth country after the US, Canada and Australia to use it directly

Prabhudatta Mishra
New Delhi

LAST MILE. The country has a long way to go in building infra needed to deliver and inject ammonia directly into fields

Amid high demand and limited availability of urea, which contains 46 per cent nitrogen (N), the government has allowed ammonia, containing 82 per cent N, for agricultural use. However, the country will have to establish the infrastructure for the delivery and application of the gas, as it needs to be injected into the soil.

Industry sources said if successful, India will be the fourth country, after the US, Canada and Australia, to use ammonia directly in farming.

According to a notification published on July 23, the Union Agriculture Ministry said "anhydrous ammonia" fertilizer, containing a minimum of 82 per cent nitrogen by weight, is allowed to be manufactured by any unit for a period of three years from the date of the gazette notification, under clause 20A of the Fertilizer (Inorganic, Organic or Mixed) (Control) Order, 1985.

SULPHUR-COATED UREA

"Permitting the use is good as it is the first step. However, implementing it is the key challenge due to the risks involved, particularly the possibility of gas leaks," said a top official of a urea manufacturing company.

Citing the example of sulphur-coated urea, he explained how there is hardly any actual use for the fertilizer though it was given regulatory clearance for manufacturing and sales.

"Nowhere in the world is sulphur coated in prilled urea (the subsidised nitrogen product in India) as it is not suitable. Only in granular urea, sulphur can be coated, and there is hardly any manufacturing of it in India," he said. Industry sources said urea plants generate 2,000 to 6,000 tonnes of surplus ammonia every year, which cannot be diverted for urea production due to capacity limitations. As a result, they sell it. The government has mandated that these ammonia sales be prioritised for complex fertilizer units.

In July 2025, *businessline* had reported ACME Cleantech Solutions' application seeking approval of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research for a collaborative pilot programme to validate the use of "anhydrous and aqueous ammonia, backed with green ammonia" as an efficient, environmentally friendly alternative fertilizer. As the approval missed the kharif 2025 season, anhydrous and aqueous ammonia were said to be put to trial in 13 ICAR institutions during the rabi 2025-26 season. Sources indicated that the trial was supposed to last for three seasons, but the approval by ICAR was fast-tracked to facilitate manufacturing so that in the next kharif season, at least some areas could be covered under a pilot scheme.

An investment of ₹13,000-₹15,000 crore is needed to set up a green ammonia plant of 1,200 tonnes per day capacity. Sources said a field trial at an ICAR institute during rabi 2026 to evaluate the performance of green ammonia in direct-seeded rice showed higher biomass and greenness in some cases when compared with the application of normal urea.

However, in some plots, there was non-uniform growth due to non-uniformity of NH_3 application, which potentially requires standardisation of the injection methodology.

Fertilisers and seeds seized in three districts

Bengaluru: Agriculture department officials seized 210kg of hybrid maize seeds, 88 bags of urea and phospho gypsum granules, 22 litres of micronutrient mixture, and 300 bags of illegally transported NFL urea during a statewide crackdown on illegal stocking and sale of seeds and fertilisers. The raids were carried out by multiple teams across Hassan, Tumakuru and Mandya districts.

In Hassan, officials seized 180 kg of hybrid maize seeds worth about Rs 85,000 from a shop in Kondajikoppalu for allegedly stocking the seeds without authorisation, a violation of the Seeds Act, 1966. Another 30kg of hybrid maize seeds worth around Rs 12,000 was seized from an agri shop in Javagal hobli. Officials also confiscated 88 bags of urea and phospho gypsum granules worth approximately Rs 1.8 lakh Belur taluk, for alleged violations of stock regulations.

In Tumakuru, officials seized 22 litres of micronutrient mixture worth around Rs 86,000 from a shop in Medigeshi, Madhugir, while in Mandya, officials seized 300 bags of NFL urea that were allegedly being transported illegally. TNN

Min. tells farmers to adopt ID crops

BALU PULIPAKA I DC
HYDERABAD, JULY 13

Agriculture minister Tummala Nageswara Rao on Monday called on farmers to grow only irrigated dry crops even in areas where water could available through lift irrigation schemes, or where groundwater could be used. The minister, who said the water levels even in major reservoirs were not inspiring confidence at this point of time, also cautioned that groundwater levels were falling and farmers should be cautious in crop selection and stay away from irrigation intensive crops.

The minister, who said the state government has taken all necessary precautionary measures to effectively handle any situation arising out of the poor monsoon conditions, however, said that as per India Meteorological Dep-artment predictions, Aug-ust will also see less than normal rainfall.

Nageswara Rao said the farmers that all agricultural operation plans must be made based on inputs from the irrigation department on water availability. The minister, who chaired a meeting at the Icrisat on El Nino impact on the monsoon season, instructed officials that mandal-wise weekly bulletins should be issued for farmers on weather and water availability conditions.

Director of agriculture Dr B. Gopi informed the meeting that considering the possibility of delayed rainfall, dry spells, and high temperatures due to El Nino, the department had prepared a three-phase statewide contingency plan based on possibility of crop seasons beginning on July 15 and 30, and August 15, along with district-specific action plans.

The minister said according to rainfall status as on Monday, 13 districts received normal rainfall while 20 districts were facing deficiency. He instructed district collectors, agriculture officials, and scientists in rainfall deficit districts to review the situation immediately.

Nageswara Rao said it was time for the state to implement a dynamic district-specific response (DSR) approach. The meeting concluded that farmers who have not yet sown paddy should instead plan for alternative crops such as maize, pearl millet, finger millet, red gram, green gram, sunflower, sesame, cowpea, and vegetables.

Scientists from the IMD, Professor Jayashankar Telangana Agricultural University, Indian Institute of Oilseeds Research, Indian Institute of Millets Research, Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture, and senior officials from agriculture and allied departments attended the event.

FINE RICE PRICES UP AMID CROP CONCERNS

P. SRINIVAS | DC
NALGONDA, JULY 13

Prices of fine rice varieties have increased in the open market for the first time since the launch of fine rice distribution to ration card holders, amid concerns over a decline in paddy cultivation linked to the El Nino effect.

Fine rice prices had remained stable for nearly a year after distribution began on March 30, 2025, and open market sales had declined during this period. However, demand in the open market has risen over the past month. In the erstwhile Nalgonda district, the requirement of fine rice is estimated at 3,248 quintals. Varieties such as HMT, Sona, RNR and Jai Sriram continue to see demand due to consumer preference.

The price of Sona rice has risen to ₹6,400 per qu-intal from ₹5,500 and HMT increased to ₹6,800 fr-om ₹5,500. Jai Sriram rice is priced at ₹7,200 per quintal, and RNR has increased to ₹5,600 from ₹5,000 in one month.

District agriculture officer V. Vinod Kumar said there could be a sharp decline in paddy production during the current kharif season due to inadequate irrigation and deficient rainfall linked to El Nino. He said the impact on rice prices would become more evident over the next few months.

Ration shop owner K. Krishna said commercial sale of rice had dropped to 50 quintals per month from 100 quintals following the launch of fine rice distribution through ration shops.

Fertiliser body hails new policy for urea

NEW DELHI, July 16: The Fertiliser Association of India (FAI) on Thursday hailed the new National Investment Policy for Urea (NIPU)-2026, calling it a significant step towards achieving self-sufficiency in domestic urea production.

The policy, which the Union Cabinet approved on Wednesday, aims to set up 8-9 new gas-based urea plants with a production capacity of 10 million tonnes.

"NIPU-2026 tackles the major structural challenge in India's fertiliser sector-the gap between rising demand and static local capacity," FAI co-chairman Siba Prasad Mohanty said in a statement.

"The new national policy offers investors the confidence they need and paves the way for India to become fully self-reliant in urea production," Mohanty added. – PTI

With 71% of kharif area covered, sowing deficit shrinks below 5%

Kharif sowing*

	2025	2026	% change
Paddy	240.62	234.43	-2.6
Pulses	91.46	84.57	-7.5
Shri Anna cum coarse cereals	161.49	142.21	-11.9
Oilseeds	167	163.54	-2.1
Cotton	102.71	98.72	-3.9
All crops	**826.19**	**787.38**	**-4.7**

Source: Agriculture Ministry (*Area as of July 24; in lakh hectare)

Prabhudatta Mishra
New Delhi

With over 3 lakh hectares (lh) more sown in the past week compared to the same period a year ago, farmers have reduced the kharif acreage deficit to less than 5 per cent, down from a high of 21 per cent as of July 5.

Agriculture scientists are hopeful of avoiding any major negative impact on overall crops despite the emergence of El Nino, as over 71 per cent of sowing has been completed. However, rainfall in the next two months will need to be closely monitored as it is crucial for crop growth.

The sowing area in the ongoing kharif season has reached 787.38 lh as of July 24 compared with 826.19 lh in the year-ago period, down by 4.7 per cent, the Agriculture Ministry said in its weekly update on Monday.

As many as 129.19 lh was covered under kharif sowing during the July 18-24 period against only 125.72 lh a year ago.

MADHYA PRADESH AREA DOWN SHARPLY

The kharif season's main cereal paddy is down by 2.6 per cent at 234.43 lh against 240.62 lh a year ago.

Official sources said paddy acreage in top grower Uttar Pradesh is 4 per cent higher at 57.8 lh from 55.46 lh, Punjab at 31.66 lh from 31.56 lh, Bihar at 17.58 lh from 12.89 lh, Assam at 11.68 lh from 6.76 lh and Andhra Pradesh at 4.74 lh from 4.46 lh.

Madhya Pradesh reported a major dip in paddy area at 19.54 lh from 27.39 lh and Maharashtra at 4.9 lh from 8.59 lh, whereas other States with lower areas included Chhattisgarh (-0.9 lh), West Bengal (-0.9 lh), Haryana (-1.2 lh), Telangana (-0.5 lh) and Odisha (-1.6 lh).

The area under all pulses reached 84.57 lakh hectares (lh) compared to 91.46 lakh hectares, and that of oilseeds reached 147.09 lakh hectares compared to 155.72 lakh hectares. The deficit in pulses has declined to 7.5 per cent from 23 per cent as of July 10, and in oilseeds, it has decreased to 2 per cent from 21 per cent during the same period.

Among pulses, arhar sowing reached 31.17 lh, down 12 per cent from 35.27 lh, moong (green gram) at 26.89 lh from 28.39 lh and urad (black gram) rose to 18.67 lh from 17.27 lh.

In oilseeds, soybean is down to 113.65 lh from 117.24 lh, and groundnut to 40.2 lh from 40.77 lh. Cotton acreage is now 4 per cent lower at 98.72 lh from 102.71 lh

The coverage of nutri/coarse cereals has been reported to be 12 per cent lower. The area under jowar reached 11.07 lh, down from 12.45 lh a year ago, while bajra decreased to 49.54 lh, ragi dropped to 1.56 lh and maize fell to 77.79 lh.

Ladakh bans sale of chemical fertilisers

LEH: Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena has ordered a prohibition on the use and sale of all chemical and synthetic fertilisers in Ladakh. The order, which comes into force with immediate effect, stipulates a minimum fine of Rs 10,000 for anyone found procuring, distributing, selling, marketing or using chemical or synthetic fertilisers anywhere in Ladakh, a Lok Bhavan spokesperson said. "The Administration of Union Territory of Ladakh imposes prohibition on the procurement, distribution, sale, marketing and use of chemical/synthetic fertilisers for agricultural practices in the Union Territory of Ladakh, with immediate effect," the spokesperson said quoting an order issued by the Lt Governor.

RAJASTHAN

Kharif sowing in state lags target due to erratic rainfall

ANIL SHARMA
Jaipur, 13 July

Kharif or monsoon crop sowing in Rajasthan has been sluggish this year due to erratic rains. It is likely to pick up once it starts to rain, said an agriculture department official.

"Over half of the state's kharif crops depend on monsoon rainfall. Sowing usually begins with pre-monsoon showers, but this year it was weak. The monsoon arrived in the state around July 2. There was decent rainfall for a week, but a dry spell over the last few days has put the sown crops at risk. If it does not rain soon, farmers may have to resort to resowing," the official said.

According to data from Rajasthan's Agriculture Department as of July 9, sowing has been completed in 61 per cent of the target area for coarse cereals, 58 per cent for pulses, 60 per cent for oilseeds, and 56 per cent for other crops.

Agricultural experts estimate that sowing coverage in the state is currently 20-25 per cent lower than last year.

"Farmers like me are holding off on further sowing, waiting for the rainfalls. Consequently, the Kharif sowing season could be delayed," said Gyarsi Lal, a farmer from Shivdaspura village near Jaipur.

Regarding major crops, 61 per cent of the pearl millet (bajra) target has been achieved, with sowing completed in 2.46 million hectares against a target of 4.05 million hectares. Among coarse cereals, sowing has reached 51 per cent for sorghum (*jowar*) and 69 per cent for maize. In pulses, moong has seen 60 per cent coverage (1.59 million hectares sown against a target of 2.65 million hectares).

In other pulses, 44 per cent sowing has been done for moth bean and 44 per cent for urad. Groundnut sowing is in the best position among all kharif crops. Among oilseed crops, groundnut sowing has reached 919,000 hectares against a target of 1.15 million hectares (80 per cent completion). Soybean sowing stands at 674,000 hectares against a target of 1.1 million hectares (61 per cent completion). Cotton sowing has reached 72 per cent completion.

The state is one of the largest producers of guar, with over 70 per cent of the country's total production.

INDIA TARGETS GLOBAL FTA NETWORK AFTER HISTORIC EU DEAL

WASHINGTON

FRESH from concluding its landmark free trade agreement with the European Union, India is pursuing an ambitious strategy to expand its network of trade agreements across North America, Latin America, Africa and the Gulf, with negotiations already underway or planned with several major economies, the country's chief trade negotiator has said.

Speaking at an event hosted by the Peterson Institute for International Economics, Darpan Jain, India's Chief Negotiator for the EU-India Free Trade Agreement, said New Delhi's trade strategy now aims to deepen commercial ties across virtually every major region of the world.

"Broadly, our intent is to cover the entire world," Jain said. "Hands are full. The table is full. Mind space is full. So we are all working with all efforts to try and diversify our relations, expand our partnerships, and enhance trade."

Jain said India has already covered "almost 50 per cent of global trade and 50 per cent of global economy" through the countries with which it has negotiated trade agreements over the past five years. The focus is now shifting to regions where India has relatively limited trade agreements.

Speaking at an event hosted by the Peterson Institute for International Economics, Darpan Jain, India's Chief Negotiator for the EU-India Free Trade Agreement, said New Delhi's trade strategy now aims to deepen commercial ties across virtually every major region of the world

In North America, India is negotiating a free trade agreement with Canada, while discussions have also been initiated with Mexico. In Latin America, New Delhi is negotiating with Chile and Peru and has begun discussions with the Mercosur bloc to expand its existing Preferential Trade Agreement.

"We intend to expand that," Jain said of Mercosur, adding that Latin America remains a key region where India wants to strengthen its trade presence.

India is also intensifying its engagement with West Asia. Jain said the country already has trade agreements with the United Arab Emirates and Oman and is now holding discussions with Qatar, the Gulf Cooperation Council and other countries in the region. Africa is another priority. India is negotiating with the Southern African Customs Union and Kenya as it seeks to broaden its economic engagement across the continent.

Looking east, Jain said India has already established trade agreements with several important partners, including Japan, South Korea, Singapore and ASEAN member states. In Oceania, New Delhi has recently concluded agreements with Australia and New Zealand.

The comments came just months after India and the European Union concluded what has been described as one of the world's largest bilateral trade agreements, linking economies representing nearly two billion people.

Jain described the EU agreement as one of India's most ambitious trade pacts and said it reflected a strong political commitment to expand market access and strengthen India's integration into global trade.

"There is a strong political commitment to expand India's trade relationship with other countries, expand market access to other countries, and reduce the disadvantages which our exporters face," he said.

He said the renewed emphasis on trade agreements reflects a broader shift in India's economic outlook, with greater openness to imports alongside efforts to increase exports and make Indian businesses more competitive globally.

The European Union is following a similar strategy. Christophe Kiener, the EU's chief negotiator, said Brussels has already achieved preferential trade coverage for roughly half of its trade and is now concentrating on completing agreements in the Indo-Pacific, including negotiations with Thailand, the Philippines and Malaysia, while also pursuing talks with the United Arab Emirates.

PROPOSED 12.5% TARIFF GENERALISED: GOVT

India flags flaws in US' Section 301 probe

New Delhi suggests talks over concerns on 'forced labour'

MUKESH JAGOTA
New Delhi, July 7

INDIA HAS FLAGGED several flaws in the way the US has initiated and conducted its investigation into alleged forced-labour content in Indian imports. It also suggested bilateral dialogue to address any specific concern of the US in this regard.

In its formal response to the report in Section 301 investigations on imports of goods with forced labour that has proposed 12.5% additional tariffs on India, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry has said the office of US Trade Representative (USTR) has issued a sweeping, generalised determination across 60 economies without performing an economy-specific, or product-specific analysis of India's actual laws and practices. India has also sought reconsideration of the proposed tariffs.

The investigations are seen as part of Washington's efforts to rebuild its tariff architecture following the US Supreme Court's verdict on reciprocal tariffs. The Section 301 investigations are also part of the ongoing India-US trade agreement negotiations.

Public hearings on the forced-labour investigation begin on Tuesday, with the Indian government and industry scheduled to present their arguments on Wednesday.

India argued that the USTR has failed to meet the legal threshold under Section 301(d) of the Trade Act by concluding that India's acts, policies or practices relating to imports are unreasonable. This is against the Section 301 provisions that targeted specific state laws, policies, or documented violations.

The submission also said the USTR had not produced country- or product-specific evidence to support its findings, relying instead on case studies from a few sectors in a handful of countries and broad trade data. It further argued that the determination failed to establish a causal link between the absence of forced-labour import prohibitions and any adverse impact on US commerce.

The USTR report identified rice, cotton and tobacco among commodities where the alleged use of forced labour had hurt US exports. India countered that the US remains one of the few countries from which it imports rice. On cotton, it noted that US exports to India rose from $213 million in 2021 to $392 million in 2025, while China's cotton exports to India declined from $160 million to $109 million over the same period.

"The rising US market share in cotton alongside declining third-country competition demonstrates that India's conduct is not affecting US commerce," India said.

India also said it actively addresses forced labour through constitutional safeguards, criminal laws and labour legislation. Frameworks such as the National Guidelines on Responsible Business Conduct and Sebi's Business Responsibility and Sustainability Reporting mandate transparency and supply-chain due diligence, which it said are recognised by the International Labour Organization as important tools.

Separately, the USTR is investigating India, the EU, Singapore, Switzerland, Norway, Indonesia, Malaysia, Cambodia, Thailand, South Korea, Vietnam, Taiwan, Bangladesh, Mexico and Japan over policies that allegedly enable excess manufacturing capacity and undermine the US industrial base. The findings could pave the way for another round of additional tariffs.

CASE STUDY

- Public hearings on the forced-labour investigation began on Tuesday
- Government, industry scheduled to present their arguments on Wednesday
- Section 301 probe is also part of ongoing India-US trade deal negotiations
- Investigations are seen as part of US' efforts to rebuild its tariff architecture

India, Indonesia sign 14 pacts, announce 6 major initiatives to expand strategic ties

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
New Delhi, 7 July

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's state visit to Indonesia on Tuesday produced one of the most comprehensive sets of bilateral outcomes in recent years, with India and Indonesia signing 14 agreements and unveiling six major initiatives covering defence, space, healthcare, agriculture, digital technology, disaster management, critical minerals, education, maritime security and cultural cooperation, signalling a significant expansion of their Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.

The outcomes were announced following delegation-level talks between Prime Minister Modi and Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto in Jakarta.

Among the key agreements was the extension of the Framework Agreement on Cooperation in the Exploration and Uses of Outer Space for Peaceful Purposes. The renewed framework is expected to facilitate joint research, technology sharing and capacity-building initiatives.

In the healthcare sector, the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) of India and Indonesia's National Agency of Drug and Food Control (BPOM) signed a Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in medical product regulation. The agreement aims to strengthen regulatory collaboration and improve access to high-quality and affordable medicines in Indonesia, while another implementation agreement on health workforce collaboration seeks to enhance the training and capacity building of Indonesian doctors and healthcare professionals.

Recognising the growing strategic importance of critical mineral supply chains, both countries signed a Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in minerals and steel supply chains. The agreement is intended to strengthen industrial resilience and facilitate collaboration in sectors critical to manufacturing, clean energy and advanced technologies.

The two governments also concluded an MoU on cooperation in agriculture and allied sectors, paving the way for greater collaboration in sustainable farming, agricultural technologies, crop research and food security. Maritime cooperation received renewed emphasis with the extension of the Memorandum of Understanding and Implementation Agreement on Maritime Safety and Security Cooperation.

FPOs want to be treated like farmers, not corporates

Prabhudatta Mishra
New Delhi

Even as FPOs are waiting to get declared "deemed *mandis*" by the States to help them independently carry out buying and selling activities, some of the representatives have demanded that the farmer collectives should at least be considered as 'farmer'.

This is because the profit is shared among shareholder-farmers unlike a private company, though registered under companies law.

Such a national policy will help them from paying *mandi* fees and income tax.

Though some States have allowed free trading outside *mandi* premises, a few like Uttar Pradesh charge *mandi* fee and other levies to the tune of 1.5 per cent on essential items like onion, tomato, potato, lemon, green chilli and ginger in the fruits and vegetable category.

The fee is collected even if the trading happens outside the agriculture market yard.

A WAY OUT?

"If FPOs are allowed exemption from *mandi* fees, they can directly sell outside the state and that will help farmers realise about ₹150/quintal more on groundnut," said Sanjay Gupta, CEO of Ramraj FPO, Jhansi (Uttar Pradesh).

Nitin Puri, CEO of KisaanSay, said most of the products his company directly sourcing from partner-FPOs. But, instead of buying raw material in bulk, KisaanSay has turned these FPOs into primary processors through handholding.

The demand comes even as they await to be declared as 'deemed mandis' by the States

"We have got them all necessary legal compliances like FSSAI and GST registration as a result we are not worried on *mandi* fee."

But Deepak Kumar of Sambhal Swarnim Potato FPO of Moradabad district in Uttar Pradesh, said the government should treat FPOs differently from any private company.

Even for any subsidy, it is the same as what any private company receives.

"*Mandi* fees and other levies in Uttar Pradesh should be made zero for FPOs when we directly collect the farmers' produce and sell it and already some States have allowed this," Kumar said and wondered why only essential fruits and vegetables in UP are taxed in the F&V category.

Sources said that market fee at 1 per cent and development Cess at 0.5 per cent is levied on potato, onion, tomato, lemon, green chilli and ginger whether traded inside or outside *mandis*.

Besides, 3 per cent charges are collected by commission agents when buying-selling happens in these six items within the agriculture market yard.

NO FEE *MANDIS*

West Bengal, Rajasthan, Odisha, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Jharkhand, Gujarat, Chhattisgarh, Assam and Andhra Pradesh do not charge any fee in fruits and vegetables (F&V) when trading happens outside *mandi* complex.

States such as Chhattisgarh, Assam, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Odisha and West Bengal do not levy any fee or cess on F&V trading even inside *mandis*.

But Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Punjab, Karnataka, Gujarat, Haryana, Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh levy fee or cess or both up to 2 per cent.

In Himachal Pradesh, only apple is taxed at 1 per cent both within and outside *mandis*. Similarly, in Madhya Pradesh, banana and orange attract *mandi* fee.

The commission fee charged by commission agents and fixed by the State government varies — between 2 per cent in Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh and 6 per cent in Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Delhi.

163.65 lt of fertilizer stocks and rising production can help meet kharif demand, says government

Our Bureau
New Delhi

Against the kharif season's fertilizer demand of 383.9 lakh tonnes (lt) during the April-September period, the country had 163.65 lt in stock as of July 2, equivalent to 43 per cent of the requirement. The government is confident of meeting the demand during the July-September period, backed by higher domestic production.

As of July 2, urea stocks were 69.08 lt, di-ammonium phosphate (DAP) 16.64 lt, muriate of potash (MoP) 8.90 lt, complex (combination of N, P, K nutrients) 45.64 lt and single super phosphate (SSP) 23.09 lt, taking the total stock to 163.35 lt.

The government said domestic urea production in Q1 FY27 (April-June) was 71.55 lt, surpassing the target of 67.86 lt. Similarly, DAP production stood at 9.84 lt and exceeded the target of 8.61 lt. Production of complex was 20.77 lt, while SSP output stood at 13.50 lt, the government said without mentioning their individual targeted outputs.

The government said it ensured uninterrupted fertilizer availability through timely planning

SUPPLY RESTORED

Natural gas supply to urea plants, which fell to about 65 per cent following disruptions caused by the US-Israel military action against Iran, has now been fully restored to 100 per cent, enabling all plants to operate at full capacity, officials said.

The fertilizer supply chain has stabilised, with 15 of the 20 vessels carrying imported crop nutrients and raw materials safely transiting the Strait of Hormuz, the Fertilizer Ministry said on July 5.

Of these, eight vessels are carrying 3.32 lt of urea, four are transporting 2.57 lt of DAP, and three are carrying 1.11 lt of Sulphur. All are scheduled to arrive at Indian ports soon.

Further, five more vessels are in the pipeline, including one carrying 0.25 lt of ammonia and 0.45 lt of urea. Loading is also underway for two additional urea vessels and one sulphur vessel, the Ministry said.

The government said it had ensured uninterrupted fertilizer availability through timely planning and monitoring. It also tapped new supply sources through diplomatic outreach, procuring urea from Oman, Malaysia, Vietnam, Georgia, Nigeria, Russia, Finland, Egypt, Algeria, Turkiye and the Netherlands.

For DAP and complex, cargoes were routed through the Red Sea route from Russia, Morocco, Egypt, the US, Jordan, South Korea, Tunisia and Saudi Arabia.

Union Fertilizers Minister JP Nadda said in a statement that the West Asia conflict had disrupted global supply chains, driving up fertilizer prices and extending shipment transit times, with India not spared from the fallout. The Ministry said the combination of diversified imports, higher domestic output and adequate stocking had ensured fertilizer availability across the country, and reiterated the government's commitment to safeguarding farmers' interests through timely supply measures.

Maha women agri-labourers get 'farmer' status, assorted benefits

SANDIP DAS
New Delhi, July 19

IN A FIRST-OF-ITS-KIND initiative to empower women labourers in the agricultural sector, Maharashtra has framed a new law enabling them to access a host of benefits such as credit, subsidies and crop insurance without any land holding.

The Women Farmers Empowerment Act, 2026, passed recently in both houses of the Maharashtra state legislature, recognises women engaged in agriculture and allied activities as 'farmers' and provides them with a 'woman farmer certificate'. This certificate would enable them to access entitlements and benefits of the various government schemes currently available to landholders.

"We will bring millions of women agricultural labourers into the government records and provide them all the benefits of the schemes available to largely male land-holding farmers," Dattatreya Bharane, agriculture minister of Maharashtra, told FE. According to Bharane, there are around 1.5 crore to 1.6 crore women agricultural labourers in the state who are largely excluded from various schemes because they do not hold lands.

According to the agriculture census 2015-16, women hold barely 15.5% of the agricultural land in Maharashtra against the national average of around 12%.

This is the first legislation of its kind in the country, which recognises women engaged in agriculture and allied activities like fisheries, livestock rearing, poultry farming, and collection of forest produce. The government has acknowledged that women who cultivate family or community land without holding formal titles are often counted as agricultural labourers rather than farmers.

The requirement of land ownership as a precondition for accessing most agricultural schemes and underlying entitlements has rendered various schemes inaccessible to many women farmers, since only a very small percentage of these women own agricultural land, according to an official note.

"This systemic non-recognition of women farmers and their agricultural labour is significant and leads to other forms of exclusion, including, but not limited to discrimination in access to schemes, credit and markets," the legislation passed in both houses of Maharashtra stated.

AGRI BOOST

- In a first, Maharashtra has framed a new law enabling them to access a host of benefits like credit, subsidies and crop insurance without any land holding
- The Empowerment Act recognises women engaged in agriculture, allied activities as 'farmers', providing them with a farmer certificate

Fertilisers, seafarer safety discussed as PM chairs 4th CCS meet on West Asia crisis

ADITI TANDON
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JULY 30

The availability of fertilisers for the ensuing rabi sowing season and the safety of Indian seafarers came up prominently at a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Parliament House complex today.

The meeting was called to take stock of the situation in view of the West Asia conflict and discuss measures to deal with the challenge. It was the fourth special CCS meeting on the issue.

An official statement said the meeting assessed requirements for fertilisers for the ensuing rabi season and alternate sources of procurement. "All measures should be taken for ensuring uninterrupted supply of fertilisers for farmers," the PM instructed the leaders.

The meeting also discussed the safety of seafarers serving on domestic as well as foreign-flagged vessels in conflict zones. "The PM has directed to establish a mechanism to provide timely information, emergency assistance and counselling to seafarers and their families," the officials said.

The meeting began with Cabinet Secretary TV Somanathan briefing the CCS about the present geopolitical situation. He gave the details of initiatives taken to ensure adequate supply of petroleum products, including LNG, LPG and fertilisers, and said sources for procurement of LPG had already been diversified and the overall stock and supply position of major petroleum products remained adequate.

"The availability of adequate crude oil has enabled Central Public Sector Enterprise refineries to operate at utilisation levels exceeding 100 per cent, ensuring continued production of petrol, diesel and other petroleum products.

Initiatives have been taken to expand piped natural gas (PNG) connections which have resulted in substantial increase in PNG connections," the Cabinet secretariat said.

After the presentation, the PM said all efforts must be made to safeguard the citizens as well as the Indian diaspora from the impact of this conflict. Stressing energy independence, the PM instructed that emphasis should be on renewable energy sources, including solar energy and other non-fossil fuel based sources. The PM reiterated whole of government approach to be adopted to tackle the challenges arising due to the crisis.

Red Sea, Hormuz disruptions seen impacting rice exports

• 0.5 MT of rice cargo stuck at Indian ports

SANDIP DAS
New Delhi, July 22

TRADE TURMOIL

■ About 0.5 million tonne of rice cargo remain stranded at Kandla and Mundra ports

■ Freight costs have surged while delayed shipments are locking up working capital

■ Saudi Arabia and Iran, India's top basmati buyers, together import 2 million tonne annually

WITH THE RED Sea facing growing security threat leading to disruption of cargo movement through Bab al-Mandab strait and continued uncertainty over movements of ships through the Strait of Hormuz, India's rice exports to Saudi Arabia, Iran and the European Union could be hit, traders said.

"The simultaneous disruption around these two critical routes for cargo movements has created an unprecedented challenge for India's exporters," Ranjit Singh Jossan, vice president of the Basmati Rice Millers and Exporters Association, Punjab, told *FE*. Jossan said that due to the war in West Asia, sea freight has surged to record levels, insurance costs continue to rise, and exporters are facing an acute financial crisis as working capital remains locked in delayed shipments.

"Unless normal shipping routes are restored soon, the disruption could severely impact India's basmati rice exports, global supply chains, and overall trade especially in the Middle East," he said.

Exporters said that due to uncertainty around cargo movement through the Strait of Hormuz over the past several months, around 0.5 million tonne (MT) of rice export cargo, including basmati rice, remains stranded at the Kandla and Mundra ports, Gujarat.

Saudi Arabia has emerged as the largest destination for India's aromatic long grain Basmati rice exports with shipments close to 1.2 MT annually followed by Iran where close to 0.8 MT of basmati rice was exported last fiscal year.

"The Red Sea blockage is a big challenge for India's rice exports as ships are taking longer routes, freight costs are rising and deliveries are getting delayed," said Suraj Agarwal, co-founder and CEO of Rice Villa, a leading rice exporter based in Kolkata. Agarwal said that this could make Indian rice more expensive for buyers especially in the Middle East and Europe.

Trade sources said the latest escalation is particularly significant because the Bab al-Mandab Strait is considered a global strategic maritime trade route connecting the Red Sea with the Gulf of Aden. The strait provides access to the Suez Canal, which serves as a vital gateway linking Asia with Europe and Africa.

India's rice exports, the country's largest agricultural export, rose more than 4% year-on-year to $3.03 billion during April-June of FY27, despite supply disruptions caused by the conflict in West Asia.

In June alone, the world's largest rice exporter shipped rice worth more than $1 billion, up 16% from a year earlier, as easing tensions in the West Asia helped restore some supply chains for aromatic long-grain basmati rice to key Gulf markets, including Iran and Saudi Arabia.

The value of India's rice exports, including basmati and non-basmati varieties, had declined 7.5% year-on-year to $11.53 billion in FY26.

'FTA to take effect by 2026-end, our tariffs zero from Day 1'

New Zealand is expected to complete the ratification of the India–New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (FTA), signed in April, by the end of September, paving the way for the deal to come into force before the end of 2026. Direct flights between India and New Zealand are also expected to begin within the next couple of years, further strengthening bilateral trade, investment and people-to-people ties, Trade Minister **Todd McClay** *tells* **Prasanta Sahu** *in an interview in Wellington. Excerpts:*

When is the FTA coming into effect, and could you share the progress of the ratification process in New Zealand?

It's the highest-quality agreement either country has done. We completed it within nine months of intense negotiation, and it will deliver greater prosperity for the people of India and New Zealand. Both countries are going through the ratification process. We have completed our treaty examination and are now making the legislative changes needed to reduce tariffs to zero for all goods from India into New Zealand on day one, along with implementing the other commitments we have agreed to.

We hope to have that finished by the end of September. The two governments will then agree on a date for the agreement to enter into force, with the aim of making it fully operational before the end of this year.

Where do you see bilateral trade in the next few years after the FTA comes into effect?

It's going to grow significantly in both directions. While New Zealand is a modestly sized country of just five million people, we import up to NZ$20 billion worth of goods each year from many of our trading partners.

From India, it's only a few billion dollars at the moment, so I think it will grow very quickly. We believe that over the next two or three years, two-way trade can double, and then double again.

INDIA HAS COMMITTED TO SETTING UP A FAST-TRACK INVESTMENT DESK TO SPEED UP APPROVALS

But the most important part of the agreement is not just the goods we buy and sell to each other. It's the relationships and the people-to-people links that will grow.

Air New Zealand has announced that it is opening three offices in India to promote New Zealand as a destination. Air India and Air New Zealand are also cooperating and have sought regulatory approval for a codeshare arrangement. I think we will see direct flights between India and New Zealand over the next couple of years, and that will significantly strengthen the relationship.

The FTA also includes a provision to promote $20 billion in investment in India. Which sectors is New Zealand looking to invest in?

It's a commitment on the part of the New Zealand government to promote investment into India. The country's business sector will make its own decisions about where it wants to invest, but I think it will be broad and diverse.

Already, we're seeing New Zealand companies opening offices and setting up manufacturing plants in India. We also expect some of our larger companies to partner with Indian businesses.

In the early years, you'll see cooperation and investment in food production, agricultural technology and innovation. We've made commitments to help raise the earnings of Indian farmers, particularly in kiwifruit, apple production and honey. One idea is to sponsor students to pursue PhDs in New Zealand in areas such as horticultural production. We'll be bringing investors to the Indian market, and India has committed to setting up a fast-track investment desk to make approvals happen more quickly, making it easier for New Zealanders to invest. It's the first time India has done that for any country.

Are you also negotiating a bilateral investment protection treaty with India?

There is already an investment chapter in the agreement, so we don't need a separate treaty. It is part of the FTA.

Is there a roadmap for cooperation in critical technologies, critical minerals, clean mobility and semiconductors?

When Prime Minister Modi was here recently, we signed a number of broader cooperation agreements in addition to the FTA.

(The writer is in New Zealand at the invitation of ANZ Bank NZ)
Read full interview on www.financialexpress.com

M.P. suspends e-token system for fertilizer

Prabhudatta Mishra
New Delhi

The Madhya Pradesh government has agreed to suspend the e-token system for fertilizer distribution and has assured the farmers to procure 60 per cent (from the current 25 per cent) of the moong crop.

After this, agitating farmers called off their protest in Bhopal.

However, the protest highlighted policy gaps and the risk of attempting reforms in the farm sector, experts said.

Reacting to a letter from State Agriculture Minister Aidal Singh Kansana, Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on July 29 wrote to Chief Minister Mohan Yadav, pointing out that the Centre had already approved the procurement of up to 4.55 lakh tonnes (lt) of summer moong for Madhya Pradesh under the Price Support Scheme, accounting for 87 per cent of the quantity approved nationally under the PM-AASHA scheme whereas the State had bought only 60,000 tonnes.

The State has told farmers it will procure 60% (from the current 25%) of the moong crop

Chouhan said that under the PM-AASHA scheme guidelines, only 25 per cent of production is permitted to be procured under the MSP whereas any quantity above it will be the sole responsibility of the State.

APPROVED AGENCIES

A former State Agriculture Secretary said the gaps have to be corrected if required, and the States cannot be blamed every time.

Under the PM-AASHA scheme, the Centre has decided who should be the "central nodal agencies" to procure the crop, and the agencies are solely responsible for it. "Let the Centre nominate State agencies independently and hold them accountable for any delay or non-procurement," the former official suggested.

Under the PM-AASHA scheme, which facilitates the buying of oilseeds and pulses from farmers at minimum support prices (MSPs), Nafed and NCCF are the agencies approved for procurement.

Due to high level of moong production in the summer (*zaid*) season, Madhya Pradesh is the largest producer in the country, having over 40 per cent share.

In 2025-26, out of 44.92 lt moong produced in the country, 18.39 lt (including 18.18 lt in the summer season) was produced in Madhya Pradesh.

If the State is able to procure 60 per cent of summer moong, it may have to buy nearly 11 lt.

On the decision to suspend the e-token system for distribution of subsidised fertilizers, primarily urea and DAP, industry leaders are divided.

While a manufacturer of micronutrients supported the move, a top official of a leading fertilizer company welcomed the suspension and said "it was supposed to be stopped."

Kharif sowing gap narrows to 6% from 16% in a week

SANJEEB MUKHERJEE
New Delhi, 20 July

The sowing of kharif crops further picked up pace during the week ended July 17, 2026, narrowing the difference in acreage between 2025 and 2026 to just 6 per cent, down from almost 16 per cent during the week ended July 10.

This happened despite the monsoons entering a weak phase, as the rainfall in the previous fortnight provided some soil moisture to start planting.

Gaps in area under all crops — be it oilseeds, pulses, soybean, groundnut, *urad*, *moong*, or maize — narrowed down as compared to the previous week. Overall, till July 17, 2025, kharif crops were sown in around 65.81 million hectares, which was 6 per cent lower than the area covered during the same period of the previous year. In total, kharif crops have been sown in around 110.44 million hectares during the full season, which means till July 17, sowing is complete in around 60 per cent of normal area.

The good news is that with India Meteorological Department (IMD) again forecasting a pickup in rains, there could be further acceleration in sowing.

The IMD said that active monsoon conditions are likely over northwest and northeast India during the next four-five days, with isolated heavy to very heavy rainfall at a few places. Extremely heavy rainfall is predicted over Jammu & Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh on July 20 and 21, and over Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Assam and Meghalaya on July 20.

Gaining pace

Kharif sowing as on July 17 (in mn hectares)

Crops	Normal area	2026	Y-o-Y chg (%)
Paddy	41.2	16.64	-0.8
Pulses	12.96	6.92	-15.1
Coarse cereals	18.26	11.9	-11.2
Oilseeds	20	14.7	-5.6
Cotton	12.55	9.25	-6.0
Total	110.44	65.81	-6.0

Note: Total might not match as it only consists of broad crop categories
Source: Ministry of Agriculture

Entering 'active' phase again

Monsoon from June 1 to July 20 (in mm)

Region	Actual	Normal	Departure (%)
East & North east India	406.2	610.7	-33
North-West India	162.4	206	-21
Central India	316.8	369.5	-14
South Peninsula	213.2	290	-26
All India	263.2	342.1	-23

Note: Decimals have been rounded off
Source: India Metereological Department (IMD)

Crystal Crop launches six innovations for kharif

Our Bureau
Mangaluru

Crystal Crop Protection Ltd has launched six innovations for the kharif 2026 season.

A media statement said the innovations strengthen Crystal Crop Protection's leadership across key crop segments by offering integrated solutions for disease, weed, insect and nutrition management, helping farmers improve productivity, reduce cultivation costs and enhance profitability.

The statement said Crystal had introduced 'Samorian' for soybean, featuring a patented three-way mode of action against grasses and broadleaf weeds.

Addressing complex weed challenges in maize, Crystal has launched its patented combination herbicide 'Takuro', which offers three-layer weed management with rapid systemic action and long-lasting residual control.

In its paddy fungicide portfolio, Crystal has introduced 'Xeberia'.

This provides multi-site protection against fungal and bacterial diseases, along with the dual-action fungicide 'MAXentra', which delivers broad-spectrum disease control across multiple crop stages.

COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGY

Together, they offer a comprehensive disease management strategy for healthier crops, improved grain quality and stronger yield potential.

Crystal has introduced 'Valtruva', an advanced cotton insecticide powered by smart triple action technology.

The statement said 'Valtruva' delivers rapid knockdown, broad-spectrum control of major sucking pests and extended residual protection.

By reducing spray frequency while ensuring season-long crop protection, the innovation helps cotton growers improve operational efficiency, protect yields and maximise farm productivity.

ORGANIC NUTRITION

Crystal has also launched GreenAg patented organic smart nutrition solution 'KGR-T', powered by an effervescent tablet delivery system and extended nutrient release technologies. It improves nutrient-use efficiency, enhances flowering and fruiting, strengthens crop resilience and supports better-quality yields.

Quoting Ankur Aggarwal, Chairman and Managing Director of Crystal Crop Protection, the statement said, "Indian agriculture is evolving rapidly. Climate uncertainty, changing pest dynamics and rising expectations from every acre demand a new generation of agricultural innovation. These six technologies reflect our commitment to helping farmers improve productivity, profitability and long-term sustainability."

FIELD TESTS

Sohit Satyawali, Chief Business Officer, Brands Business, Crystal Crop Protection, said every innovation in the portfolio had been developed after extensive field validation across diverse agro-climatic regions to address the evolving needs of Indian farmers.

How floods, heat stress took a toll on Punjab's wheat yield

Average Yield Slips To 5,062kg/hac

Vibhor.Mohan
@timesofindia.com

A WHEAT SHOCK

State Average Wheat Yield (kg/hectare)

- 2023–24 | 5,170
- 2024–25 | 5,382
- 2025–26 (est.) | 5,062

Districts Showing Sharp Decline in 2025–26

District	2024–25	2025–26 (est.)	Change
Amritsar	5,450	4,802	-648
Gurdaspur	5,078	4,822	-256
Fazilka	5,197	4,834	-363
Kapurthala	5,369	4,919	-450

Flood Impact (2025 monsoon)

All 23 districts affected

- Over 1.76 lakh hectares of farmland submerged
- Sand/silt deposits of 1–3 feet in several areas
- Delayed wheat sowing and damaged soil quality

Climate Stress

- Severe floods in Aug–Sept 2025
- Heat spike during wheat's critical pollination stage in Feb 2026
- Early-March temperature drop helped avert larger losses

Procurement Despite Adversity

- **2026 wheat procurement:** 121–123 LMT
- **2025 procurement:** 119 LMT

Chandigarh: The estimated wheat yield for the 2025–26 season reflects a period of fluctuation for Punjab's agricultural sector, with figures compiled by the state agriculture department indicating a decline compared to the previous two years. While the state average yield rose from 5,170 kg/hac in 2023–24 to 5,382 kg/hac in 2024–25, it is estimated to have reached 5,062 kg/hac for the 2025–26 season.

According to experts, the decline in wheat yield was not merely a result of the 2025 floods. While the floods left the soil depleted in many areas during the Rabi sowing cycle, the crop then faced an aggressive heat spike during its critical pollination stage in February 2026. Farmers—already struggling to recover from the loss of their previous paddy crop—found a reprieve in a early-March drop in temperature, which prevented collapse of the wheat harvest.

The district-level estimates provided by the Punjab agriculture department also reflected a downward trend in the yield for 2025–26 in the flood-impacted regions.

This fluctuation is attributed to a combination of climatic stressors and the lingering effects of the monsoon floods that occurred in August and September 2025.

Although wheat is a rabi crop sown after these floods, the disaster resulted in the deposition of silt and debris across significant areas of farmland, which hindered timely sowing and compromised soil quality.

Additionally, unusually high temperatures during February 2026 exposed the crop to significant heat stress, which shortened the grain-filling duration and negatively impacted yield potential. "Even in Jalandhar, the farmers had to be content with a yield of 17 quintals per acre, which was less than their expected yield of 20-21 quintals per acre," said an official of the agriculture department.

Experts, however, highlight that despite these adverse conditions, the overall agricultural sector has demonstrated resilience, navigating the challenges to ensure continued production. Punjab led the country in wheat procurement for the 2026 season, with a total purchase of approximately 121 to 123 lakh metric tonnes (LMT). It was a slight increase from the 119 LMT recorded in the previous season.

The impact on wheat yield is visible in regions hardest hit by the deluge, where soil damage disrupted farming cycles. In Amritsar, for example, yields are estimated to have fallen from 5,450 kg/hac in 2024–25 to 4,802 kg/hac in 2025–26, while Gurdaspur—a district significantly affected by the flooding—has seen a projected decline from 5,078 kg/hac to 4,822 kg/hac. Similarly, Fazilka's output is expected to have ropped from 5,197 kg/hac to 4,834 kg/hac, and Kapurthala's from 5,369 kg/hac to 4,919 kg/hac.

During the floods last year, all 23 districts in Punjab were impacted, with over 1.76 lakh hectares of farmland submerged. The floodwaters left behind thick deposits of silt and sand—in some locations ranging from 1 to 3 feet in depth—which severely compromised soil health and necessitated extensive land rehabilitation, such as de-silting and levelling, before wheat sowing could even begin.

The figures for 2023-24 are based on crop cutting experiments and those for 2024-25 and 2025-26 are from GCES (General Crop Estimation Survey) of the department of agriculture and farmers' welfare, Government of India.

MIN REVIEWS FLOOD MEASURES

Punjab minister Barinder Kumar Goyal visited critical points along the Ghaggar river at Moonak in Sangrur to review flood-prevention arrangements, and said the situation was under control. Goyal said all flood protection measures were fully in place, and there was no need for the public to worry. He said special monitoring was carried out at Makror Sahib, considered the most vulnerable point along the Ghaggar, where its width suddenly narrowed from approx 598 feet to 198 feet. He said embankments on both sides of the river were raised by two feet along the 18-kilometre stretch from Makror Sahib to Karel, and thousands of sandbags were kept ready on-site to address any possible seepage or breach. He said all required stone pitching work was completed along the 22-km stretch between Makror Sahib and Khanauri. TNN

YAD SLAMS GOVT OVER 'BREACHES'

The Youth Akali Dal on Saturday accused the AAP govt of "severe administrative negligence". The organisation claimed that the administration had failed to clean the Ghaggar river and plug critical breaches along its banks. The local drainage department and district administration, however, refuted the allegations and stated that the situation was completely stable and under control. TNN

Centre launches PRAGATI to train agri-entrepreneurs

AGRICULTURE MINISTER SHIVRAJ Singh Chouhan on Tuesday launched an initiative called PRAGATI to train 20,000 rural youth across eight states as agri-entrepreneurs as part of a government push to boost farm incomes and expand private-sector involvement in agriculture.

Bayer's Trance to help cotton farmers manage sucking pests

Our Bureau
Bengaluru

Bayer has announced the launch of Trance, an innovative insecticide designed to help cotton farmers effectively manage sucking pest complexes, including aphids, jassids and whitefly nymphs.

Trance delivers broad-spectrum control while promoting healthier crops, improved productivity and enhanced farmer profitability, the company said in a statement.

Trance will be available in 100 ml, 220 ml and 500 ml packs across Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Punjab, Haryana, and West Bengal.

Agri-Next to support 150 start-ups for tech-driven innovations

Our Bureau
Kochi

In a major push for technology-led transformation of agriculture, the Kerala Startup Mission (KSUM) has launched Agri-Next, a ₹38 crore programme to support 150 agritech start-ups under the World Bank-assisted Kerala Climate Resilient Agri-Value Chain Modernisation (KERA) Project, implemented by the State Agriculture Department.

The initiative seeks to bridge the gap between innovation and farming by enabling start-ups to deploy technologies directly on farms.

FINANCIAL AID

It aims to boost productivity, lower cultivation costs, promote climate-resilient practices, strengthen market linkages and enhance farmers' incomes through technology-driven solutions.

Selected start-ups will receive financial assistance of up to ₹25 lakh, along with mentoring, incubation support, access to farmer networks and opportunities for field demonstrations.

The programme is designed to help start-ups validate and scale innovations in collaboration with farmers and agricultural institutions.

FOCUS AREAS

Billed as one of the country's largest collaborative agritech initiatives, Agri-Next is open to start-ups working in areas such as precision farming, drones, artificial intelligence, smart irrigation, farm mechanisation, crop protection, post-harvest management, value addition, agritech-fintech and climate-smart agriculture. The selected technologies will be deployed through farmer producer organisations (FPOs), agricultural institutions and field-level agencies, which will allow start-ups to validate their solutions under real farm conditions, while demonstrating their commercial viability.

KSUM officials said the programme marks a shift towards demand-driven agricultural innovation by encouraging start-ups to develop solutions tailored to farmers' needs.

Open to agritech start-ups across India, the initiative aims to build a sustainable, technology-driven agricultural ecosystem while strengthening Kerala's rural economy.

Applications and programme details are available on https://agrinext.startupmission.in

India seeks review of proposed 12.5% tariff, cites flaws in USTR's probe

'In light of India's genuine engagement on forced labour issues, it strongly expresses its concerns at the USTR's determination'

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: India has asserted that trade issues with the US should be resolved through bilateral trade negotiations rather than unilateral measures, urging the USTR to reconsider its proposed 12.5 per cent tariff, citing inconsistencies in its Section 301 investigation into forced labour concerns.

Participating in the public hearing, Joint Secretary in Department of Commerce Brij Mohan Mishra submitted that in light of India's genuine engagement on forced labour issues, it strongly expresses its concerns at the USTR's (US Trade Representative) determination.

India remains willing to engage constructively with the USTR through consultation and dialogue on any specific concern

HIGHLIGHTS

- India takes the elimination of forced labour seriously as a constitutional obligation, and as a matter of int'l law and principle
- 'India would like to highlight its concerns with USTR's report & findings against India,' Joint Secy in Dept of Commerce Brij Mohan Mishra said
- The USTR has not satisfied relevant legal standards under Section 301(d) of the Trade Act

India takes the elimination of forced labour seriously as a constitutional obligation, and as a matter of international law and principle.

"India would like to highlight its concerns with the USTR's report and findings against India," he said.

The USTR has not satisfied the relevant legal standards under Section 301(d) of the Trade Act. A mere absence of a forced labour import prohibition without evidentiary basis of other statutory requirements cannot be construed as unreasonable under Section 301, he added.

The USTR determination does not provide a rationale for countrywide tariffs and impermissibly clubs 46 economies (including India) into a single category, according to the written transcript of the hearing, held on July 8 and published on the USTR website.

The USTR's Section 301 investigation report concerns the failure to impose and effectively enforce a prohibition on the importation of goods produced with forced labour.

India has stated that the adopted methodology is particularly flawed as the determination is based on case studies of a handful of economies and relied on broad trade patterns.

The report, he said, relies on broad data and it presupposes that an economy's imports flagged for this stuff involving imports made with forced labour are exported to the US without providing any sector- or country-specific evidence and actual linkages with forced labour.

In relation to India, there is inadequate and insufficient evidence that lack of forced labour import ban causes an unfair competitive advantage to the detriment of the American industry, he said.

"In conclusion, it is submitted that the USTR reconsider the imposition of tariff in light of the identified inconsistencies in the report in the Federal Register notice. We ask any trade problems be addressed within the framework of the India-US bilateral trade negotiation, not through unilateral measures such as this investigation," he added.

India remains willing to engage constructively with the USTR through consultation and dialogue on any specific concern.

Making submissions on behalf of (APEDA), Shreyans Gupta, First Secretary in the Embassy of India in Washington, DC, said that the export promotion body objects to the USTR's observations on the import of rice allegedly made with forced labour into India and the alleged impact on such imports in distorting the competitive conditions for the export and domestic sale of rice produced in the US.

It is important to note that India's imports of rice are very small and that caters to targeted demands of specific and niche rice varieties.

Gupta said that the overall value of rice imported into India in relation to the value of rice exported from India to the US is not even three per cent.

He added that there are regulatory checks in place that prevent exports from India of imported rice that have been produced with forced labour.

Export of rice from India to the US is allowed only from the rice mills and processing units registered with the agriculture ministry.

"For these reasons, the present investigation against India may be rescinded without prejudice," Gupta said requesting exemption for Indian rice from the proposed duty if the proceedings continue.

CII too has submitted that the proposed 12.5 per cent additional tariff is neither supported in the evidence presented, nor likely to advance the stated policy goal.

The USTR report does not establish that India's policy framework burdens US commerce, the chamber said.

FTA monitoring panel to review utilisation of 16 pacts in August

TRADE ASSESSMENT. Committee will discuss the impediments faced by industry

Amiti Sen
New Delhi

The Commerce Department's FTA monitoring committee is scheduled to meet in August to undertake a comprehensive review of the implementation of the country's 16 operational trade agreements, including the recently implemented pacts with the UK and Oman, and identify the challenges faced by exporters in using the concessions they offer.

"The government is seeking detailed feedback from industry on the impediments in utilising the different FTAs. Sector-wise inputs are being collected so that the issues can be addressed," a source told *businessline*.

Of the 16 trade pacts implemented so far by the country, 10 were implemented before the BJP government came to power in 2014.

TAKING STOCK. The FTA monitoring committee's review assumes significance as India pursues a strategy of signing comprehensive trade agreements with advanced economies

These include the India-Sri Lanka FTA, the Agreement on Safta, the India Nepal Treaty of Trade, the India-Bhutan Agreement on Trade Commerce and Transit, the India-Thailand FTA - Early Harvest Scheme, the India-Singapore CECA, the India-Asean CECA, the India-Malaysia CECA, the India-South Korea CEPA, and the India-Japan CEPA.

The ones signed by the present government are the India-Mauritius CECPA, the India-UAE CEPA, the India-Oman CEPA, the India-Australia ECTA, the India–EFTA (Switzerland, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway) TEPA and the India–UK CETA.

FTA UTILISATION

A range of factors was flagged by industry that limit FTA utilisation. "The problems include the complex and stringent rules of origin that determine eligibility for preferential tariffs, especially the product specific rules, the cumbersome documentation and certification requirements, limited awareness among exporters, particularly MSMEs, and increasingly demanding technical regulations, sanitary and phytosanitary measures and quality standards in partner countries," an industry source said.

India's overall FTA utilisation has been historically very low. "Only an estimated 20–30 per cent of India's eligible exports take advantage of FTA preferences. Many small firms prefer to avoid the compliance burden for modest tariff savings," according to a 2026 report on FTA challenges by GTRI.

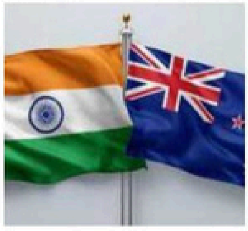
The FTA monitoring committee's review assumes significance as India pursues an ambitious strategy of signing comprehensive trade pacts with advanced economies.

India, New Zealand to speed implementation of FTA; to double trade to ₹35,000 cr by 2030

Dalip Singh
New Delhi

India and New Zealand have committed to ensuring the early entry into force and effective implementation of the Free Trade Agreement (FTA), as outlined in a vision document unveiled in Auckland on Saturday. The two countries also elevated their ties to a strategic partnership, setting a 2030 roadmap to double bilateral trade in goods and services to ₹35,000 crore (NZ$7 billion) over the next four years.

The strategic partnership envisages deeper cooperation in trade, defence, maritime security, tourism, culture, sports, agri-tech, people-to-people exchanges, and coordination on Indo-Pacific priorities and multilateral issues.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his New Zealand counterpart Christopher Luxon announced the roadmap after bilateral talks in Auckland. The FTA was signed on April 27, 2026.

RATIFICATION ON

The announcement is expected to ease concerns over opposition to the pact from sections of New Zealand's ruling coalition and its dairy industry. While the ratification process has begun in New Zealand, with the first of the three mandatory parliamentary readings completed, no timeline has been set for the agreement to come into force.

External Affairs Secretary (East) Rudrendra Tandon said New Zealand had assured India that the agreement enjoys bipartisan political backing and that the ratification process would move ahead swiftly.

Despite differences within the ruling coalition, he said Prime Minister Luxon had conveyed that the FTA enjoys broad political support.

On the implementation timeline, he added: "There is no commitment to a set date, but the ratification process has begun... There is hope that these readings will proceed quickly and the process will be completed sooner rather than later."

Modi and Luxon also interacted with a select group of CEOs and business leaders, urging them to expand investments and commercial partnerships to help achieve the bilateral trade target by 2030.

INVESTMENT PUSH

Describing the FTA as a landmark agreement, Modi said it would deepen economic ties and create new opportunities in market access, investment, services, technology and talent mobility.

On New Zealand's announcement to facilitate up to $20 billion in investments, Tandon said the focus was on building a long-term economic partnership rather than creating binding investment commitments.

The two sides also signed a Memorandum of Arrangement on Maritime Cooperation between India's Ministry of Defence and the New Zealand Defence Force.

Weak monsoon may lift soluble fertiliser demand; price remains bigger risk: SFAI

LAXMI DEVI AERE ■ New Delhi

An uncertain monsoon could work in favour of India's soluble fertiliser makers this Kharif season, but a sharp rise in prices poses a bigger risk to demand, industry body SFAI said on Sunday.

Prices of key inputs have surged 60-100 per cent over the past year due to China's export curbs and disruptions linked to tensions in West Asia, Soluble Fertilizer Association of India (SFAI) President Rajib Chakraborty said. "Current prices are almost 60 to 100 per cent up," Chakraborty told PTI, adding that monoammonium phosphate (MAP), which sold for around $1,000 per tonne over the last couple of years, is now trading at $1,500-1,600 per tonne.

"An increase of $600 per tonne means it's a big thing," he noted. Asked about the biggest risk to the sector this season, Chakraborty said it was the possibility of a drop in consumption due to the price rise.

"The moment it becomes very expensive, farmers stop using it," he said, adding that price control was not possible or within the industry's control.

China's restrictions on exports of key products, coupled with the West Asia crisis, have disrupted shipments to India, forcing importers to explore alternatives such as Russia and the CIS region, he said, adding that availability from these sources also remains limited.

Domestic manufacturing of soluble fertiliser is minimal, he said, leaving little scope to bridge the import shortfall from within the country.

Despite the price rise, the immediate supply situation was not alarming due to a stock carryover from last year, when excess rainfall and flooding in key farming regions had led to poor consumption, Chakraborty noted. "So far, I don't see much of a problem," he said, but cautioned that a sharp pick-up in demand this season could strain the next round of supplies.

India typically imports about 4 lakh tonnes of soluble fertiliser annually, a figure that has been rising year-on-year. Its total imports this fiscal are estimated at 2-2.5 lakh tonnes, with about 1 lakh tonne landed till June, he said, adding that the bulk of consumption happens between September and March.

Chakraborty said high prices could push farmers towards cheaper substitutes, with many already turning to phosphatic alternatives such as SSP, which have a lower phosphorus content of 20-22 per cent compared to MAP's 61 per cent but cost significantly less.

A shift back to conventional fertilisers like urea and DAP would also push up the government's subsidy bill, he pointed out.

At the same time, Chakraborty said patchy rainfall this season could support demand for water-soluble products since they use far less water than conventional fertigation. Crops such as cotton, which typically receive two soluble-fertiliser sprays a season, could see higher use if dry conditions persist. "If there is no rain, there will be yellow leaves. So, they will tend to use more," he said, adding that adoption of speciality fertilisers tends to rise during periods of agricultural stress.

He said consignments have started arriving at Indian ports, and prices, currently believed to be at their peak, could ease once these supplies are distributed through the market.

The southwest monsoon has covered the entire country. However, the active spell has ended, and the IMD has warned that below-normal rainfall is likely from mid-July onward. *(PTI)*

What are the gains from the India-U.K. trade deal?

How do the two countries benefit from the deal? What changes will the deal bring for Indian workers in the U.K.? What were the intractable issues left out of the deal? Why does this deal stand out in particular?

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan

The story so far:

The India-U.K. Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) came into effect on July 15, a year after it was signed. At the same time, the India-U.K. Double Contribution Convention (DCC) also comes into effect. The trade deal has been hailed by both sides, with Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal even calling it the "gold standard" of India's free trade agreements.

What trade benefits does India get?

While speaking to the media a day before the deal came into force, Mr. Agrawal said the CETA stood out not just for its breadth, but also depth. That is, not only does it cover a wide range of tariff and non-tariff issues, but it also yields deep concessions within many of these issues.

As per the deal, the U.K. will immediately remove tariffs on 96.8% of its tariff lines, accounting for 97.7% of trade by value. An additional 2% of tariff lines, amounting to 1.8% of trade value, will see reduced tariffs based on quotas. In total, this covers 98.8% of tariff lines and 99.5% of trade value.

Apart from tariffs, the 30 chapters of the CETA also cover digital trade, government procurement, small and medium enterprises, innovation, labour, environment, and gender. They also address non-tariff barriers such as Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures and Technical Barriers to Trade so that they do not become insurmountable trade restrictions in the future.

The CETA also incorporates a significant section on services, which is of considerable interest to India since services exports are a vital engine of growth. The U.K. has agreed to grant commercial presence rights to Indian companies in sectors such as computer services, consultancy, and environmental services. This means Indian companies operating in these sectors can set up branches, subsidiaries, or representative offices in the U.K.

Apart from its breadth and depth, the CETA stands out for two other reasons: automobile tariffs and government procurement

Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal addresses a press conference on the India-U.K. CETA, in New Delhi. ANI

What is the DCC and how does it help Indian workers in the U.K.?

One big win for India is the DCC. Under this deal, Indian workers in the U.K. and their employers will no longer need to pay social security in the U.K. if that payment is being made in India. The duration of this relief was initially three years, but was revised to five.

The problem was that Indian workers in the U.K. were paying social security in both India and in the U.K. Most Indian workers in the U.K. are there for short periods of up to five years. However, under U.K. law, workers can claim social security benefits only after making contributions for 10 years. As a result, Indian workers would pay into the system but return to India before becoming eligible to receive the benefits. Now, the five-year relief under the DCC means that about 90% of Indian workers in the U.K. will no longer have to part with about 23% of their salaries towards U.K. social security, as long as they are paying social security in India. Mr. Agrawal said this will benefit over 75,000 Indian workers and more than 900 employers.

What does the U.K. gain?

The U.K. stands to gain significantly in terms of market access in both goods and services, even as India has sought to protect its sensitive sectors from foreign competition.

India will immediately remove tariffs on goods accounting for 30.3% of trade value, with tariffs on an additional 47% of trade value being eliminated in a phased manner. It will also offer reduced tariff rates under quota arrangements for goods accounting for 12.1% of trade value. In total, this will cover 89.5% of tariff lines and 89.4% of trade value.

In terms of popular U.K. products, alcohol from the U.K., especially whiskey, is set to become cheaper in India, and so are British cars, and engineering products.

India has also agreed to open up some of its key service sectors to U.K. firms, such as accounting, auditing, financial services, telecom, and environmental services. This means that U.K. companies in these sectors can offer their services to Indian customers without first having to establish a local presence here. India has also agreed to recognise U.K. professional qualifications in law and accounting.

Are there any unusual aspects of the deal?

Apart from its breadth and depth, the CETA stands out for two other reasons: automobile tariffs and government procurement.

This deal is the first under which India has agreed to reduce tariffs on automobile imports. On July 10, the Directorate General of Foreign Trade notified the tariff rates that will apply to auto imports from the U.K. Under the arrangement, 20,000 completely built petrol and diesel passenger vehicles will be allowed to enter India in the first year at concessional tariff rates of 30-50%, depending on engine size and vehicle type, down from the standard import duty of 66-110%.

The quota will gradually increase to 37,000 such vehicles by the fifth year of the deal, before gradually falling to 15,000 by the 15th year and beyond. The tariffs on these in-quota vehicles will fall to 10% in the fifth year and remain there. There are separate quotas and tariffs for alternative fuel passenger vehicles and commercial vehicles.

Regarding government procurement, U.K. firms will now be allowed to participate in Indian Central government procurement bids. However, they can participate only as Class-II local suppliers in eligible tenders.

Indian suppliers, on the other hand, will continue to receive Class-I local supplier preference in the U.K. However, U.K. market access will be limited to non-sensitive Central government entities and utilities, excluding central PSUs and State/local government procurement. According to the Ministry of Commerce, this provides Indian suppliers legal access to the U.K. government procurement market worth around £90 billion ($122 billion). India is providing reciprocal opportunities of around $114 billion.

What has been left out of the deal?

Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal has repeatedly said that India and the U.K. have not let the best become the enemy of the good in negotiating this deal. That is, issues that were intractable were left out of the deal and are being worked out separately.

One key element is an investment agreement. The Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) India has signed and implemented with the four European Free Trade Association (EFTA) countries includes a provision where the EFTA bloc has committed to facilitating investment of $100 billion in India over 15 years. The India-New Zealand free trade agreement too includes a provision where New Zealand will facilitate investments of $20 billion in India over 15 years. The U.K. deal does not include any such provision.

Another is investor-state dispute resolution. Ever since India unilaterally cancelled all its Bilateral Investment Treaties (BITs) in 2017, dispute resolution has been a key sticking point for foreign investors. Under the earlier BITs, investment disputes could be referred to international arbitration in a neutral third country. With their cancellation, the disputes are being arbitrated in India. The perception is that this is not a fair process.

India has also not managed to wring any concessions from the U.K. regarding the latter's upcoming Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism tariffs. However, no country has made headway in this regard.

Exporters seek govt intervention as W. Asia crisis disrupts shipping

GROWING CONCERN. FIEO flags fewer mother vessel calls, surging freight costs; carriers roll out new surcharges

Amiti Sen
New Delhi

TRADE TURBULENCE. The continuous rise in freight charges is taking place as shipping lines are rerouting services and adjusting capacity in response to security concerns in the Red Sea region PTI

Escalating shipping disruptions triggered by the continuing crisis in West Asia have prompted Indian exporters to seek urgent government intervention, amid warnings that soaring freight rates, fewer direct calls by mother vessels at Indian ports and increasing dependence on foreign transhipment hubs are hurting India's export competitiveness.

In a letter last week to Union Ports, Shipping and Waterways Minister Sarbananda Sonowal, the Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) sought an urgent meeting with the Ministry to discuss immediate and long-term measures to address the disruptions.

KEY DEMANDS

"We want to take up with the Shipping Ministry the escalation in shipping related problems being faced by exporters and look for some solutions," FIEO DG Ajay Sahai told *businessline.*

Key demands include rationalisation and greater transparency in freight and contingency charges, restoration of more direct mother vessel calls at Indian ports, measures to ensure adequate vessel capacity and schedule reliability, and the creation of contingency mechanisms to minimise disruptions during future geopolitical crises.

"The concerns have been reinforced by continued freight hikes by global shipping lines, the latest being French carrier CMA CGM's announcement of a fresh Peak Season Surcharge (PSS) effective August 15 on cargo originating from India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, the Middle East Gulf and Red Sea ports and bound for the US East Coast, Gulf Coast and inland destinations," Sahai said.

FRESH SURCHARGES

The surcharge has been fixed at $5,000 per container across major categories.

In its letter, FIEO highlighted that the West Asia crisis had disrupted shipping networks, resulting in fewer direct calls by mainline vessels at Indian ports and forcing a larger share of export cargo to be routed through overseas transhipment hubs such as Colombo, Singapore and Jebel Ali.

The increased reliance on feeder services has increased transit time, cargo handling costs and overall logistics expenses, while irregular sailing schedules and container shortages have added to uncertainty.

The continuous rise in freight charges is taking place as shipping lines are rerouting services and adjusting capacity in response to security concerns in the Red Sea region.

"These developments are particularly concerning at a time when India is pursuing an ambitious export growth strategy and has set its sights on achieving merchandise and services exports of $2 trillion by 2032. Reliable, predictable and cost-efficient maritime connectivity is indispensable for achieving this national objective," the letter noted.

FIEO also urged the government to work with shipping lines and port authorities to restore direct mainline connectivity, improve schedule reliability and strengthen India's maritime resilience against future geopolitical disruptions.

It said timely intervention would help contain logistics costs and safeguard the competitiveness of Indian exports.

TRADE DEFICIT WIDENS TO FIVE-MONTH HIGH OF $30.43 BILLION

Exports rise 15.5% to $40.41 bn in June, imports up 31% to $70.84 bn

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: India's exports rose 15.5 per cent year-on-year to $40.41 billion in June, while the trade deficit widened to a five-month high of $30.43 billion due to a surge in imports, driven mainly by higher crude oil prices.

While crude oil imports jumped 40 per cent to $19.32 billion during the month, the country's overall merchandise imports in June went up by about 31 per cent to $70.84 billion.

During the first half of June, oil prices were at around $90 per barrel. The prices have now come down to below $80 per barrel.

Inbound shipments of precious metals, electronics and machinery too pushed the country's import bill during the last month.

Electronics, machinery and gold imports grew by 58.77 per cent to $13.4 billion, 30.9 per cent to $5.8 billion, and 7 per cent to about $2 billion, respectively, in June.

During April-June this fiscal, exports increased 15.92 per cent to $129.32 billion, while imports rose 19.89 per cent to $216.18 billion.

Merchandise trade deficit during April-June 2026-27 was $86.86 billion as compared to $68.75 billion in the same period last year.

India's exports to the West Asian region have 'evened out' in June, as it has recorded a 7.29 per cent year-on-year growth to $5 billion

The trade gap in June 2025 was $19.1 billion and $34.68 billion in January this year.

Gold imports in the first quarter of this fiscal year rose to $11.01 billion from $7.49 billion in April-June last year.

Briefing the media on the data, Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agarwal said India's exports are registering a healthy growth in areas such as electronics, iron ore, handicrafts, meat and dairy products.

The main countries where India's exports recorded a jump in shipments include South Africa, Singapore, China, Oman and Malaysia.

India's exports to the West Asian region have "evened out" in June, as it has recorded a 7.29 per cent year-on-year growth to $5 billion, Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agarwal said.

The shipments to the region had declined in March due to the US-Iran conflict, but improved in April and further in May.

"Our exports to the Middle East have evened out," he told reporters here. The shipments in June 2025 were $4.67 billion.

The country's exports to the UAE rose 3.57 per cent to $2.7 billion, but shipments to Saudi Arabia declined by 4.42 per cent to $768.56 million.

On the other hand, imports from the UAE and Oman have registered a positive growth. But it dipped by 29.75 per cent from Saudi Arabia. Indian exporters are using three ports (Duqm, Sohar and Salalah) in Oman to push exports to the region.

The US-Iran conflict has severely impacted the movement of ships carrying cargoes in international waters, particularly through the Strait of Hormuz.

India normally exports goods worth about $6 billion every month to the region.

Meanwhile, India's exports to the US dipped 1.21 per cent to $8.17 billion in June, while imports grew 33.86 per cent year-on-year to $5.5 billion, according to government data.

In June 2025, India's exports to the US stood at $8.27 billion, while imports were reported at $4.11 billion.

During April-June 2026-27, the country's merchandise exports declined marginally by 0.06 per cent to $25.46 billion, while imports increased 23.82 per cent to $16.65 billion.

India and the US are negotiating a trade pact. The US has imposed an additional 10 per cent temporary tariffs for 150 days from February 24.

HIGHLIGHTS

- During April-June this fiscal, exports increased 15.92 per cent to $129.32 billion, while imports rose 19.89 per cent to $216.18 billion
- Merchandise trade deficit during April-June 2026-27 was $86.86 billion as compared to $68.75 billion in the same period last year
- The trade gap in June 2025 was $19.1 billion and $34.68 billion in January this year
- Gold imports in the first quarter of this fiscal year rose to $11.01 billion from $7.49 billion in April-June last year

Cabinet approves new investment policy to boost urea fertilizer production by 10 mt

Prabhudatta Mishra
New Delhi

In a major push toward self-reliance in fertilizers, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) on Wednesday approved the National Investment Policy for Urea-2026. The policy aims to facilitate the establishment of eight new plants, generating an additional 10 million tonnes (mt) of output to offset India's current import dependence on the nitrogen nutrient. Open to public, private, and co-operative sector participation, it is projected to pump up to ₹90,000 crore of fresh investments into the fertilizer sector if targets are met.

With an annual capacity of 1.27 mt, a greenfield urea plant entails an investment of $1.2-1.5 billion, while a brownfield unit with the same capacity may require $900 million, industry sources said.

IMPORT REDUCTION

Briefing the media after the Cabinet meeting, Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said that the new policy would help set up 8-9 new plants and make the country achieve self-sufficiency in urea. "India's import dependence has come down due to the addition of six new plants in the last decade. Creation of 8-9 new plants will help the country meet its complete requirement locally and make it *aatmanirbhar* in urea," Vaishnaw said.

Currently, India imports about 10 mt of urea, whereas the domestic production is about 30 mt against an annual demand of about 40 mt. Demand is rising at 5 per cent per annum due to changing crop patterns and higher foodgrain production, he said. Officials said that due to ethanol demand, maize area and its production have gone up, so also the demand for urea to meet the crop's optimum yield.

Under the policy, the government has separated fixed and variable costs for subsidy calculation and the Return on Equity (RoE) at a minimum of 12 per cent and a maximum of 16 per cent. Besides, forex risk mitigation is also there, he said, adding it will result in savings of ₹250 crore per plant. In the last decade, India has added 6 urea plants of 1.27 mt capa-

city, including two in the private sector and four through the revival of closed units. On the other hand, in the private sector, one plant has moved from urea to green ammonia production after being sold to a US-based company, and another plant in Uttar Pradesh suspended operations in 2025.

MARGIN CONCERNS

Industry sources said that existing players who have been serving the urea sector face an uncertain future due to continuous tightening of energy efficiency norms, reducing the margins available. As the subsidy will be higher for new units under the 2026 policy, the CEO of a leading fertilizer company said: "It is very good for the new plants. But what about the old plants that are operating at very low margins?" Since the urea subsidy takes into account the production costs, including a profit margin of about 12 per cent, some plants complain about either 'no-profit-no-loss' or even negative realisation.

BIG POLICY SHIFT

Former Chairman and MD of Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers RG Rajan said: "The new policy marks a structural shift in fertiliser policy framework as it ensures viable returns while delinking fixed-cost recovery from dollar fluctuations. This also insulates the government from exchange-rate volatility."

With urea import dependence at 27.5 per cent and 95 per cent of production based on natural gas, which is largely dependent on imported LNG, India needs a long-term strategy built on indigenous resources, said Balasaheb Darade, President, Gasification Technologies and Research Council of India.

The policy rightly focuses on capacity expansion and modernisation, he said, adding that it presents an opportunity to promote coal gasification-based urea production.

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