

## Highlights:

- **Industry could boost development of agriculture: Sudhir Panwar**
- **Govt to introduce insurance scheme for farmers: Agri Min**
- **Haryana plans Insurance Corporation for farmers**
- **Policy for agri technical training institutes needed: Gopalakrishnan**
- **J&K government to launch crop insurance scheme for farmers**
- **Yavatmal gets Rs 57 crore for power connections to agri pumps**
- **Karnataka state to give cash compensation for crop loss**
- **Boost to Vijayapura grapes and pomegranates**



## **1. Industry could boost development of agriculture: Sudhir Panwar**

On his recent visit to Meerut, member of state planning commission Sudhir Panwar emphasized the need for a thrust on industries that could aid the development of agriculture. Panwar visited Meerut to encourage manufacturers and traders to consciously work in this direction. He pledged government support for any endeavour aimed at strengthening agriculture. He was speaking at a seminar on the theme, 'Need for constructive role of traders and manufacturers in the development of rural economy'. The vice president of Western UP Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Brij Bhushan highlighted problems faced by the industry. During his address, Sudhir Panwar said, "The government is committed to help industry in this regard. We have made considerable progress in the fields of manufacturing and service but agriculture is still lagging behind. We have to initiate a growth pattern for it. That will not happen so soon. We are certainly working towards achieving a target of increasing the state's growth rate, making it comparable with national figures in the next two years."

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/meerut/Industry-could-boost-development-of-agriculture/articleshow/46992875.cms>

## **2. Govt to introduce insurance scheme for farmers: Agri Min**

Coming to the rescue of farmers, Agriculture Minister Radha Mohan Singh recently announced that a new insurance scheme for farmers will be introduced soon. The Lok Sabha took up the issue of compensation for farmers who have incurred heavy losses due to unseasonal rain. The issue of farmer suicide was also raised in the House. Unseasonal rains and hailstorm have resulted in huge losses to farmers who have lost a major portion of their crop. Hundreds of farmers have committed suicide in so far due to the agrarian crisis. Taking note of the massive loss, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had also announced increasing the compensation to farmers whose crops have been damaged. He said that farmers who have 33% damage to crops will get aid from the Centre. Earlier the limit to claim damage was 50%. RBI Governor Raghuram Rajan had also ordered restructuring of farm loans while the Centre decided to relax parameters for the Food Corporation of India to buy wheat.

[http://www.moneycontrol.com/news/economy/govt-to-introduce-insurance-scheme-for-farmers-agri-min\\_1363343.html?utm\\_source=ref\\_article](http://www.moneycontrol.com/news/economy/govt-to-introduce-insurance-scheme-for-farmers-agri-min_1363343.html?utm_source=ref_article)

## **3. Haryana plans Insurance Corporation for farmers**

With farmers facing heavy losses on account of crop damaged by freak weather conditions, the Haryana government recently announced bringing all growers under insurance scheme by setting up an Insurance Corporation. This is aimed at ensuring proper compensation for their crop loss due to adverse weather conditions. "We have plans to set up Insurance Corporation on Public Private Partnership mode so as to bring all farmers under this fold

whereby affected growers could get compensation for their crop loss," Haryana Agriculture Minister O P Dhankar Dhankar said that the state government was in the process of identifying suitable insurance companies for entering into a tie-up to undertake crop insurance activity in the state. "We are studying various crop insurance policies in order to provide maximum relief to farmers for the loss suffered due to inclement weather conditions," he said.

<http://www.niticentral.com/2015/04/17/haryana-plans-insurance-corporation-for-farmers-310185.html>

#### **4. Policy for agri technical training institutes needed: Gopalakrishnan**

At a time when 'Make in India' and 'Skills India' are being discussed, R Gopalakrishnan, Director, Tata Sons has proposed promoting 'Food in India' through setting up of Agriculture Technical Training Institutes (ATTIs) to promote skilling and modernisation of agriculture in the country. Speaking on the sidelines of the Ahmedabad Management Association (AMA) Annual Awards, Gopalakrishnan said, "There is a lot of talk on 'Make in India' and technical skills but nobody is talking about 'Food in India' and food or agricultural skills. If we can have ITIs, then why not ATTIs? Government should have a policy to promote ATTIs." Elaborating on the ATTI model, Gopalakrishnan said that the same could be set up based on factors like government policy, entrepreneurial approach and market demand. According to Gopalakrishnan, private entrepreneurs can set up state-of-the-art training institutes to impart training to rural youth in modern agricultural, food production, marketing and other skills to be deployed across the food value chain.

Among the suggested areas of training include that of seed technology, pest management, nutrient management, best practices, packaging, processing, and transportation, among others.

[http://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/policy-for-agri-technical-training-institutes-needed-gopalakrishnan-115042001162\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/policy-for-agri-technical-training-institutes-needed-gopalakrishnan-115042001162_1.html)

#### **5. J&K government to launch crop insurance scheme for farmers**

Jammu and Kashmir government will launch a crop insurance scheme for the benefit of the farmers in the state. Replying to the supplementaries to the main question by Mubarak Gul in Assembly, Minister for Agriculture Ghulam Nabi Lone Hanjura said the government would launch a crop insurance scheme for the benefit of the farmers in the state. The Minister said the survey report of damaged crops due to rains and recent floods in the State have been formulated by the department. He said once the funds in this regard are received, relief would be provided to the affected farmers. The minister also said the development of agriculture in the state is priority of the government. He said all requisite measures would be taken to promote agriculture sector in the state, as it is the backbone of state's economy.

[http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2015-03-25/news/60475234\\_1\\_crop-insurance-scheme-agriculture-minister-farmers](http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2015-03-25/news/60475234_1_crop-insurance-scheme-agriculture-minister-farmers)

## **6. Yavatmal gets Rs 57 crore for power connections to agri pumps**

Maharashtra Government has allotted a sum of Rs 57 crore to provide electricity connections for agriculture pumps of farmers in this district in Vidarbha region of the State. This was announced by Minister of State for Revenue Sanjay Rathod at a recently held press conference. All farmers having agriculture pumps will be covered under the package by the end of the current fiscal year, said Rathod, who is also Guardian Minister of the district. "Taking cognisance of a long-pending demand, the State Government has sanctioned a special package of Rs 57 crore for the district aiming to ensure electricity connections for agriculture pumps of all eligible farmers within a time frame of one year," he added. Farmers have wells in their farms obtained under different schemes. But they could not bring the water out for agricultural purposes owing to lack of electricity supply to their pumps, the Minister said.

[http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/yavatmal-gets-rs-57-crore-for-power-connections-to-agri-pumps-115041400824\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/yavatmal-gets-rs-57-crore-for-power-connections-to-agri-pumps-115041400824_1.html)

## **7. Karnataka state to give cash compensation for crop loss**

The state government will soon announce a special cash compensation package to small and marginal farmers who suffered crop losses in the recent unseasonal rain, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said in the Legislative Council. In his reply to a lengthy debate on an adjournment motion moved by Leader of Opposition in the Council K S Eshwarappa, Siddaramaiah said farmers in over eight districts in North Karnataka had suffered crop losses to the tune of over Rs 350 crore. Noting that the agriculture and revenue departments have undertaken a joint survey to assess the rain-related crop damages, he said: "Once we receive the report, we will take measures to announce the compensation package without waiting for the Centre's assistance." He said as per the preliminary assessment, standing crops in over 70,000 hectares of land, mainly in Koppal, Yadgir, Raichur, Bidar, Ballari and Kalaburagi districts, were damaged. He informed the House that 14 people died, 774 houses damaged and 90 head of cattle killed in rain-related incidents.

<http://www.newindianexpress.com/states/karnataka/State-to-Give-Cash-Compensation-for-Crop-Loss/2015/04/21/article2775050.ece>

## **8. Boost to Vijayapura grapes and pomegranates**

Grape and pomegranate, popular horticulture crops of the district, are expected to gain boost with the University of Agriculture Sciences-Dharwad (UAS-D) setting up of Agriculture Business Export Knowledge Centre at the Agriculture Research Station. The centre which was functioning in UAS-D since 2007 will have its operation expanded to district, with an objective to improving the quality of the horticulture produces to international standards in order to increase the export. N. R. Mamledesai Head, of the centre, told that the objective is spread awareness among the farmers to produce quality agriculture produces. “Grape and pomegranate of the district have enormous potential in gaining international reputation, but, owing to lack of knowledge, farmers are unable to enhance its quality to meet the exports standards,” Dr. Mamledesai said. The centre will train and educate farmers on improving the quality of the crop. He said it is crucial to meet the exports standard based on the parameters set up Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA). “They should also get approval from APEDA either under Good Agriculture Practice (GAP) system or under organic farming system. The parameters are set based on the quality, size, colour and permissible level of chemical residue in the fruit,” he said.

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/boost-to-vijayapura-grapes-and-pomegranates/article7122243.ece>

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