

SASYAM Foundation

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NEWSLETTER

VICHAR

CULTIVATING IDEAS,
GROWING FUTURES



GENERAL AGRICULTURE

Govt plans to sell subsidised tomatoes

The government is set to offer subsidised tomatoes via NCCF and NAFED. This action addresses the recent price surge caused by heavy rains in Himachal Pradesh. These rains damaged crops and disrupted transportation. Tomato prices in Delhi NCR have already doubled, exceeding ₹60 per kilogram. The government aims to sell tomatoes for under ₹50 per kg.



Geopolitical winds set to sweeten India's apple harvest

India's apple imports are facing disruption. Geopolitics are influencing prices this harvest season. Traders are avoiding Turkish apples due to political tensions. The Attari-Wagah border closure halts Afghan imports. This may increase prices for Kashmiri and Himachali apples. Iranian apple imports are risky. India's domestic production is less than consumption. Apple imports are rising year-on-year.



Investment of USD 75 bn needed for Indian farmers to adapt to climate change impact: IFAD President

IFAD President Alvaro Lario says India needs USD 75 billion for small farmers to adapt to climate change. He highlights the need to make agriculture profitable and enhance productivity. IFAD focuses on climate-resilient practices in states like Maharashtra and Meghalaya. They promote crop diversification and improved water management. IFAD aims to mobilize financing for rural areas and involve private capital.



GENERAL AGRICULTURE

Centre adds 7 new products on eNAM platform

Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has announced the inclusion of seven new agricultural products, including Banarasi paan, on the e-NAM platform, increasing the total to 238. This initiative aims to provide farmers with better market access, pricing, and quality improvements. Additionally, tradable parameters for four existing products have been revised to further enhance the platform's effectiveness.



India and China were the world's richest nations — rice grew their wealth: Francesca Bray, University of Edinburgh

Francesca Bray's research highlights rice's unique position in global commodity networks, resisting industrial monoculture and supporting smaller farmers. Rice cultivation shaped pre-colonial societies by fostering entrepreneurship and challenging feudal relations. Colonialism transformed rice into a cheap staple, impacting labor and gender roles, while also intensifying production and creating debt-ridden monocrop zones.



Pearl farming: How Jharkhand is training farmers to turn mussels into gold with 10x returns

Jharkhand is quickly becoming India's freshwater pearl farming center through government-backed training and infrastructure projects. Hazaribagh is set to be the first pearl farming cluster with significant investment. Farmers are learning advanced techniques, and successful individuals are expanding their operations, contributing to rural employment and economic growth in the region.



GENERAL AGRICULTURE

Opening India's dairy to US to cause Rs 1.03 lakh crore loss to farmers: SBI

Opening India's dairy sector to the US under the proposed trade deal could lead to a 15% drop in milk prices, potentially causing an annual loss of ₹1.03 lakh crore to Indian dairy farmers and increasing milk imports by 25 million tonnes, according to a report by the State Bank of India. The report also flagged concerns over genetically modified products and growth hormone use in US dairy, warning of risks to small farmers and public health.



Govt not to allow sale of biostimulants without scientific nod: Agriculture Minister Shivaraj Singh Chouhan

Agriculture Minister Shivaraj Singh Chouhan is concerned about biostimulant quality. The government will now require scientific approval for biostimulant sales. This decision follows farmer complaints about product ineffectiveness. The ministry will create standard operating procedures. Action will be taken against suspicious manufacturers. India's biostimulant market is projected to grow significantly by 2032.



West Bengal to expand maize cultivation by 60,000 hectares to meet rising feed demand

West Bengal government plans to increase maize cultivation to meet animal feed demand. The expansion will cover 60,000 hectares in three years. Focus is on collaboration and women's empowerment in agriculture. West Bengal aims to boost exports with cold chain investments. The state supports tissue culture and value addition in food processing. Partnership between government, farmers and entrepreneurs is needed.



GENERAL AGRICULTURE

India's sugar output to surge 15%, but margin gains for mills will remain modest: ICRA

ICRA forecasts a 15% surge in India's sugar output for SY2026, driven by favorable monsoons boosting sugarcane yields in key states like Maharashtra and Karnataka. This increase will likely expand sugar companies' revenues by 6-8%. While sugar prices are expected to remain firm, the report emphasizes the need for ethanol price revisions to sustain distillery profitability despite encouraging blending trends. SOURCE- THE ECONOMIC TIMES



Cabinet approves Rs 24,000 crore for PM Dhan Dhaanya Yojana: Here's all you need to know about it

The Cabinet has approved the PM Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana for six years with a Rs 24,000 crore outlay, aiming to boost agriculture in 100 districts. Starting in 2025-26, the scheme converges 36 existing programs to promote crop diversification, sustainable practices, and improved infrastructure. It is expected to benefit 1.7 crore farmers by enhancing productivity and creating local livelihoods. SOURCE- THE ECONOMIC TIMES



Extend necessary credit to farmers: Agriculture Minister

Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao has urged banks to provide timely and sufficient credit facilities to the farming community. He stated that farmers will repay their loans, regardless of the circumstances. Rao praised NABARD's role in improving credit flow to the agriculture sector and urged banks to lend to agriculture or allied activities. He also sought bank support for infrastructure provision to Telangana's agriculture and horticulture universities and completed 30 medium irrigation projects. SOURCE -THE HINDU



GENERAL AGRICULTURE

PM Scheme for 100 agri districts gets approval

The Union cabinet has approved the Prime Minister Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana (PMDDKY), allocating ₹24,000 crore annually for six years. This scheme aims to develop 100 agricultural districts by converging 36 schemes across 11 ministries. District-level master plans, aligned with national goals like crop diversification and organic farming, will be created and implemented through committees at various levels. SOURCE- THE ECONOMIC TIMES



Government merges 36 schemes to float farm programme

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday (July 16, 2025) approved the “Prime Minister Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana”, or PMDDKY, to enhance agricultural productivity and increase adoption of sustainable agricultural practices across the country. The scheme was announced in the Budget earlier this year. Talking to reporters after the Cabinet meeting, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said the Centre has merged 36 schemes of 11 Ministries into the PMDDKY, which will have an outlay of ₹24,000 crore per year for six years beginning 2025-26. “This scheme will help 1.7 crore farmers. SOURCE - THE HINDU



Govt bans 18 antibiotics, 18 antivirals, one anti-protozoan for treatment of livestock

The government has banned the use of 18 antibiotics, 18 antivirals, and one anti-protozoan in egg-laying birds, milch animals, bees, and livestock. This prohibition extends to farms where intestines are sourced and at any stage of animal casing production. The aim is to prevent antimicrobial use for growth promotion or yield increase. SOURCE - THE ECONOMIC TIMES



GENERAL AGRICULTURE

Confined field trials' on GM maize to begin soon at Punjab Agricultural University

The field trials of two kinds of genetically modified (GM) maize are expected to begin in the ongoing kharif (summer) season at the Punjab Agricultural University, days after the Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee, the country's top regulator for the sector, gave the nod for the trials, after receiving consent from the Punjab government. In its meeting in June, the committee recommended a proposal by Bayer Crop Science Limited for the conduct of confined field trials on herbicide-tolerant transgenic maize, and insect-resistant transgenic maize at the Ludhiana-based university for this year's kharif season. SOURCE- THE HINDU



Morning Digest: A.P., Karnataka Ministers face off over aerospace park, Government merges 36 schemes to float farm programme, and more

The Union Cabinet approved the "Prime Minister Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana" (PMDDKY) to boost agricultural productivity and promote sustainable practices. Meanwhile, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka are in a dispute over an aerospace park after the Karnataka government cancelled land acquisition in Devanahalli. Both states have invited the aerospace industry to their states, while Karnataka Industries Minister M.B. Patil stated no relocation was necessary. SOURCE-THE HINDU



Karnataka govt drops acquisition of 1,777 acres of farm land in Devanahalli taluk for aerospace park

The Karnataka government has dropped the acquisition of 1,777 acres of farm land in 13 villages of Devanahalli taluk for Aerospace Park, following persistent resistance from farmers. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah announced the process's suspension, but clarified that if farmers come forward voluntarily, they will receive financial compensation or a share of developed land. The land will be acquired through consent, with no forced acquisition. The final notification regarding the land acquisition will be completely dropped. SOURCE - THE HINDU



GENERAL AGRICULTURE

TAFE partners ICRISAT on adaptive farm initiative

Tractors and Farm Equipment Ltd. (TAFE) has signed a memorandum of understanding with the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) to establish a "JFarm Adaptive Agriculture Research & Extension Centre" at ICRISAT's Patancheru campus. The centre will educate farmers on sustainable agriculture practices, soil conservation, and efficient water use, promote mechanisation, encourage agricultural service models, facilitate lab-to-land transfer of agro-technologies, and provide training in tractors, equipment, and machinery. SOURCE- THE HINDU



India-US trade deal: Farmers' body cautions govt against including agriculture .

The Indian Coordination Committee of Farmers Movements (ICCFM) has urged the Indian government to avoid trade with the US that could harm farmers' interests. The ICCFM urged the government to exclude all aspects of agriculture from the trade deal to protect Indian farmers' interests, food sovereignty, and rural economy vitality. The US government is one of the world's largest agricultural subsidisers, with the 2024 Farm Bill allocating \$1.5 trillion for farm subsidies. SOURCE- THE HINDU



225% increase in Gross Value Added (GVA) in agriculture in 12 years: Centre

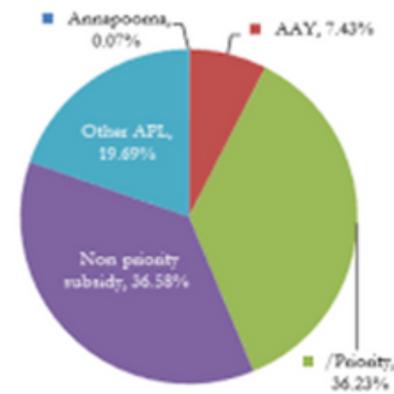
The Gross Value Added (GVA) of agriculture and allied sectors in India has grown by 225% from ₹1,502 thousand crore in 2011-12 to ₹4,878 thousand crore in 2023-24, according to the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation's Statistical Report on Value of Output from Agriculture and Allied Sectors (2011-12 to 2023-24). The report also revealed that the Gross Value of Output (GVO) from the agriculture and allied sector at constant prices has shown steady growth from ₹1,908 thousand crore in 2011-12 to ₹2,949 thousand crore in 2023-24, an overall increase of about 54.6%. SOURCE - THE HINDU



GENERAL AGRICULTURE

CREEA report charts plans to protect crops, livelihoods, food security in Kerala

Kerala has released a Climate-Resilient and Energy-Efficient Agriculture (CREEA) report, a state-wide roadmap shaped by 14 district workshops and consultations with experts from 16 departments. The report aims to protect crops, livelihoods, and food security in Kerala as extreme weather tightens its grip on the state's farm economy. Around 94% of Kerala's cropped area is already climate-vulnerable, with loss in paddy and banana cultivation rising by 28% since the 2018 floods. The report outlines pathways to cut on-farm energy demand by up to 40% through solar pumps, biogas, and precision irrigation. The report aims to fortify rural livelihood against price and climate shocks by reducing production cost, improving soil health, and promoting biodiversity. The report is a blueprint for an inclusive, low-carbon farm economy that keeps smallholders at the center of climate action. SOURCE - THE HINDU



'Farm fests' to be held at Kerala Agriculture department farms

The Department of Agriculture in India is planning to hold three to seven-day festivals to promote farming among the public. The events will feature unique farm produce and seed materials, and will be organized under the Farm Council's supervision. The festivals will also showcase products from farming-related agencies like Farmer Producer Organisation (FPO) and 'Krishikootams'. The department is also exploring the inclusion of seminars, workshops, and quizzes for farmers and school students. An entry fee will be charged for the events, which will fund the development of the farms. The 64 departmental farms in the state are responsible for providing farmers with quality planting material. SOURCE - THE HINDU

