National Conference on “Agriculture 2022- Doubling Farmers' Income”

Two-day National Conference on “Agriculture 2022- Doubling Farmers' Income” held on 19-20 February, 2017 at A.P.Shinde Symposium Hall, NASC Complex, Pusa, New Delhi which was inaugurated by Shri Radha Mohan Singh Hon’ble Agriculture Minister and concluding session was attended by Hon’ble PM Shri Narendra Modi. This workshop is witnessed deliberations regarding various issues related to betterment of Agriculture and achieving the goal of doubling farmers' income.

The inaugural session of the summit was attended by the Governor of Himachal Pradesh, Shri Acharya Devvrat; NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Shri Rajiv Kumar; Union Minister of State for Agriculture, Farmers’ Welfare & Panchayati Raj, Shri Parshottam Rupala; Minister of State for Agriculture Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat; Minister of State for Agriculture Smt. Krishna Raj; and Shri S.K. Pattanayak, Secretary, Department of Agriculture. Coperation and Farmers Welfare. Summit was attended by senior officials of the Central and State Governments, scientists, economists, trade industry, professional associations, representatives of corporate and private sector companies, NGOs and farmers.

Shri Radha Mohan Singh in his inaugural address, said that apart from keeping the food and agricultural products warehouses well stocked, the Government is keen to see farmers prosper and is working diligently to achieve the same. He further said that in this budget, an announcement of Rs. 2000 crore for Agri Market Development Fund has been allocated, which shows the importance of the retail market in rural areas. The infrastructure of 22,000 Rural Haats and 585 APMC markets will be developed. He further added that Government had constituted a committee in April 2016 to prepare a comprehensive plan to double the farmers income by 2022.
The Committee included senior economists, Joint Secretaries of food processing, Crops, Animal Husbandry and Dairy and Fishery Departments; Agricultural Advisor in NITI Aayog and many other non-official members. The Government is keen to make agriculture policies and programs ‘income centric’ instead of ‘production-centric’.

To achieve this ambitious objective, as suggested by Hon’ble Prime Minister, the emphasis is on adopting a multi-dimensional ‘seven-point’ strategy, which includes:

- Special focus on irrigation with sufficient budget with the aim of ‘Per Drop More Crop’.
- Provision of quality seeds and nutrients based on the soil health of each farm.
- Large investments in warehouses and cold chains to prevent Post-harvest losses.
- Promotion of value addition through food processing.
- Implementation of National Agricultural Markets and e-platforms (e-NAM) to eliminate shortcomings of all the 585 centers.
- Introduction of new Crop Insurance scheme to mitigate risk of affordable cost.
- Promotion of allied activities such as Dairy-Animal Husbandry, Poultry, Bee-keeping, Horticulture, and Fisheries.

Farmers would be assured of a minimum support price of 1.5 times of their cost of production. The government shall work closely with the state governments to arrive at a formula, so that the full benefits of the announcement of enhanced minimum support price accrue to farmers.

A module of training of package of practices to farmers on the basis of soil health testing and its results should be added to the curriculum of BSc Agriculture courses in Agriculture Universities in the country. This module could also be linked to skill development. Students who are successful can also be considered for grant of a special certificate. On the basis of this certificate, the students can set-up a Soil Health Testing Lab in their village. They can get loans under the Mudra Schemes.

The aim of the Government is to cover 50% gross cropped areas of the country under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana by 2018-19. More and more farmers in the country should avail the benefit of this scheme.

The State Governments to adopt the Model Agriculture Produce & Livestock Marketing (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2017 in the interests of their farmers.

Operation Greens that has been announced in the budget for 2018-19 will prove very useful for farmers producing fruits and vegetables specially ‘TOP’  i.e., Tomato, Onion and Potato.

The concept of GrAM (Gramin Retail Agriculture Market) under which 22,000 rural haats in the country would be upgraded with the necessary infrastructure and integrated with the APMC & other wholesale markets and e-NAM, has already been approved in the budget 2018-19. Farmers would be able to sell their produce directly to consumers within a range of 5--15 kms.
The Government is promoting Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) by providing income tax rebate to them on the pattern of cooperative societies.

Income of farmers can be increased through greater investment in organic farming, beekeeping, sea weed cultivation, and solar farms etc.

A digital platform for organic cultivation should be launched for information regarding package of practices, supply chain, marketing networks etc. An authentic process of certification of organic produce should be put in place.

Beneficiaries may take advantage of infrastructure funds for an amount of Rs. 8,000 crore for fisheries and Rs. 2000 crore for animal husbandry in the Budget of 2018-19 to boost these sectors.

The computerization of 63,000 Primary Agricultural Co-operative Societies in the country over a period of three years will bring about more transparency in the process of lending to the agriculture sector.

To get permission for cutting of bamboo was difficult in the past and farmers avoided cultivating it on their lands. The Government has now amended the law, removing it as a tree species under the Indian Forest Act. This decision will help farmers as well as medium and small enterprises to increase their income through cultivation of bamboo and its processing.

In order to narrow the supply and demand gap for timber which currently adds up to a massive import bill for the country, agroforestry in the shape of Har Med Par Ped should be encouraged. The Government has notified many multi-purpose tree species which benefit the environment and also increase the income of farmers.

Use of solar energy in the agriculture sector can also enhance the income of farmers. Keeping this in view, in the last three years, the government has approved about 2.75 lakh number of solar water pumps for farmers. Grid connected solar pumps would enable farmers to sell excess power and earn additional income.

The Government should enable conversion of agricultural waste into wealth by using coir, bamboo, coconut shells, banana pseudo-stem etc. and make products such as industrial paper, fabric etc. The move to allow 10 per cent blending of ethanol with petrol would be of immense benefit to sugar-cane farmers.

In the Budget for 2018-19, the Government has announced the ‘Gobardhan Yojana’ for improving rural hygiene and income of farmers through the production of bio-gas in villages.

Agricultural universities in the country should initiate discussion and debates on similar lines of the current conference and host hackathons for students to deliberate and discuss the various possibilities of doubling farmers’ income. This exercise can be conducted state-wise or even agro-climatic zone-wise, if so desired.

There is increasing trade protectionism in the international arena, non-tariff barriers etc. Farmers in India should be made aware of international standards and practices. Indian agri-products should conform to a zero defect and zero effect policy (zero effect on environment).

India has the capacity to meet all the agriculture related needs of countries abroad such as the Gulf in tandem with their investment in logistics, warehouses etc.

All stakeholders must work together and fulfil the aspiration that by 2022 as a part of Sankalp se Siddhi, income of farmers in India will be doubled whether through the green revolution, white revolution, sweet revolution, blue revolution and organic revolution etc.

The Government is trying to overhaul the eco-system for agriculture in the country. The Government would examine all suggestions emerging from the current conference and try to implement them in the short and long terms basis. The NITI Aayog would also be associated with this exercise.
Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi visited 'Krishi Unnati Mela 2018'

'Krishi Unnati Mela', a National level Agriculture Fair was organized by Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (MOA&FW) at Mela Ground, IARI, Pusa, New Delhi from March 16-18, 2018. Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi visited the Krishi Unnati Mela on 17th March, 2018. He visited the Theme Pavilion and Jaivik Mahakumbh Pavilion. He laid the Foundation Stone for 25 Krishi Vigyan Kendras. He also launched an e-marketing portal for organic products. He gave Krishi Karman Awards and Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Krishi Protsahan Puraskar to the progressive farmers. While addressing Hon'ble Prime Minister appreciated MOA&FW’s efforts in organizing National Agriculture Fair on a mega scale. He added that such fairs play a key role in paving the way for new India. He said farmers and scientists have to work together to transform agriculture. He appreciated the spirit and the hard work of farmers for their achievements in agriculture since independence. He elaborated upon the schemes and initiatives by the government and achievements under new initiatives namely Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojna, Soil Health Card, Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana, National Agriculture Market, Paramparagat Krishi Vikash Yojana etc. He urged farmers to avail maximum benefits from the schemes and emphasized on “Per Drop-More Crop” by conservation of rainwater and adoption of Organic Farming for healthy living. He said that there is record production of food grains, pulses, fruits and vegetables, and milk. He said the goal is to 'Double Farmers' Income by 2022', and make the farmers' lives easier.

Speaking about the progress towards this resolve, Hon'ble Prime Minister said that more than 11 crore Soil Health Cards have been distributed so far. Hundred percent neem coating of Urea has also resulted in lowering expenditure on fertilizer, apart from raising productivity. He said that through Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, premiums have been lowered, capping on insurance removed, and claim amounts disbursed to farmers have gone up. He said the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana envisions water for every farm. Rs. 80,000 crore rupees are being spent to complete pending irrigation projects. He added that the Kisan Sampada Yojana is helping to strengthen the supply chain from the farm to the market, and creating modern agriculture infrastructure. Operation Greens announced in the recent budget will be beneficial for farmers growing fruits and vegetables, especially Tomato, Onion and Potato (TOP).

He said several Model Acts related to farmers' welfare have been prepared and States have been urged to implement them. The Prime Minister further added that the Government is working to ensure that farmers to get modern seeds, adequate power supply, and easy market access. He added that the Union Government has decided that for all notified crops, MSP will be at least one and a half times the cost.
The Prime Minister said comprehensive steps are being taken for Agriculture Marketing Reforms. It is important to connect Rural Retail Markets with wholesale and global markets. He said that in the recent Union Budget, Grameen Retail Agriculture Markets have been envisaged. 22,000 rural haats will be upgraded with necessary infrastructure, and integrated with APMC and e-NAM platform.

The Prime Minister also emphasized the importance of Farmer Producer Organizations. He said Farmer Producer Organizations, would be given relief on income tax on the lines of cooperative societies. He said that along with the Green Revolution and White Revolution, we must stress on Organic Revolution, Water Revolution, Blue Revolution, and Sweet Revolution. The Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) will play a key role in this regard.

The Prime Minister explained how honey-bees could be an important source of additional income for farmers. Similarly, he spoke of the benefits of solar farming. He said about 2.75 lakh solar pumps have reached farmers in the last three years. The Prime Minister also spoke of the Gobar Dhan Yojana for creating compost, bio-gas etc. from bio-waste. He said that the Government is working to ensure that adequate Agriculture Credit is available to the farmers.

The Prime Minister said that such events should also be held especially in far flung areas of the country. He also called for impact analysis of such events.

Hon’ble Prime Minister visited Theme Pavilion and Jaivik Mahakumbh Pavilion

Hon’ble Prime Minister visited Theme Pavilion and Jaivik Mahakumbh Pavilion which were major attractions at the Krishi Unnati Mela. The theme of mega event was “Doubling of Farmers Income by 2022”. Theme Pavilion had four zones viz. Agro-climatic varieties in India, water as an input to agriculture, soil health schemes, digital/technology theme showcasing important government schemes like PMFBY, PMKSY, SHC, PKVY, Animal Husbandry, Fisheries, Agri-rejuvenation, Agri-technology and Horticulture. Various highlights of skill and start-up initiatives implemented in agriculture sector were also displayed in theme pavilion.

The showcase in Jaivik Mahakumbh pavilion were; Integrated Farming System model, Vertical Farming, Organic Farming model, Micro Irrigation model, soil testing kits (micro & macro nutrients), Fertilizer quality control, bio-decomposer, stalls with organic farming inputs, state organic commodity boards and entrepreneurs promoted in organic farming.

Per Drop - More Crop
Pavilions in Krishi Unnati Mela

Theme centric pavilions were made by different Departments of MOA&FW. The schemes and initiatives of Departments, products of farming entrepreneurs and farm input companies were displayed in these pavilions. Besides, ICAR Research Institutes, Krishi Vigyan Kendras, Agricultural Universities, State Agriculture and Horticulture Departments and NGOs from development sector also participated in these pavilions.

DAC&FW Pavilion

The Divisions of DAC&FW displayed their schemes and farm input companies displayed their products in two hangers during Krishi Unnati Mela. The National Horticulture Board displayed Horticulture theme in the pavilion. The showcase in the pavilion were; theme area by National Horticulture Board, Coconut Development Board, National Bee Board, Directorate of Cashewnut and Cocoa Development, National Seeds Corporation, Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers Right Authority (PPV&FRA), Directorate of Plant Protection, Quarantine & Storage, Directorate of Marketing & Inspection, Mahalanobis National Crop Forecast Centre, National Bamboo Mission, State Seed Corporations, State Agriculture and Horticulture Departments and farm input companies like Bayer Crop Science, Nagarjuna Fertilizers, Chambal fertilizers and Jain Irrigation.

ICAR Pavilion

The improved varieties, technologies and models developed by ICAR Research Institutes were displayed in ICAR Pavilion. The information on initiatives was displayed in the theme area. Live samples and publication material useful for farmers was displayed by research institutes of ICAR in their stall.

DAHD&F Pavilion

The schemes and initiatives on Animal Husbandry, Poultry and Fisheries were displayed in DAHD&F Pavilion. The dairy products developed by the entrepreneurs were also displayed. These entrepreneurs are promoted by DAHD&F and State Animal Husbandry Departments. Different Directorates of DAHD&F displayed their technologies and initiatives in the stalls.

Cooperation Pavilion

The showcase in the Cooperation Pavilion were; Farmer Producer Organizations, Farmer Producer Companies, Cooperative Societies, different Self Help Groups, entrepreneurs developed by State Department, Khadi Gramodyog, IFFCO, and KRIBHCO.

Field Crop Demonstrations

Field crop demonstrations on cereals, pulses, oil seeds, vegetables, fruits and flowers were organised during Krishi Unnati Mela at IARI Mela ground. The varieties of Rabi crops were demonstrated to showcase the improved agricultural technologies to the visiting farmers from different parts of the country. A list of the demonstrated crops and their respective varieties are as under.
Low cost polyhouses/temporary plastic coverings displayed

- Growing nursery of Solanaceous and Cucurbitaceous vegetable crops for early season February planting.
- New genotypes of normal tomato and Cherry tomato suitable for protected environment.
- Sweet Pepper- California Wonder, Yolo Wonder
- Summer Squash- Pusa Alankar, Australian Green
- Bittergourd- Pusa Rasdar
- Cucumber- Pusa Seedless 6
- Amaranth- Pusa Lal Chaulai, Pusa Kiran
- The fruit crop display included high density mango orchard with micro-irrigation.

Farm Machinery show

In Krishi Unnati Mela, farm machineries & equipments were also main attraction for the farmers. Many Government organizations, ICAR institutes, private companies displayed their machineries for increasing mechanization in agriculture. Tractor agencies viz. Mahindra & Mahindra, New Holland, TAFE, John Deere, Escorts, BST had displayed their tractors and demonstrated efficient fuel use for reducing the cost of cultivation. Farm equipments and accessories like seed drill, cultivator, puddler, reaper, sprayers, straw baler, irrigation equipments, water lifting pumps etc were also displayed.

Livestock show

In the livestock and animal science component, high quality breeds of live animals and poultry from ICAR institutes as well as farmers were demonstrated during Krishi Unnati Mela. The livestock on display were buffalos, indigenous cattle, sheep, goat, pig, rabbit, camel and diversified poultry species. Salient features and potential of each breed were displayed at each enclosure for information of the visitors.
Adequate literature i.e. leaflets, pamphlets, folders, booklets on schemes and initiatives of government, improved crop varieties and farm technologies, improved breeds of livestock were distributed among farmers during Krishi Unnati Mela. Besides, Farmers Friendly Handbook enumerating subsidy provisions under various schemes, magazines on crop production and agriculture extension, catalogues of Krishi Unnati Mela were also distributed among the farmers in reception counters as well as in the seminars.

A number of seminars and farmer-scientist/policy maker interactions on various topics were organized in three different conference halls. Emphasis was given to Crop Insurance, Post Harvest Management, Agriculture Marketing, Soil Health and Micro-irrigation considering its importance to the farming community. The list of technical sessions held is as under:

1. Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)
   (Chairperson: Dr S.K. Goel, Ex-Addl. Chief Secretary, Govt. of Maharashtra)
2. Processing and Value addition of Farm Produces;
   (Chairperson: Dr. A. K. Singh, DDG, Horticulture, ICAR)
3. Improved crop varieties for different production conditions; (Chairperson: Dr. K.V. Prabhu, Chairperson, PPV&FRA, NASC Complex)
4. Role of National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) and draft APLM Act; (Chairperson: Dr. Suresh Pal, Director, NIAP)
5. Constitution of Farmer Producers Organization (FPOs)-Role and Benefits;
   (Chairperson: Dr. S.A. Patil, Former Chairman Karnataka Krishi Mission & Former Director, IARI, New Delhi)
6. Livestock and Fisheries Management for Income Enhancement; (Chairperson: Dr. H Rahman, Regional South Asia Representative of International Livestock Research Institute and Ex-DDG, Animal Sciences, ICAR)
7. Agro-Forestry and Bamboo Mission;
   (Chairperson: Dr S. Bhaskar, ADG, Agronomy, Agro forestry & Climate Change, ICAR)
8. Organic Farming / Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region (MOVCDNER);
   (Chairperson: Dr. P.L. Gautam, Former DDG (Crops), ICAR and Former Chairperson PPV&FRA)
9. Soil Health, Quality Inputs and Micro-Irrigation for Crop Production;
   (Chairperson: Dr. K. Alagusundaram, Deputy Director General (Natural Resource Management), ICAR)
Cultural Programme in Krishi Unnati Mela:

In Krishi Unnati Mela, cultural programmes were one of the major attractions for visitors. On this occasion, motivational and attractive programs i.e. songs, dance, comedy and drama were presented by the artists of various Ministries for two consecutive days. The first day's program was started with Saraswati Vandana. The play 'Ajmana Ke Bol' was performed by the artists of Song and Drama Division Govt. Of India. Similarly, Radha-Krishna dance also attracted the audience very much. A unique and message-oriented dance drama called 'Save Tree' was presented by the artists of Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital. An excellent message on 'Clean India Drive' was delivered through drama by the artists of Ministry of Consumer Affairs. Besides, many artists presented their songs and entertained the audiences. Memento was presented to all the artists during valedictory programme.

Participation of farmers in Krishi Unnati Mela

A large number of farmers and farmer groups from different regions of the country participated and benefitted by the Krishi Unnati Mela. Farmers visited the live crop demonstrations of cereals, pulses, vegetables, horticulture and live model of Integrated Farming System situated near the mela ground. Livestock show, seed selling counters, plant nursery selling counters, farm machinery and equipments were another centre of attraction for farmers. Farmers were also exposed to the modern farming technologies exhibited by ICAR institutes, SAUs, KVKs, DAC&FW, DAHD&F, NGOs and private sector farm input companies. Active participation of farmers was observed in Technical Sessions and Seminars on different aspects of agriculture.
Glimpses of Krishi Unnati Mela-2018

Gram Uday se Bharat Uday
Glimpses of Krishi Unnati Mela-2018

Har Med Par Ped
MoU signed between MoA&FW and MSDE on 20th March, 2018. This MoU intends to achieve the following objectives:

- Create an efficient and effective training, assessment and certification process and platform for skill development in various job roles in agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry, fisheries and other agri enterprises by facilitating the existing institutes of MoA&FW.
- Encouraging employment of skilled and certified workforce in the job market (wherever applicable) and recognition of prior learning of the workforce engaged in agriculture.
- Encourage youth to undergo skill training on various vocations in agriculture for gainful wage and/or self-employment as per their aspirations and local need.
In rural and semi urban areas of Nagaland, a large number of women folk are engaged in various activities related from soil to silk. Ten farm women from Mokokchung village formed Esalok Self Help Group in 2010 with the support of Sericulture department. The members had no knowledge about sericulture and its value addition. The members were trained on silkworm rearing, reeling and weaving by the sericulture department who also provided them with motorizing spinning machines and reeling machine along with a financial assistant of Rs.10000/- as seed money. Apart from the departmental assistant, their group members also started their fund raised by contributing Rs.100/member/year as a membership fees and maintained a saving bank account in Nagaland State Co-operative Bank.

In order to run their unit, the group members regularly cultivate tapioca in an area of about 2.3 acres for rearing silkworm. The trained members are actively participating in their assigned routine task like rearing, reeling, spinning, weaving, tailoring and finally marketing of various silk products. On an average the group income per month has increased from Rs.7000 to 10,000/-.

The group also participated in national exhibition and expo during which they sell their products apart from their active participation in various competition organized by the district during farmers mela. They were also nominated for best block farmers’ group. In the near future, Esalok Self Help Group plans to extend their activities from a production unit to a full-fledged training unit for the unemployed youth and women folks in order to generate employment and uplift the status of the women in society.
Mr. Abhijit Gogoi of Borduarmukh Village under Nazira Subdivision of Sivasagar District of Assam was struggling in earning livelihood. After completing his graduation in 2010 he has nothing to do but has the wisdom to do something. At that time, Sub-divisional Agril. Office started one 'Krishak Vidhalaya' in January 2012 under the guidance of Dr. Arun Changakoti, SDAO, Nazira. The Vidhalaya targeted the educated youths to uplift their knowledge, skill and attitude towards commercial cultivation for 3 months of period. The scientific knowledge and skills he has acquired from the intervention inspired him to do commercial vegetable cultivation.

At first, he tried commercial cultivation of 'King Chilli' with the active supervision of ATMA Nazira and all other Extension Functionaries of Department. He made a successful cultivation and earned a total profit of Rs.60,000/- from 0.1 ha of land. He started pumpkin cultivation in 0.2 ha of land from where he earned a total income of Rs.1,20,000/-. His farm was selected as FARM school for Bitter Gourd demonstration under ATMA, Nazira Dev. Block where he participated and learn the cultivation practices on Bitter Gourd. Though, in initial year he didn't get much profit out of it, but in the next year he cultivated it on 0.2 ha of land and able to get a bumper harvest of 10 qntl/0.13 ha. Mr. Abhijit is now an active member of ATMA BFAC, Nazira Block and inspiring other youth to adopt modern technologies for income generation.