

Samba paddy cultivation picking up in Tiruvarur

Samba paddy cultivation has gathered momentum in Tiruvarur district, the core of Cauvery delta. The district accounts for 10 per cent of the State's foodgrains production.

The plan is to cover 1.21 lakh hectares of land under samba this year. Of this, an area of 72,373 hectares has already been covered, with the bulk — 67,639 hectares — coming under the direct sowing method.

The rest 4,734 hectares were raised under the nurseries transplantation method.

Nurseries are available to meet the demand for 47,134 hectares in the current spell while for the balance 1,308 hectare requirements, nurseries would be raised in the days to come.

Asked about the focus of the district administration and its cut out priorities for samba season, Collector M. Mathivanan told *The Hindu* here on Monday that the stress was on timely supply of agricultural inputs and guidance on scientific means of cultivation, especially in direct sowing areas.

He said adequate stocks of fertilizers and other agricultural inputs were at hand to meet farmers' demands.

Up to 6,365 tonnes of urea, 5,149 tonnes of Di Ammonium Phosphate and 2,493 tonne potash were available with the cooperative institutions and private dealers in the district.

7 places selected for relocating Nethaji Market traders



A view of the Nethaji market in Vellore.

The Vellore Corporation has selected seven places for relocating the traders running the 752 shops in the Nethaji Market here to facilitate the demolition of the market and the construction of a modern commercial complex in its place as per the decision already taken by the Corporation.

The decision on selection of the alternative sites was taken at a meeting of the Taxation Committee of the Corporation held under the presidentship of P. Karthiyayini, Mayor of Vellore on Tuesday.

Ms. Karthiyayini however told *The Hindu* that a final decision on the alternative site is yet to be taken.

Traders shocked

The traders in the nearly 70-year-old Nethaji Market got a reprieve as the Mayor announced at a special meeting of traders at the Corporation office here on Monday that the decision to ask them to vacate the shops before September 15 would be reconsidered. They were shell-shocked when they were served notices on Saturday asking them to vacate the premises before Monday, i.e., within three days, to facilitate the reconstruction of the market as per the decision taken by the Corporation.

About 1000 traders went to the Corporation office on Monday and demanded a reconsideration of the decision asking them to vacate. Traders pointed out that any action to force them to vacate the shops in the absence of an alternative place to transact business would deprive them of their livelihood, causing untold hardships to them and their families.

Another trader pointed out that the traders who had taken loans would not be able to repay them. Besides, the education of their children would be affected, they said. Several traders wanted the Corporation to allow the existing traders themselves to reconstruct the shops at their cost.

The Mayor said that the modus operandi of construction of the commercial complex in the place of the Nethaji Market could be decided after a few more rounds of meetings with the traders. “The move to ask the traders to vacate immediately is being reconsidered”, she said at the Monday’s meeting.

Spreading the importance of herbal plants



Manjunath Rao at his herbal garden at Arooru village near Udipi on Monday.

A retired bank official has been growing 250 herbal plants in his garden in order to popularise them among people at Arooru village, about 20 kilometres from Udipi. Arooru Manjunath Rao (63) has been cultivating these herbal plants in his 48 cents of land in this sleepy village for the last 10 years. Another objective in cultivating these plants is to make people aware of their properties in curing minor health ailments, he said.

Mr. Rao has gone methodically in cultivating these plants in his garden. He has constructed proper pathways and also stuck the botanical names besides the plants. He knows the medicinal qualities of each of these plants and explains how they could be used for treating various health related problems.

Variety

While Mr. Rao found some of these herbal plants in the district, he brought the others from different places. About 50 plants could not survive in the climate of this region. What attracted Mr. Rao to these herbal plants? “After I took voluntary retirement from my bank job and returned to my village here, I found that many people did not know the importance of various herbal plants growing in their surroundings, this kindled my interest in them. I have always been attracted to nature and Gandhian teachings,” he said.

According to him, people in urban areas having small gardens could also grow these herbal plants. Those living in apartments too can grow them in pots. “This way, this treasure of herbal plants value can be saved and passed on to the next generation,” he said.

Mr. Rao gives whichever herbal plants he has to those who ask him for it. When he does not have them, he directs them to the nurseries where they can find them. Besides this, he also gives lectures on the herbal plants. Mr. Rao has also written Kannada books such as 'Nammalogyakke Nammora Vanaspatigalu' and 'Parisarasnehi Pavitra Vanagalu' to promote and protect herbal plants.

'I have always been attracted to nature and Gandhian teachings'

Farm scientists told to focus on management of natural resources



Raj S. Paroda, chairman, Trust for Advancement of Agricultural Sciences, New Delhi, inaugurating a two-day International Plant Nutrition Institute Research Cooperators' Meet at the University of Agricultural Sciences in Dharwad on Tuesday. —Photo: By special arrangement

“Global food security is a major challenge. But, we have to achieve it on a sustainable basis by focusing on proper management of natural resources,” said Raj S. Paroda, chairman, Trust for Advancement of Agricultural Sciences, New Delhi, here on Tuesday.

He was at the University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS)-Dharwad here to inaugurate a two-day International Plant Nutrition Institute (IPNI) Research Cooperators' Meet.

Mr. Paraoda said agricultural practices to enhance food production should not compromise with effective management of natural resources, particularly soil and water. Soil management and water management were the most important components in agriculture.

But it was neglected during the first phase of Green Revolution. Besides, stress was given for genetic resource management over the years. It was high time we ensured a paradigm shift from genetic resource management to natural resource management in farming, he said.

Mr. Paroda called upon agriculture scientists to reorient plant nutrition research with a 'farmers first' approach to protect the interests of small holders. A major challenge before the scientists was proper plant nutrient management and remunerative returns to farmers from input use. Researchers also need to focus on soil health and micronutrient deficiency management, he added.

Adrian Johnston, vice-president and Asia and Africa co-ordinator, IPNI, called upon the participants to strengthen food security by putting together incremental technologies.

Vice-Chancellor D. P. Biradar, Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority India chairman R.R. Hanchinal was present.

Sharp showers give respite from heat

For students returning home from school on Tuesday, the sharp showers came as a reason to cheer. Vellore received rains for the third consecutive day, giving resident a huge respite from the scorching sun.

The sharp spell sent many persons running for cover and roadsides were under sheets of water giving pedestrians a hard time to juggle with moving vehicles.

The pleasant weather might prevail for some time. According to officials of the Regional Meteorological Chennai, Chennai, the sky condition will be cloudy, with rains at night. Though no low-pressure system has been formed, parts of northern Tamil Nadu will get more rains.

Vellore and Tiruvannamalai districts stand a good chance of getting more rains.

During the 24 hours ending 8.30 a.m on Tuesday, the district received 198.11 mm. of rainfall. While Vellore received the highest rainfall of 47.80 mm, Kaveripakkam recorded 40.20 mm rainfall.

Rainfall recorded in other parts of the district - Ambur-7 mm, Arakkonam-17.80 mm, Sholinghur-28 mm, Tirupattur-5.10 mm, Vaniyambadi-9.40 mm, Walajah-14 mm, Alangayam-10.80 mm, Melalathur-2.20 mm and Arcot-15.80 mm. The district received an average rainfall of 16.51 mm during this period.

Increase paddy yield in Uttara Kannada: Krishna Byre Gowda

Uttara Kannada district seems to be best suited for paddy cultivation and officials of the Agriculture Department should take steps to increase paddy yield in the district, Minister of State for Agriculture Krishna Byre Gowda has said.

He was at Karwar on Monday to attend a meeting on the development of agriculture and water shed development, according to a report reached here on Tuesday.

Official suspended

He instructed the Deputy Commissioner to give issue an order suspending Range Forest Officer N.G. Naik for the alleged mismanagement of a cashew plantation at Surve village in the taluk.

Shivaram Hebbar, and Mankau Vaidya, MLAs, and Shrikant Gotnekar, MLC, urged the Minister to increase the compensation from Rs.1 lakh to Rs.1.5 lakh for those who die of wild animal attack.

'District best suited for paddy cultivation'

Punarjani rejuvenates arid Chinnar region



A recently restored check-dam in the rain shadow region of the Chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary.

Water is the most needed natural resource in the rain shadow region of Chinnar on the Western Ghats. The Chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary gets rain only by the cyclonic disturbances over the Bay of Bengal during the withdrawal of the southwest monsoon. The rivulets and streams inside the sanctuary become live only for some time after the northeast monsoon and dry up quickly, making life difficult for the wildlife and the tribal population in the sanctuary.

The Forest Department has initiated a successful experimental venture, Punarjani, to address the issue. Thanks to the earnest initiative taken by Prasad G., Wildlife Warden in Munnar, to restore the three existing check-dams there with water brought from the east-flowing Chinnar river through gravitational flow. The department team led by Mr. Prasad, and assisted by N.T. Sibin, assistant warden, has laid an underground pipeline linking the Chinnar river at Churulipetty to the check-dams.

Now, the check-dams as well as the waterholes near the watch tower in the sanctuary are being invigorated with surplus water. This otherwise dry thorny forest area now swirls with fresh water, quenching the thirst of the wild animals as well as the tribal people, says Mr. Prasad.

The restored check-dams fill the nearby waterholes and retain water round the year. As a result, the number of animals frequenting the area such as elephants, deer, wild dogs, wild boars, gaurs, and so on, has increased, and the aquatic floral species such as Typha, Utricularia and many algae have made a comeback, he adds.

Water released from Pulichintala



Water being released from K.L. Rao Sagar Project (Pulichintala) at Vazinepalli in Nalgonda district on Tuesday. Photo: Ch. Vijaya Bhaskar

For the first after erection of crest gates, water is being released from K L Rao Sagar Project, popularly known as Pulichintala project, here since Monday night. The officials have lifted 10 gates out of total 24 gates. Interestingly, the gates are being operated by using generators as there is no power supply at the project site. Irrigation Minister Devineni Umamaheswara Rao said, "We have pressed three generators into service to operate the crest gates as there is no power supply."

The irrigation officials have released 1.04 lakh cusecs of flood waters from Nagarjuna Sagar Project (NSP). However, the flood waters reaching here are not being impounded. The officials have decided to release all the flood waters in view of flood waters at the NSP and Srisailem.

The Minister said that he asked the officials to speed up the rehabilitation of affected people. So far, Rs. 3 crore was spent on R&R as against total estimate of Rs. 12 crore for the R&R packages. The government was keenly monitoring the water levels and their safety would be accorded top priority, he said.

Krishna Delta System Chief Engineer Ramesh Babu said the government has decided to store 11 tmc ft water at the dam, while the total capacity is 45.7 tmcft.

Water storing at the dam would be scaled up in phased manner. Till then, all additional inflow will be released into the Prakasam Barrage, he said.

Greenfield development to have long-term impact on climate: experts



School of Planning and Architecture (SPA) Director N. Sridharan at an international workshop on 'Urban Green and Blue' in Vijayawada on Tuesday.- Photo: By Arrangement

Greenfield development is going to have a long-term impact on the climate and it will also create a series of heat islands. This was exactly what happened in Bangalore, according to N. Sridharan, Director of School of Planning and Architecture (SPA), Vijayawada.

Participating in the inaugural session of an international workshop on 'Urban Green and Blue' organised by SPA on its premises here on Tuesday, Mr. Sridharan said Greenfield development concept was very intricate in case of Vijayawada and other developing cities.

"To capture land market and land-based financing, we are going into the urban expansion," he opined. He explained that every metropolis was expanding its boundaries. Chennai was followed by Bangalore and Hyderabad has done it by eating away the rich agricultural land and created built up space.

“We are scared of the situation in Vijayawada after the recent announcement that the new capital would be developed around the city and how it is going to swell with the unprecedented built-up space if we don’t plan right now and come up with policy guidelines,” he said.

Bangalore was earlier called the ‘Garden City’ but it now became a concrete jungle which generated more heat. Out of over 200 ponds in Bangalore and abutting areas, only 42 water bodies remained, he said.

“If we encroach upon lands near river, then it will lead to flash floods. The Krishna is supplying water to surrounding areas and catering to the agriculture needs also. If we shrink the river then it is going to affect us. Thus, we have to integrate the built-up space with riverbed development to control floods and other things,” he said.

Sixteen German students led by Dr. Alexander Follmann also took part in the workshop.

Crop loss: Karnataka to seek Rs. 56 cr.



Minister for Agriculture, Krishna Byre Gowda, (second from left) in a meeting at zilla panchayath, in Mangalore on Tuesday. Photo: S. Manjunath

The Raita Samparka Kendras in villages would also be equipped to disseminate information on sericulture and horticulture.

Minister of State for Agriculture Krishna Byre Gowda on Tuesday said the State government would submit a comprehensive report seeking compensation for loss of crops and properties due to rain from the Union government in a few days.

Speaking to reporters after chairing a review meeting of the department in the district here, Mr. Gowda said crops worth Rs. 56 crore had been damaged in the State, while the total rain-related loss was about Rs. 426 crore. The State has to get Rs. 266 crore from the Centre through flood damage and national disaster relief funds.

Reports from different districts were being consolidated and Chief Minister Siddaramaiah would submit a comprehensive report seeking relief soon, he said. The government had already commenced relief operations.

The Minister reiterated the government's proposal to merge the Watershed Development Department with his department as both were complementary to each other. However, there would be a separate commissioner for that department to continue to get Union funds, he said.

The Raita Samparka Kendras in villages would also be equipped to disseminate information on sericulture and horticulture. Farmers should not be have to approach different offices for the required information, he said.

1,500 tonnes of fertilizers being sent to Tiruchi, Ariyalur, Karur



Fertilizer bags being unloaded from a goods wagon at the yard in Tiruchi on Tuesday.

To ensure timely availability for samba cultivation

A consignment of 2,641 tonnes of fertilizers arrived here on Tuesday from the factory of the Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO) at Paradeep in Orissa. The consignment comprised 1,316 tonnes of DAP and 1,325 tonnes of IFFCOPhos NPK fertiliser 20-20-013 for the benefit of farmers raising samba paddy.

The DAP and fertiliser would be sent to 250 primary agricultural cooperative credit societies in Tiruchi, Perambalur, Karur, Ariyalur, Thanjavur and Pudukottai besides State warehouses, said D. Subramanian, Chief Area Manager, IFFCO, Tiruchi Region, who made the arrangements for the despatch of fertiliser and urea.

He said that a major portion of the consignment, about 1,500 tonnes (of both urea and NPK put together), was being sent to Tiruchi, Ariyalur, Karur and Perambalur as there was not much demand for it in the other two districts of Thanjavur and Pudukottai. Mr. Subramanian said that the

prompt supply aimed at ensuring timely availability of fertiliser and urea to samba farmers. However, the IFFCO had taken up a series of awareness programmes for sensitising farmers to the importance of focussing on improving soil fertility. It has taken up a village level campaign during the samba season when farmers would be motivated to restrict the use of fertiliser. He also disclosed that IFFCO had reduced the price of IFFCOPhos from Rs. 875 to Rs. 850 for a bag of 50 kg.

Farmers to get Rs. 50 extra per tonne of sugarcane

Naranja Sahakari Sakkare Karakhane will pay an additional Rs. 50 per tonne for sugarcane supplied by farmers.

Gurupadappa Nagamarapalli, MLA and NSSK president, announced this in the annual general body meeting of the factory in Janawada near Bidar on Tuesday. "We have crushed over 5.5 lakh tonnes this season. Paying Rs. 50 per tonne will come to Rs. 3 crore," he said.

Farmers leaders, however, had demanded full payment of the minimum support price of Rs. 2,650 per tonne, fixed by the Union and the State governments.

"As a Dasara gift, the factory could pay Rs. 200 now, and the rest later," Vishwanath Patil Koutha, president, Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha, said.

Jagadish, a farmer, asked for training camps for farmers on advanced farming practices. Directors and officials were present.

Farmers demand minimum support price of Rs. 2,650 per tonne

More Rain Likely in AP, TS

HYDERABAD: More rain in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana states is on the cards. Thanks to a new low pressure formed over north-west Bay of Bengal and the adjoining west-central bay and coastal areas of Odisha.

On Tuesday, rain occurred at many places on coastal Andhra and Rayalaseema regions of Andhra Pradesh, and at a few places in Telangana. The southwest monsoon continues to be active over coastal Andhra and Rayalaseema.

The Hyderabad Meteorological Centre predicts moderate-to-heavy rain or thundershowers over many places in coastal Andhra and Rayalaseema regions of and at a few places over Telangana state also.

It is expected to remain the same for Thursday too, when heavy rain is expected to occur in all the districts of coastal Andhra and in the districts of Khammam, Nalgonda, Mahbubnagar and Rangareddy of Telangana.

Tada (Nellore) recorded the maximum of 7 cm in coastal Andhra on Monday. It was followed by Rentachintala (Guntur) and Pusapatirega (Vizianagaram) which recorded 6 cm each.

Panels Formed for Irrigation, Ration Cards, Farm Loans

HYDERABAD: Telangana chief minister K Chandrasekhar Rao on Tuesday constituted three Cabinet sub-committees to deal various issues. Finance minister E Rajender will head the Cabinet sub-committee on civil supplies. The committee will examine the proposals to issue new white ration cards and also to weed out bogus cards. The panel will have five

members, including the chairman. The sub-committee on minor irrigation will be headed by irrigation minister T Harish Rao. The committee will examine the linking of minor irrigation tanks and also consider the plans to divert Krishna and Godavari waters to minor irrigation tanks and finalise the modalities. Another committee was constituted on crop loan waiver and it will be headed by agriculture minister Pocharam Srinivasa Reddy.

THE TIMES OF INDIA

Ginger price falls to Rs 60 per kg, drumstick rate shoots up to Rs 100 per kg

NAVI MUMBAI: Ginger dropped to a season's low of Rs 30 per kg at the APMC market on Tuesday and retailed at Rs 60 to Rs 70.

The day saw drumstick prices go through the roof at Rs 90 to Rs 100 per kg retail as the wholesale price settled at Rs 50 per kg.

For ginger, the slide from Rs 45 per kg came on the back of increased supply from Nashik and Pune at the Agriculture Produce Market Committee wholesale market in Vashi.

The slide in the wholesale price brought relief to the common man as retail rates of the kitchen essential had hovered between Rs 100 and Rs 120 per kg in recent days.

"A new crop of ginger has arrived in bulk," a wholesale trader, Mahesh Gupta, said. "The supply will remain stable in the coming days. We have recorded the lowest price of ginger for the season and further decline is unlikely."

Parval and cauliflower retail prices remained high at Rs 90 and Rs 70 per kg with wholesale prices in the range of Rs 50 and Rs 35. Even tomato and green chilli stood their ground in the wholesale market at Rs 20 and Rs 25 per kg, respectively. In retail markets, tomato sold for Rs 40 to Rs 60 and green chilli for Rs 60 to Rs 75, depending on variety and

quality.

Cucumber and cabbage were relatively cheap at retail prices of Rs 30 and Rs 25 per kg and wholesale rates of Rs 15 and Rs 13, respectively. "Though the wholesale market is fluctuating every other day, this is not the case in retail," a retailer, Naresh Yadav, said. "We have to preserve stock for the holidays and weekends while maintaining the regular prices more or less constant, unlike wholesale."

Karnataka to seek financial assistance from Centre for rain damage: Agriculture minister

MANGALORE: The state government will submit a memorandum to the centre seeking assistance for rain damage in eight districts of North Karnataka in the next day or two, minister of state for agriculture Krishna Byre Gowda said. The total estimated damage to standing crops, public property and lives - human and livestock has been estimated at Rs 426 crore and loss to crops alone is estimated at Rs 56 crore, he said, adding the memorandum is ready.

Interacting with reporters post reviewing the functioning of his department here, the minister said as per relief norms the centre should give Rs 266 crore financial assistance to the state, which on the other hand has already gone ahead and disbursed relief worth Rs 28 crore to those affected. The deputy commissioners have an additional Rs 40 crore in their kitty, which they can utilise for works under natural calamity relief and for related purposes.

Observing that the losses to crop production is not likely to be so much from rain damage as it could be from drought in several taluks of the state, Byre Gowda said till last month, it was estimated that the shortfall in food grain production could be in the region of 5%. However, with

meteorological department predicting good spell of rains till the end of this month, the government is hopeful that this would make up for deficient rainfall overall.

Such an occurrence, Byre Gowda said will also help the state meet its production target of around 130-135 lakh tonnes of food grains. However, if the rainfall in taluks with deficient rainfall does not add up as predicted by the meteorological department, losses on production front will be more on account of drought, he surmised adding that this could have a major impact on the way food grain prices that will move north rather than south.

Deccan chronicle

Chennai to witness more rain



The city will receive rainfall in the next 24 hours, according to weather office sources.

Chennai: Heavy downpour on Monday led to waterlogging and power cuts in the city. Residents of various areas, including southern suburbs of Pallavaram, Chrompet and Tambaram had power cuts. According to Met officials, rains are to on Wednesday.

Even streetlight along GST and SP road, from Governor House to Indira Nagar went off as heavy rains hit the areas.

N. Hari, a resident of K. K. Nagar, says, "I was travelling from Nungambakkam last night when the whole stretch in front of Anna University went dark and there was heavy rain too."

Salmanul Faris, an IT employee and resident of Perungudi, says, "There is severe water logging in Taramani. Even in case of light showers, the area has water stagnating."

The city will receive rainfall in the next 24 hours, according to weather office sources. The city on Tuesday received trace amount of rainfall as recorded at Meenambakkam. "Chennai may receive rainfall by evening or night in the next 24 hours. The recent rains are due to convective activities in the atmosphere," an official in the weather office said.

The city has so far recorded excess mean rainfall (31 per cent) at 463 cm compared to a normal of 353.3 cm for the period starting June 1 to September 10.

For a 24-hour period ended 8.30 am on Tuesday, Puducherry district and Kattupakkam in Kancheepuram district have recorded the maximum rainfall in the state at 7 cm each, followed by Mylam and Gingee in Villupuram district at 6 cm each.

Banks told to finalise norms on farm loans



CM asked the Bank representatives to sit with the Cabinet sub-committee and finalise the modalities within next four days.

Hyderabad: While reiterating the Telangana state government's commitment to make payment of Rs 1 lakh each to the eligible farmers towards the loan waiver scheme, Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao on Tuesday asked the Bank representatives to come clear on the issue and finalise their guidelines soon.

The Chief Minister, who held a meeting with various bank officials on Tuesday, asked them to implement the loan waiver scheme without creating hurdles and confusion on modalities. He said the government is prepared to pay the amount to banks in instalments and they should continue giving fresh loans to farmers. The CM asked the Bank representatives to sit with the Cabinet sub-committee and finalise the modalities within next four days.

Business Standard

National Livestock Mission (NLM) to Ensure Quantitative and Qualitative Improvement in Livestock Production

Shri Radha Mohan Singh, Union Minister of Agriculture has said that National Livestock Mission (NLM) launched in FY 2014-15 shall ensure quantitative and qualitative improvement in livestock production systems and capacity building of all stakeholders. The Minister was speaking during the Conference of State Ministers of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries in New [Delhi](#) today. The agriculture Minister said that the Sub-Mission under NLM on Fodder and Feed Development will try to address the problems of scarcity of animal feed resources, in order to give a push to the livestock sector making it a economically viable enterprise for India, and also to harness its export potential.

The Agriculture Minister said that the biggest impediment to growth of dairy and livestock productivity is the large-scale prevalence of animal diseases like FMD, PPR, Brucellosis, Avian Influenza etc, which adversely affect the productivity. Taking into account the fact that effective control of a number of animal diseases requires national strategy; the existing scheme of livestock health has been strengthened. Foot and Mouth Disease Control Programme (FMD-CP) which was under implementation in 221 districts since August, 2010, was extended to all the remaining districts of Uttar Pradesh and all the districts of Rajasthan during 2013-14 thus covering 313 districts as of now. It has been decided that FMD-CP will be extended to whole of [India](#) during 12th Plan subject to availability of funds and vaccine.

The Minister also said that increase in milk production has to be achieved by increasing productivity of the milch animals rather than increase in the number of animals. In order to encourage farmers to produce more milk, effective system of milk collection has to be ensured so that the farmer is

assured of selling his produce at a profitable price which can be ensured by putting in place an effective procurement systems connecting milk producers.

Shri Radha [Mohan Singh](#) also said Steps are needed to reduce wastage of milk by expanding the cold chain infrastructure in the rural areas to collect and preserve milk till such time it is collected for sale or taken for processing. Systematic planning has to be done for location of bulk milk coolers so that farmers from neighbouring villages can easily access them. He informed that Rashtriya Gokul Mission has been initiated by the Department with the aims to conserve and develop Indigenous Breeds in a focused and scientific manner. Rashtriya Gokul Mission is a focused project under National Programme for Bovine Breeding and Dairy Development, with an outlay of Rs.500 crore during the 12th Five Year Plan. During 2014-15, Rs.150.00 crore has been allocated for development, preservation and conservation of indigenous breeds. The agriculture Minister informed that Government is also proposing to establish Rashtriya Kamdhenu Breeding Centre for development, conservation and preservation of Indigenous Breeds as a Centre of Excellence to develop and conserve Indigenous Breeds (37 Cattle and 13 Buffaloes) in a holistic and scientific manner with the aim of enhancing their productivity and upgrading genetic merit.

As concerned with fisheries production, the agriculture Minister said that with a production of 9.58 million tonnes in 2013-14, India has maintained its position as a second largest producer of fish in the world contributing 5.7 percent of the total fish production globally. Keeping this in view, the Government is now focusing on Blue revolution in the sector. Blue revolution means an intensive and sustainable growth in fish production providing for food and nutritional security, employment and improved livelihood.

The Conference is being attended by Ministers of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries from different States of India, Secretary, Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries, Secretary, Agriculture & Cooperation, Secretary, DARE & DG, ICAR, Chairman, NDDB and other senior officers from Central and State Governments.