

31-01-2017

THE HINDU

Summer plan to boost cultivation of pulses

Six districts brought under the programme in an attempt to achieve self-sufficiency in production

Director for Agriculture K. Dhanunjaya Reddy has said that summer pulses programme is going to be launched by the Department of Agriculture to meet the growing demand.

He took part in a workshop on the programme here on Tuesday in which a large number of farmers from six districts participated.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Reddy said pulses purchasing centres would be set up in Anantapur and Kadapa districts through Markfed in the first phase and in other districts later as per the requirement. Stating that there was a huge gap between the production and demand for pulses, he said the summer pulses programme had been taken up to ensure self-sufficiency in pulses.

The production of red gram was very high last year at 2.20 lakh metric tonne. It was being cultivated on canal bunds in the two Godavari districts.

The cultivation of black gram would be taken up in four lakh hectares and green gram in two lakh hectares in Krishna, Guntur, Prakasam and twin Godavari districts in the coming rabi season. Under the summer pulses programme, it had been targeted to cultivate pulses in 2.30 lakh hectares in Vizianagaram, Srikakulam, Chittoor, Krishna and the twin Godavari districts as the third crop. An action plan had been formulated accordingly, he said. The price of black gram was decreasing.

No paddy cultivation

Speaking further, Mr. Reddy said that no paddy cultivation had been taken up in 3.50 lakh hectares in the four Rayalaseema districts besides Nellore and Prakasam in the last season due to low rainfall. The summer pulses cultivation would be encouraged in the Rayalaseema districts. Water cannons would be distributed to farmers on subsidy to overcome insufficient moisture during summer.

He informed that steps would be taken to cultivate pulses along with paddy and maize in 2.30 lakh hectares in the Godavari delta from the next year.

Mr. Reddy maintained that pulses cultivation would be encouraged next year in Krishna delta as water would be released from the Pattiseema project. It would also be encouraged under the Nagarjuna Sagar project ayacut in 1 lakh hectares as pre-kharif crop. He informed that seeds, fertilisers, oil engines and water cans would be distributed to farmers at 33% subsidy. He made it clear that the Department of Agriculture would work in coordination with the Water Resources Department to cultivate more area with less water. If rabi and kharif were completed in time, he said it would be easy to cultivate pulses in summer.

‘Economic reforms placed India on higher growth trajectory’

A two-day international conference on ‘25 years of economic reforms in India’ was held at Kakatiya University, Warangal, on Saturday and Sunday.

About 400 persons from universities across the country, including foreign nationals, took part in the conference which was sponsored by the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), University Grants Commission (UGC), and the Telangana State Council of Higher Education (TSCHE).

At the inauguration held at the Senate hall of KU, chairman of Centre for Economics and Social Studies R. Radha Krishna said India had experienced unsustainable levels of fiscal and current deficits towards the end of the 1980s since the government had resorted to deficit financing.

In the wake of high inflation and very low foreign exchange reserves, as well as the balance of payment crisis in 1991, the Indian government initiated a wide range of economic reforms to facilitate a shift from a state-led to a market driven growth. These reforms were meant to foster greater competition in the economy, Prof. Krishna said.

Economic reforms placed India on a higher growth trajectory. As a result, the annual GDP growth increased from 4.36% during the 1970-90 period to 7.48% in 2005-06 and 2013-14. The breakthrough in growth could be attributed to the modernisation of the domestic industry as well as strong domestic demand. Surge in high investment supported by easy liquidity put the economy on a high growth trajectory.

He pointed out that the present pattern of development has aggravated inter-state inequality, widened rural-urban disparity, and worsened the intra-rural and intra-urban inequality. The post reform period has not been inclusive, Prof. Krishna said.

Delivering a keynote address at the conference, Biswajit Dhar of the Centre for Economic Studies and Planning, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), said the reduction in average tariffs over two decades since the adoption of trade liberalisation policies was a result of an interesting pattern of protection provided to agriculture and industry.

A conference souvenir was released. KU Registrar R. Sayanna and seminar director B. Suresh Lal were also present. Speaker S. Madhusudana Chary, who participated as the chief guest at the valedictory function, said reforms are imperative for development.

Three-day aquaculture meet from Feb. 11

Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Bangkok, in association with Uddaraju Ananda Raju Foundation, Fisheries Department and Sri Venkateshwara Veterinary University is all set to organise a three-day international conference on 'Profit on Aquaculture 2017' from February 11 to 13, in Bhimavaram of West Godavari district.

Union Agriculture Minister Radha Mohan Singh is likely to inaugurate the seminar-cum-workshop at Vishnu College on February 11. Information and Broadcasting Minister M. Venkaiah Naidu and other Ministers will attend the inaugural session, said Ananda Group chairman Uddaraju Kasi Viswanadha Raju.

Delegates, scientists, traders, researchers and students from China, Thailand, Malaysia, Taiwan, France, Germany, USA, India and other countries are participating in the three-day conference. Researchers from Shanghai Ocean University, Institute of Hydrobiology, Chinese Academy of Sciences have confirmed their participation.

“AP is the largest contributor of aqua products among the country. Aqua farmers from the State will give a presentation on the farming methods being followed by them in coastal districts. Hatchery owners, exporters, packers, feed manufacturers and other stakeholders will speak,” said Mr. Viswanadha Raju. Experts will discuss aquaculture, better management practices, raising hatcheries, pond and water maintenance, biosecurity and best harvesting methods in different atmospheric conditions. Debates on international trading will be part of the seminar, Ananda Group technical adviser C. Mohan Nair said.

“The workshop will provide an opportunity for farmers to exchange ideas and adopt best management practices, prevent viruses and get good profits in aquaculture,” said Mr. Nair. An Aqua Expo will be arranged and farmers from different States will participate. The Fisheries Department will present Best Farmers Awards.

CMFRI's recirculating aquaculture system to help fish production

Facility inaugurated at Vizhinjam centre

The Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) has set up a recirculating aquaculture system (RAS) at its Vizhinjam Research Centre to boost seed production for commercially important marine fishes.

Sea cage farming

The system filters water inside a fish tank, helping to reuse the water. It will be beneficial to brood stock development of marine fishes. The CMFRI set up an RAS tank with a capacity of 30,000 litres, with an aim to popularise sea cage farming, said a press release here.

Farmer-friendly technology

Inaugurating the facility, Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Sudarshan Bhagat said farmer-friendly technologies should be developed to attract people to fish farming.

“In order to solve issues in the fisheries sector following the decline in the availability of fishes from the sea, steps should be taken to improve facilities and technologies for boosting fish production through alternative ways,” the Minister said.

He said mariculture practices should be given due importance to increase marine fish production. “Sea cage farming is one of the best alternatives to increase fish production,” he said, while lauding the CMFRI for its initiatives to popularise the technology of cage farming across the coastal States.

In addition, farming of ornamental fishes, oysters and molluscs should also be promoted among the farmers by giving training to them, he added.

According to CMFRI Director A. Gopalakrishnan, the newly-installed RAS facility could accelerate the growth of mariculture in the country.

“Mariculture is the hope of the future generation. CMFRI is now focusing on research to enhance mariculture activities through cage farming methods,” he said.