

Date:26/04/2010 URL:

<http://www.thehindu.com/2010/04/26/stories/2010042658660200.htm>

“Welfare of farmers will be protected”

State government proposes to acquire 1,479 acres of land for establishing a Special Economic Zone

MADURAI: The welfare of farmers', whose lands are being identified and acquired for establishing a special economic zone by the Small Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu (SIPCOT), would be protected, said it's Managing Director N. Govindan. After presiding over a review meeting, attended by Madurai Collector C. Kamaraj among other revenue officials, he assured to take the farmers interests'. The State government had proposed to acquire 1,479 acres of land for establishing a SEZ. For this purpose, four tahsildars have been posted. Villages including Sivarakottai, Karisalkalampatti and Swamimallampatti from where lands are being acquired would be adequately compensated. The compensation would be disbursed immediately without any delay; Mr. Govindan said and added that apart from the monetary consideration, farmers' parting with their lands would get some lands for building their dwelling among others in a developed land. The MD further said that existing place of worship in the acquired land would be protected at all cost and as promised earlier, farmers' giving their lands would be accorded priority in placement of jobs to the extent of 10 per cent.

Certificates

Necessary certificates to this effect would be issued in the name of the farmers. Through the skill development centres, aspirants' would be imparted training free of cost.

Aplenty of employment opportunities would open up as big business houses and MNCs from various destinations would come here to set up shops, Mr. Govindan said.

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Be professional, farmers urged

Project on pulses productivity enhancement inaugurated in Thiruvaiyaru taluk



CLUSTER APPROACH: Union Minister of State for Finance S.S.Palanimanickam releasing fish fingerlings into a pond at Soil Water Management Research Institute in Thanjavur on Saturday.—

THANJAVUR: Union Minister of State for Finance S.S.Palani Manickam has called for professionalism among farmers to increase productivity of pulses and other crops.

Inaugurating the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)-assisted pilot project on pulses productivity enhancement and stabilisation in a cluster approach in Thiruvaiyaru taluk at Soil and Water Management Research Institute here on Saturday, Mr.Manickam said that protein needed per head per day was 80 grams. But only 40 per cent of protein was received through food now per day per person. This was because of low production of pulses and our food habits.

The pulses requirement of Tamil Nadu was 18 lakh tonnes. But the production was only five lakh tonnes. Hence there is a need to increase the productivity of pulses.

Implementation

The pilot project on pulses will be implemented by the Thanjavur based Soil and Water Management Research Institute affiliated to Tamil Nadu Agriculture University. A cluster approach will be followed in implementing the project. Thiruvaiyaru taluk has been selected as it has 30 per cent pulses cultivation area.

Pulses are cultivated as rice fallow crop in the area. Five hundred acres will be covered in the cluster of five villages for three years.

Farmers will be motivated and empowered to adopt appropriate technologies through training, extension and exposure visits. A cluster will be adopted to achieve scale of economy and for having demonstrative effect. Three awareness creation programmes of three days duration covering 35 farmers will be organised to empower farmers knowledge and skill on pulses productivity enhancement and stabilisation in Cauvery delta zone. The awareness programmes will start from April 26, 2010.

He also inaugurated the Clima Rice scheme funded by Norway Government and implemented by Tamil Nadu agriculture University. Earlier he saw an exhibition organised by the Institute.

Durai Chandrasekaran and Mahesh Krishnaswamy, MLAs, Selvi Sivagnanam, Chairperson of Thanjavur District Panchayat Concil, M.S.Shanmugham, Thanjavur Collector, R.Narayan, Chief General Manager, NABARD, S.N. Misra, General Manager, Indian Overseas Bank, S.Krishna Prasad, Senior Regional Manager, Indian Overseas Bank, S.T.Ravi Kumar, AGM, NABARD participated in the function. T.Jayaraj, Director, Tamil Nadu Rice Research Institute welcomed the gathering. P.Chandrasekaran, Professor and Head, Soil and Water Management Research Institute proposed the vote of thanks.

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<http://www.thehindu.com/2010/04/26/stories/2010042660410700.htm>

Arrangements apace for rose show

Udhagamandalam: With less than a fortnight to go for the 2010 Annual Rose Show, arrangements have gathered pace at the Centenary Rose Park here.

Pointing out that it would be the 9th Rose Show, the Assistant Director of Horticulture, A.J. Jagadeesh Kumar, told 'The Hindu' here on Sunday that it would be conducted on May 8 and 9.

Adverting to the competitions that would be organised as part of the show, he said that those who want to participate can either contact the Manager of the Centenary Rose Park in person or over phone number 2444070.

The competitions will be held in categories like Rose in Pots, Varietal Collection, Cut Roses, Rose Collection, Roses grown in green houses and Rose Arrangements.

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Water bodies to be revamped

KANCHEEPURAM: Lakes, sluices and inlet channels to lakes in four backward blocks in Kancheepuram district will be revamped at a cost of Rs.2,103 lakh under

the Irrigated Agriculture Modernisation and Water Bodies Restoration Management Project.

A campaign initiating farmers to take an active part in the project was launched by the Agriculture Department in association with Public Works Department on Friday. Collector Santosh K. Misra inaugurated it and distributed pamphlets. 109 lakes would be covered under the project, sources said.

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THE TIMES OF INDIA

Honey production falls as bees dying

Sanjeev Kumar Verma, TNN, Apr 26, 2010, 05.07am

PATNA: Honeybees are fast disappearing from parts of Bihar and Nepal. So suggest reports collected by Tarumitra, which works to promote healthy environment and preservation of biodiversity at the national level.

According to these reports, a cooperative society of Bihar's Vaishali district engaged in apiculture, is in trouble as due to fewer honeybees, the cooperative' honey output has nosedived. The number of boxes used here for bee keeping has come down from about 100 to less than 20.

At K R High School in Bettiah town, the number of bee-keeping boxes has come down from 25 to one. Bee keepers of Sasaram too have reported reduced fewer bees making hives in their orchards. Even on the Tarumitra campus at Patna, the number of beehives today is one, from earlier six.

An identical trend has been observed in Nepal which shares quite a long border with Bihar. Reports from Godavari, east of Patan in Nepal, suggest the societies engaged in bee keeping at two places there are facing problems due to reduced number of honeybees. Their business of honey is on the verge of closure.

Those running these societies approached a Japan-based research centre for finding a solution and were informed that the honeybees were dying due to a disease called 'sac brood'. No reasons, however, were cited for the spread of the disease. Nor was any treatment suggested, Tarumitra national coordinator Robert Athickal told TOI.

Athickal attributed the declining number of honeybees to two factors __ monoculture and widescale use of pesticides to protect fruit trees from paste infestation.

"Over-emphasis on plantation of a particular variety of trees, particularly those bearing fruits which have market value, denies regular supply of food to honeybees as a particular tree species has fixed period of flowering," Athickal said and added honeybees thus starve during a major part of the year.

Regarding use of pesticides, he said parts of pesticides are consumed by honeybees. Less number of honeybees would adversely affect the pollination process, which is a must for having fruits on trees as honeybees, being key-stone species, play a vital role in pollination.

The Tarumitra coordinator pleaded for polyculture for supply of food to honeybees throughout the year and generating awareness among fruit-growing community about the long-term losses of widescale use of pesticides.



Weather

Chennai - INDIA

Today's Weather



Partly Cloudy

Rain: 00mm in24hrs
Humidity: 34%
Wind: Normal

Monday, Apr 26

Max Min
37.5° | 27.8°

Sunrise: 05:51
Sunset: 18:23
Barometer: 1008.1mb

Tomorrow's Forecast



Tstorm

Tuesday, Apr 27

Max Min
36° | 28°

Extended Forecast for a week

Wednesday
Apr 28



36° | 28°
Tstorm

Thursday
Apr 29



36° | 27°
Partly Cloudy

Friday
Apr 30



35° | 27°
Tstorm

Saturday
May 1



35° | 27°
Tstorm

Sunday
May 2



35° | 27°
Tstorm