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<http://www.thehindu.com/2010/04/07/stories/2010040754971600.htm>

Deutsche AMC launches Agribusiness fund

MUMBAI: Deutsche Bank's mutual fund arm Deutsche Asset Management on Tuesday launched DWS Global Agribusiness Offshore fund, which is a feeder fund for its global fund that focuses on agri-sector. The fund, which is an open-ended overseas fund of funds scheme, will invest in the units of overseas mutual funds, focussing on the agriculture and affiliated sectors, Deutsche Asset Management's CEO, Suresh Soni told reporters here. The fund, which opened for subscription on Tuesday, closes on April 30. The minimum investment amount of the scheme is Rs. 5,000. — PTI

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Associate with development of villages, young farmers told

KRISHNAGIRI: Young farmers with social consciousness should associate themselves with the development of the villages by joining the Farmers' Clubs established in the district, Collector V.K. Shanmugam said here recently while inaugurating the 87th Farmers' Club at Nallur Branch of the Pallavan Grama Bank.

Due to the initiative of the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development, five Farmers' Clubs were formed during in 2005 and the number had risen to 105.

A seed to marketing training programme for the farmers would be organised jointly with the Regional Research Station, Paiyur. For this purpose, five villages would be identified for the formation of the Clubs.

Through these Clubs, agriculture scientists would give training to the farmers' right from production of seeds and up to the marketing of the products.

A sum of Rs. 1.5 crore had been sanctioned for the programme to be implemented during the next three years. Krishnagiri was one of the districts to implement the programme, Mr. Shanmugam added.

Earlier, he distributed Rs. 25,000 as loan each to three farmers to buy milch cows and Rs. 10,000 loan to a person for setting up a saloon.

K. Jayapal, Chairman, Pallavan Grama Bank, T. Ekambavanan, Director, Pallavan Grama Bank, H. Arunmozhidevan, Assistant Director, Animal Husbandry Department spoke on the occasion.

C. Jayakumar, Manager, Nallur Branch, welcomed the gathering. N.V. Kalyani, president, Nallur Kamarajar Farmers Club, proposed a vote of thanks.

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“Maintaining bonsai needs patience”



Trendy:Nurturing bonsai trees is becoming popular as a hobby in Chennai.

CHENNAI: A few years ago, the sheer joy of nurturing the saplings, the innate bonding that they developed and the pleasure of being in the midst of green made many take to gardening. But with the cost and constraints of land in the city and the shrinking size of the homes, residents of apartments now have to be content with adorning their kitchens with potted plants and blanketing balconies with creepers.

But not everyone is willing to compromise. As a result, banyans and peepuls now line up some balconies, while mangoes and tamarind rest on the terrace. Only, they have shrunk a bit to fit inside compact homes.

Bonsai trees are increasingly finding a place in many apartments as they simulate a lush ambience. Mammoth banyans with lush canopy come in miniature forms, retaining the

weather-beaten look and fitting in even the most space-starved places.

The passion for the hobby has egged on many in the city to meticulously tend, prune and wire the miniature trees.

When a handful of bonsai growers accidentally got together at a workshop in the city a couple of years ago, they realised the need to start an association to help grow each others' foliage. Bodhi, a Chennai-based Bonsai association, was born some months after the workshop.

“There aren't a good number of materials available to assist Bonsai growers. We decided to start an association, which will popularise the art of dwarfing trees and help us grow trees in the right way,” explains K. Sivaji, president of the association.

His little backyard has space to accommodate over 400 petite trees, each of different variety and age. Sourced from Japan, China and Chennai, they retain almost every aspect of the fully grown trees.

Suseela Vergis has nearly 200 potted trees bordering her house. From extravagant ceramic vases to plain-looking terracotta ones, the stout-rooted woods are placed in a variety of containers. “Maintaining a bonsai needs a lot of patience, particularly if you want to buy a sapling and nurture it into a tree. Mature ones are sold in the market but they are very expensive,” says Ms.Vergis, who is also the vice-president of Bodhi.

The association, with 20 members, organises periodical workshops and exhibitions to popularise the art of growing Bonsais.

When P.B. Yogesh took up the hobby, little did he know that these small trees would take up a major chunk of the space in his house. His terrace is lush with greenery, with an astounding line up of petite pots holding triangle-shaped trees. “Fruits will be of the same size, despite the miniature form of trees. Bonsai is all about such incredible facts of nature,” says the dental surgeon.

While the rules of shaping bonsais are well laid out in Japan and China, Ms.Vergis says nature should be the teacher for any bonsai grower. “You can grow a tree in any shape you want as long as it gives you happiness when you look at it. Bonsai is a great stress buster. It provides a soothing contact with nature,” she adds.

Mr. Sivaji suggests novices to opt for banyans, as they are easy to maintain.



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UP finalises wheat purchase policy, MSP at par with Centre Lucknow

The Uttar Pradesh government has finalised its wheat procurement policy for the rabi crop 2010-2011 and has fixed its Minimum Support Price at the same level as that of the Centre at 1,100 per quintal, a senior officer said.

"Under the policy government agencies would directly procure wheat from the farmers through purchase centres where immediate payments would be made," principal secretary food and civil supplies Jacob Thomas said.

He said, that wheat would be purchased at a minimum support price of Rs 1,100 per quintal announced by the Centre.

"The arrangement would be effective till June 30 and purchase centres would function on all days except gazetted holidays notified by the Centre," he said.

Thomas said, a target of purchasing 39 lakh MT wheat has been fixed for the government agencies.

"The Food Corporation of India would procure one lakh MT wheat. Procurement targets could be revised if supply of what continues at purchase centres," he said.

He said, that 4,406 purchase centre would be set up by different government agencies across the state.

"These centres would be set up in a manner that a farmer is not required to travel more than seven kilometres to reach a purchase centre," he said.

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/StoryPage/Print/527704.aspx>

Chennai - INDIA

Today's Weather



Partly Cloudy

Rain: 00mm in24hrs

Humidity: 45%

Wind: Normal

Wednesday, Apr 7

Max Min
36.5° | 27.1°

Sunrise: 06:03

Sunset: 18:21

Barometer: 1008.1mb

Tomorrow's Forecast



Partly Cloudy

Thursday, Apr 8

Max Min
36° | 25°

Extended Forecast for a week

Friday Apr 9	Saturday Apr 10	Sunday Apr 11	Monday Apr 12	Tuesday Apr 13
35° 26°	36° 26°	37° 27°	37° 27°	37° 27°
Partly Cloudy	Tstorm	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy