

SASYAM FOUNDATION UNITED FOR SOLUTIONS

1st Edition

VICHAR

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



CULTIVATING IDEAS, GROWING FUTURES



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GENERAL AGRICULTURE

Govt allows Indian potash Ltd to continue urea imports till march 2026.

Govt extends IPL's urea import mandate till March 2026 to ensure stable supply and price control , as India continues to rely on imports despite efforts to boost domestic fertilizer production.

SOURCE – KRISHI JAGARAN.



Gopal credit card scheme: Rajasthan government offers Rs 1 lakh interest-free loans to empower cattle farmers.

Gopal credit card scheme by the Rajasthan government provides interest free loans up to Rs 1 lakh to livestock farmers, aiming to boost rural livelihoods, enhance dairy productivity.

SOURCE – KRISHI JAGARAN.



Sugar output down 18 pc to 25.49mm tons so far in 2024-25.

India's sugar production has declined by 18% to 25.49 million tonnes in the ongoing 2024-25 season, largely due to reduced output in key producing states Maharashtra, UP and Karnataka according to ISMA.

SOURCE – KRISHI JAGARAN



GENERAL AGRICULTURE

INDIA -U.S. TO TALK EARLY BTA TRANCHE.

The agenda for an early tranche of the bilateral trade deal that may be delivered under the 90-day pause period for reciprocal tariffs will be discussed by top Indian and US officials in Washington, DC, next week. In order to move beyond established terms of reference and explore the United States' ambitions in areas like agriculture and non-tariff barriers, the Indian delegation, lead by Commerce Additional Secretary Rajesh Agarwal, will be in Washington, DC, next week for a three-day discussion. SOURCE – THE HINDU



ODISHA FARMER IN FOR A GOLDEN HARVEST WITH PADDY SEED.

A farmer from Odisha, who owns an indigenous paddy variety called Keonjhar Kalachampa, has requested a share of profits from the seed's commercialisation. This would be the first instance of a farmer in the state being compensated for conservation efforts under an initiative of the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority (PPV&FRA). The farmer, Jayant Kumar Jena, holds official registration for the variety, which is known for its tolerance to diseases and pests, non-lodging, responsiveness to fertilizers, and suitability for timely and late sowing. The PPV&FRA chairperson said that many farmers receive benefits through registration with the authority. If the PPV&FRA issues directions to the Odisha government, the windfall for the Jena family may run into lakhs of rupees each year. SOURCE – THE HINDU



GENERAL AGRICULTURE

BAU SCIENTISTS DEVELOP SEEDLESS TOMATO.

Indian scientists have developed a seedless tomato variety, aimed at revolutionizing vegetable farming and food processing industries. The seedless variety, developed by the Department of Plant Breeding and Genetics at Bihar Agriculture University (BAU) in collaboration with the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) and the Board of Research in Nuclear Science (BRNS), is expected to improve pulp and shelf life. The research aims to identify genes responsible for seed formation and development for genetic engineering and breeding.



GOVT PLANTS TO WIDEN CROP INSURANCE NET.

The PM-Kisan, which distributes Rs 6000 annually to 90 million farmers in equal installments, also plans to set the dates for crop insurance compensation payments. According to Chaturvedi, many states fail to provide cash on schedule, which causes delays in paying farmers for crop losses. There have been 4,440 crore in state defaults since the scheme's inception nine years ago. The central government, states, and farmers each have a 40%, 48%, and 12% portion of premium payments, respectively. SOURCE – THE HINDU



INDIA SHIPS FIRST POMEGRANATE CONSIGNMENT TO U.S VIA SEA.

India has exported 14 tonne of pomegranate , for the first time through sea route to the u.s , the commerce ministry said. Traditionally exports were done by air route. Now the industry is embracing the cost effective and sustainable sea-freight. India shipped pomegranates comprising 4,620 boxes or about 14 tonne, which reached the u.s East coast last month , as per an official statement . the u.s granted market access for pomegranates during the season in 2023. SOURCE – THE HINDU



GENERAL AGRICULTURE

ROLE PLAYED BY COENZYMES IN HUMAN FOOD.

Role of Coenzymes in Human Food

Coenzymes = helper molecules that support enzymes in metabolism

Coenzyme Q (CoQ) = antioxidant, key for energy in cells

Types:

CoQ9: Found in wheat, rice, corn, millet, oats, rye, barley

CoQ10: Vital for heart, brain & high-energy organs

Helps with aging & neurological issues

Supplements shown to benefit patients

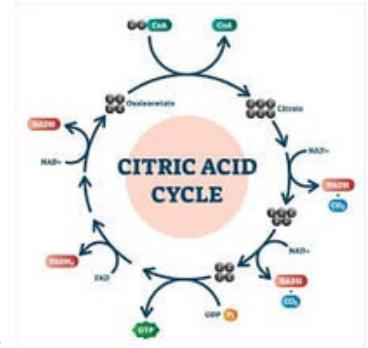
Scientific Advances:

2006: Scientists in Japan engineered rice to produce CoQ10

2025: Chinese scientists used CRISPR to make rice with 75% more CoQ10

Goal : Turn common food crops into natural antioxidant powerhouses!

From Farm to Factory — genetically improved plants for better health! SOURCE – THE HINDU



PADDY Fields to the stage of Recognition : Junaid kaippani and Ayyoob Thottoli Honoured for Their contributions to agriculture.

Krishi Jagran has honoured Junaid Kaippani and Ayyoob Thottoli for their contributions to agriculture and community development. The recognition was given for their leadership in organizing the traditional 'Kambalanatti' festival, 'Vellamunda Kambalam', in the Aaruwal Thottoli paddy fields of Vellamunda. The festival celebrates the tribal tradition of 'Kambalam', a rhythmic group activity in the fields. The festival aims to inspire youth to see agriculture as a cultural and sustainable way of life, integrating rhythm, song, and land legacy. Over sixty outstanding farmers were identified and felicitated, and the festival has become a vital junction of farming and culture. The festival aims to breathe new life into organic farming and promote agriculture as a soulful livelihood, ensuring the survival of future generations.

SOURCE – THE HINDU.



GENERAL AGRICULTURE

SKUAST-K Launches Natural Farming Training to promote Sustainable Agriculture in Himalayan Region.

Two training programs on advancing natural farming practices were inaugurated at the Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K) as part of the National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF). The initiative aims to promote chemical-free, cost-effective, and sustainable agriculture, aiming to reach one crore farmers and establish 10,000 Bio-input Resource Centres. The programs aim to strengthen the capacity of KVK scientists, officials, and master trainers from Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, equipping them with practical knowledge and technical skills.

SOURCE – THE HINDU



Sikkim's GI-Tagged Large Cardamom: Grow Prosperity with the Queen of Spices!

The Indian state of Sikkim, nestled in the tranquil Eastern Himalayas, is home to huge cardamom, a spice that is both fragrant and economically valuable. This spice, often referred to locally as "Bari Elaichi" or "Black Gold," is used for purposes beyond cooking. It stands for custom, ecological balance, and environmentally friendly farming. Sikkim is unquestionably in the center of cardamom cultivation, accounting for almost 84 percent of India's high output.

SOURCE – THE HINDU



Agriculture Department brings out Krishi Varthe newsletter to provide information to stakeholders.

The Agriculture Department of Karnataka has launched a monthly newsletter, "Krishi Varthe," providing updates on farming developments to farmers, NGOs, and stakeholders. The first issue, released on April 16, 2025, was released during the 2025-26 Monsoon Workshop at GVK, University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore.

SOURCE – THE HINDU



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GENERAL AGRICULTURE

Farmers, traders warned against use of calcium carbide for artificial ripening of mango.

The Chittoor district administration declared on Monday that calcium carbide (CaC_2), which is typically used to artificially ripen the fruit, would be prohibited during the height of the mango season. Speaking to the media here, Joint Collector G. Vidyadhari cautioned the farmers, vendors, and traders that it is illegal to sell calcium carbide or transport or store it. Violators will face penalties under Section 44(A), which carries a ₹1,000 fine and three years in jail. SOURCE – THE HINDU



ISRO satellites forecast wheat production , assess crop production.

The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) has estimated that the combined wheat production from India's eight main wheat-growing states would be 122.724 million tons. The research uses satellites to track crop sowing and harvesting in real-time, using the Comprehensive Remote Sensing Observation on Crop Progress framework developed by ISRO's National Remote Sensing Centre. SOURCE – THE HINDU



PM Kisan 20th Installment 2025.

PM-KISAN scheme provides eligible farmers with Rs 6,000 annually in three installments through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT). To ensure you receive the upcoming Rs 2,000 installment on time, make sure your Aadhaar is linked to your bank account. (SOURCE : THE HINDU)



GENERAL AGRICULTURE

Fertilizer subsidy down 6% to 1.77 lakh cr in FY24-25 on dip in urea imports.

Govt's New Fertilizer Gameplan Subsidy slightly down... but farmer support still strong.In FY 2024-25, the govt allocated ₹1.77 lakh crore for fertilizer subsidy,(compared to ₹1.88 lakh crore last year – a 6% dip)

Why the drop?

1. Decline in Urea & DAP imports
2. Lower global fertilizer prices

Without subsidy, prices would shoot up to:

1. Urea – ₹1,750/bag
2. DAP – ₹3,500/bag

But thanks to subsidy, farmers pay only:

1. Urea – ₹267/bag
2. DAP – ₹1,350/bag

Govt's clear focus:

1. Cut waste
 2. Boost efficiency
 3. Keep farmer support steady
- (SOURCE : THE HINDU)



Guwahati Tea Auction centre sets new record, sells tea with Rs 3,850 crore in FY 25.

The Guwahati Tea Auction Centre (GTAC) achieved a record turnover of Rs 3850 crore in FY 2024-25, selling 169.13 million kg of tea. This represents an Rs 800 crore increase compared to the previous year. The average price rose to Rs 227.70 per kg, benefiting Assam's small tea growers.
SOURCE – THE ECONOMIC TIMES



GENERAL AGRICULTURE

Punjab govt to provide 33% subsidy on BT cotton hybrid seeds.

The Punjab government is set to provide a 33% subsidy on BT cotton hybrid seeds recommended by PAU, Ludhiana, allocating ₹20 crore for the initiative. This move aims to alleviate financial strain on cotton farmers, discourage non-recommended hybrids, and expand cotton cultivation to 1.25 lakh hectares, promoting crop diversification and sustainable practices. SOURCE – THE ECONOMIC TIMES



Sustainable farming: Pests drop to zero in chilli, tomato crops after adoption of biocontrol agents.

In a move aimed at encouraging sustainable farming, Agricultural Extension Officer (AEO) of Yellareddypet cluster in Siddipet district T. Nagarjun has introduced biocontrol agents and biofertilisers to promote eco-friendly pest and nutrient management methods. The AEO recently organised demonstrations at Rythu Vedhika and on the field of farmer Ilapuram Anil Reddy in Pedda Masanpally village of Thoguta Mandal. (THE HINDU)



GENERAL AGRICULTURE

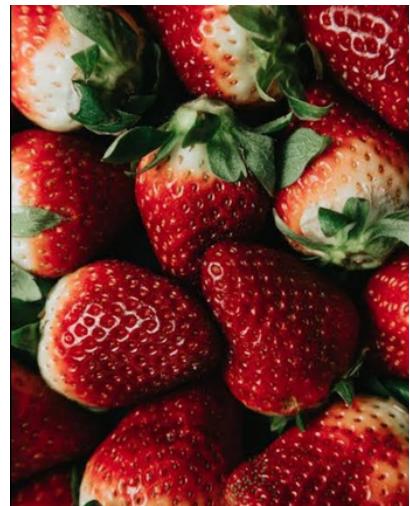
Iraq farmers turn to groundwater to boost desert yield

Farmer Hadi Saheb cannot wait to see his wheat fields flourish in the heart of the desert after he tapped into groundwater reserves in water-starved Iraq. He is just one of many Iraqis who have turned to drilling wells in the desert to help sustain the country's agriculture.



Meghalaya to host Strawberry Festival in May

The State of Meghalaya will host a two-day Strawberry Festival on May 2 and 3, aimed at promoting agro-tourism and rural livelihoods through a range of cultural and recreational activities. The event is being organised by Meghalayan Age Limited, a State government entity, in collaboration with the Departments of Tourism and Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare.



Agriculture insurance in India: Securing the future of our farmers

Agriculture is India's backbone, but it faces challenges like erratic weather, crop diseases, pest infestations, and fluctuating market prices. Insurance provides security, helping farmers recover losses and maintain income. The Indian government launched initiatives like PMFBY to support farmers.



GENERAL AGRICULTURE

Zonal level agriculture exhibition and seminar in Erode

A zonal-level two-day agriculture exhibition and seminar will be held at Chikkaiah Government Arts and Science College here next month. Organised by the Department of Horticulture and Plantation Crops, the exhibition aims to create awareness about modern agricultural technologies, new crop varieties, agricultural machinery, and value addition techniques. The event will feature 70 stalls from government departments and 130 stalls from private organisations and farmers from ten districts are expected to participate. (THE HINDU)



Palm oil farming, a transformative economic force for India

India is aiming to achieve agricultural self-reliance by increasing domestic oilseed production and reducing reliance on imports. The National Mission on Edible Oils – Oil Palm and NCEO-Oilseeds aims to boost domestic production, empower rural communities, and promote sustainable growth, advancing Atmanirbhar Bharat.



NABARD picks up 10% stake in agri-fintech firm 24x7 Moneyworks

The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) said it had acquired 10% equity stake in 24x7 Moneyworks Consulting Pvt. Ltd., an agri-fintech venture, for an unspecified amount. This is NABARD's first-ever investment in a bootstrapped start-up. 24x7 Moneyworks Consulting's flagship platform, eKisanCredit (eKCC), is a fully digital loan origination system which integrates seamlessly with land records, Aadhaar, eKYC, core banking systems enabling end-to-end automation of the rural credit lifecycle.



**NATIONAL BANK FOR AGRICULTURE
AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT**