



India will continue to extend their support in early implementation of past commitments- Shri Radha Mohan Singh

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India support the proposal of strengthening of AMIS - Shri Singh The challenges of maintaining food and nutritional security need innovative solutions through collaborative and coordinated polices- Shri Singh Union Minister for Agriculture & Farmers Welfare addresses G-20 Agriculture Ministers' meeting at Berlin

Union Agriculture & Farmers Welfare Minister, Shri Radha Mohan Singh today addressed the G-20 Agriculture Ministers' Meeting at Berlin, Germany. In his addressed the Minister said that India will continue to extend their support in early implementation of past commitments made at the G20 Agriculture Ministers Meetings particularly on Research and Development, collaboration and knowledge transfer, action to combat food loss and waste, and information and communication technologies (ICT). Shri Singh also supports the proposal of strengthening of AMIS and underscores the importance of assessment of stocks and suggests sharing of best practices in this regard.

The Minister added that in India, ICT has proved to be an effective and powerful medium to disseminate information on agronomic practices, prices, fertilizer and pesticide use and weather and pest related advisories. Many new initiatives have been taken in order to develop an integrated approach for communication process in the agricultural sector. These include: launch of agricultural web portals, mobile apps and a dedicated broadcasting channel. Moreover, with the objective to reform the agriculture marketing system in the country, a National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) portal has been launched which provides a pan-India electronic trading. This e-marketing platform is expected to help farmers in facilitating better price discovery through efficient, transparent and competitive marketing platform; better marketing of agricultural produce; reducing wastages; and getting market related information and with access to large number of buyers from within and outside the State through transparent auction processes.

Shri Singh said that in order to promote efficient irrigation practices in the country, a major irrigation programme was launched by the government in 2015 with emphasis on improving water-use efficiency through water conservation/ rainwater harvesting and use of micro-irrigation. The programme aims at providing end-to-end solutions in irrigation supply chain, viz., water sources, distribution network and farm level applications and extension services on new technologies and information. The programme is being implemented in a mission mode with aim of completing 99 major and medium irrigation projects with the capacity of 76.03 lakh hectare in a phased manner by December, 2019.

Shri Singh said that the role of G20 economies in achieving the sustainable global food security assumes significant importance and there is a growing consensus that the challenges of maintaining food and nutritional security need innovative solutions through collaborative and coordinated polices among the member as well as non-member countries.

Union Agriculture & Farmers Welfare Minister said that the world economy has made strides in increasing the global food production, but the emerging challenges of increasing climate complexities, stress on natural resources, degrading soil health and fragmentation of land holdings pose serious risks in sustaining this growth momentum. Other major issues particularly faced by the developing and under developed economies include poor marketing infrastructure, food losses and wastage, low coverage of institutional agricultural credit, and insuring farmers' produce from frequent climatic variations. Shri Singh said the discussions on agriculture sector under the G20 German Presidency has been rightly focused on the increasing stress on natural

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