

Drought: Disaster Mitigation Project launched in A.P.

In an attempt to fight the recurrent drought situations in five districts in the State, the government has launched a Disaster Mitigation Project (DMP) with a budget of Rs. 1,042 crore. Minister for Agriculture Somireddy Chandramohan Reddy, who launched the project here on Wednesday, said the immediate goal of the project was to strengthen the resilience of 1.65 lakh families affected by drought in Anantpur, Kadapa, Kurnool, Chittoor and Prakasam districts.

Two-pronged strategy

“We will adapt a two-pronged strategy. The project will target the drought-hit villages in the poorest mandals and the socially backward families,” the Minister said, after launching the project. With more than 80 per cent of the small and marginal farmers living at the mercy of rain and availability of groundwater, the project is designed to provide financial assistance when necessary and undertake works under the NREGS to provide farmers livelihood options during the lean seasons.

The project will be implemented in village clusters with each covering around 1,000 hectares of which 70 per cent are being cultivated by around 500 farmers with an average farm size of 1.6 hectare. Citing that the project could be a saviour to the southern part of the state, among the climate-vulnerable regions in India for the erratic and sparse rainfall, the Minister said that farmers would also be educated on technologies to mitigate drought.

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