

## **EMPHASIS IS BEING GIVEN ON SOIL HEALTH CARD, USE OF NEEM-COATED UREA AND SCHEMES RELATED TO PER DROP MORE CROP FOR REDUCING COST OF AGRICULTURE**

Relevant for: Indian Economy | Topic: Major crops, Cropping patterns in various parts of the country incl. Various Agriculture Revolutions

Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare

**Emphasis is being given on soil health card, use of neem-coated urea and schemes related to per drop more crop for reducing cost of agriculture**

**Employment opportunities for about 5.5 lakh people are being created through the Pradhan Mantri Kisan SAMPADA Yojana**

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Union Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Shri Radha Mohan Singh has said that with the efforts of the government unprecedented progress has been made in the agriculture sector. Speaking on the occasion of the inaugural session of 2-day Global Agriculture & Food Summit-2018 at Ranchi he said that foodgrain production in 2017-18 (4<sup>th</sup> Advance Estimate) stood at 284.83 million tonne as compared to 255.59 million tonne average production in 2010-14. The production of pulses also rose by 40% from 18.01 million tonne in 2010-14 to 25.23 million tonne (4<sup>th</sup> Advance Estimate) in 2017-18. Production of horticulture crops recorded 15.79% growth,

fisheries production under Blue Revolution 26.86% and animal husbandry & milk production 23.80%.

He said that in order to reduce the cost of production, Soil Health Card, use of neem-coated urea and schemes related to 'per drop more crop' are being targeted and implemented. To promote organic farming, Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) was initiated in 2014-15 and for north east Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region (MOVCD-NER) was started. He further said that National Agriculture Market (eNAM), a new market mechanism has been started in order to ensure remunerative price for the farmers' produce while advancing towards 'one nation one market'. Till March 2018, the target of integrating 585 mandis with e-NAM has been achieved. Besides this, the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) was initiated from Kharif 2016 to overcome the risks related to agriculture against disasters. This scheme covers all foodgrains, oilseeds and commercial/ horticultural crops. All risks - prior to the crop sowing, during the harvest and after harvest - are included in the scheme.

Shri Singh added that the government is also promoting quality in agriculture through food processing. Pradhan Mantri Kisan SAMPADA Yojana has been started with an allocation of Rs 6,000 crore. The forward and backward linkage of agro processing clusters is being developed in order to enhance food processing capabilities. Close to 20 lakh farmers are being benefitted while also creating employment opportunities for about 5.5 lakh people.

The Minister informed that the government has taken a historic decision towards fulfilling the promise made to farmers by increasing MSP by 1.5 times or more of production cost for all notified crops from Kharif 2018-19.

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**RCS**

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