



BASAI News Updates

Sept. 16, 2022

Eyeing profit, farmers in HP turn to exotic spices

BHANU P LOHUMI
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SHIMLA, SEPTEMBER 15

The cultivation of heeng and saffron, which was introduced in the hill state as part of a pilot project, "Krishi Se Sampannta Yojana", has picked up pace with 502 farmers opting for it.

Heeng has been cultivated over 4 hectares and saffron over 2 hectares in Kinnaur, Bharmaur, Kaza, Keylong and Seraj areas.

Heeng and saffron are among the most valuable spices and are widely used in Indian cuisines. While heeng is sold for Rs 900 to Rs 15,000 per kg, saffron's price varies between Rs 50,000 and Rs

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9



FARMING OF HEENG, SAFFRON PICKS UP

- Heeng cultivated over 4 hectares, saffron over 2 hectares in Kinnaur, Bharmaur, Kaza & Keylong
- Heeng fetches ₹900-15,000 per kg, saffron ₹50,000-3.50 lakh per kg
- Officials say high-value crops aimed at giving boost to farmers' income
- More area to be covered soon, results so far encouraging, they say

Eyeing profit, farmers in HP turn to exotic spices

3,50,000 per kg, depending upon its quality.

The Agriculture Department has set a target to bring 302 hectares under heeng cultivation in five years and 3.5 hectares under saffron in three years.

BR Takhi, Agriculture Director of the state, says the cultivation of high-value crops in remote areas is aimed at giving a boost to the farmers' income. An amount of Rs 3 crore has been set aside for the initiative this year, according to officials.

The annual demand for

saffron is 100 tonnes, but its average production is only around 6-7 tonnes. The initiative aims at cutting dependence on import of these exotic spices.

The saffron crop gives results in one year. A quality analysis of the crop is underway and seed chain is being established, experts say, adding the areas were identified as per the climate, topography and soil suitability. For heeng, which gives fruit after 4-5 years, the results so far are encouraging, they say.

Bajra sells below MSP in Haryana

RAVINDER SAINI

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

REWARI, SEPTEMBER 15

Farmers in the district have been forced to sell their bajra (millet) produce to private buyers at much below minimum support price (MSP).

The Union Government has fixed Rs 2,350 per quintal as MSP for bajra but it is being bought between Rs 1,750 and Rs 1,825 per quintal.

GOVT DITHERS ON SALVAGE PLAN

■ The Haryana Government is yet to announce if bajra will be procured at MSP or at a fixed rate

■ In the second option, the difference in average market price and MSP will be given to farmers

₹2,350 per quintal MSP fixed by the Centre

₹1,750 to ₹1,825 purchase rate of pvt players



Though the arrival of 71,000 quintals bajra has so far been registered in the local grain market, the state

government is yet to announce whether bajra would be procured at MSP or

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

Bajra sells below MSP...

at a fixed amount in which the difference in the average market price and MSP would be given to the farmers registered on 'Meri Fasal-Mera Byora' portal similar to the last season. The government had given Rs 600 per quintal to the registered bajra growers under the Bhavantar Bharpayee Yojana.

Kuldeep, a farmer from Jaitpur village, said he had to sell 50 quintals of bajra to a private buyer at a rate of Rs 1,800 per quintal. "I could not have waited for the government's decision as I needed money to buy seeds, fertiliser, diesel etc for the next crop," he added.

Naresh Yadav of Lochabka village said he sold off his 55 quintals at Rs 1,810 per quintal as no space was available at home to store the produce.

Ashok Yadav, president, Beopar Sangh New Grain Market, said a declining trend

had been witnessed in the price of bajra. "Bajra was sold at the market rate of Rs 2,000 per quintal two weeks ago on initial arrival. But now, the rates have reduced to Rs 1,790 following considerable increase in the arrival of bajra in the grain market. Many farmers are in a fix about selling their produce as the government has not yet made any announcement," he added.

Narender Yadav, secretary, Market Committee, Rewari, said farmers were selling their produce to private buyers at Rs 1,740 to Rs 1,835 per quintal. "A total of 4,950 quintals of bajra arrived at the grain market on Wednesday," he added.

Radheshyam Mittal, president, Beopar Mandal New Grain Market, Rewari, said the government should announce if it wants to buy bajra at MSP as farmers are eagerly waiting for it.

Punjab, Delhi drop plan to pay farmers incentive

Gurpreet Singh Nibber

letters@hindustantimes.com

CHANDIGARH: The Punjab and Delhi governments have dropped a plan to pay a cash incentive to farmers in the northern state for not burning paddy stubble during the winter harvest – one of principal reasons for an annual pollution crisis in the national capital and its surrounding areas.

The state's agriculture minister Kuldeep Singh Dhaliwal announced the decision days after a joint proposal by the two states of giving ₹2,500 per acre to paddy growers for not burning crop residue was rejected by the Centre. Though the proposal had called for ₹1,500 per acre from the Centre's kitty and ₹500 each from Punjab and Delhi, HT reported last week that the two states still intended to push through with their share of the payments. "How can we pay when the Centre is not giving?" the minister said on Thursday in response to a question on the cash incentive scheme.

To be sure, Punjab is facing severe financial stress, and has directed its senior officials to cut wasteful expenditure.

Responses from the Delhi government and the Centre were



Most farmers burn the residue because it is a quick and cheap way to clear the fields for the sowing of wheat crop. HT FILE

not immediately available.

According to the joint proposal, the governments of Punjab and Delhi were to make contributions of ₹375 crore each and they sought an outlay of ₹1,125 crore from the Centre, taking the total to ₹1,875 crore, officials said.

"We (Punjab and Delhi governments) made a project for the larger benefit of the farmers but the Centre rejected it," he said. "But the Punjab government is giving sufficient number of subsidised machines to the farmers for in-situ management of paddy stubble and also persuading them not to burn the crop residue," he added.

According to Dhaliwal, the total expenditure on subsidised





machines will be ₹452 crore and 32,100 different types of machines will be given to the farmers.

Meanwhile, under an alternative plan, Delhi and Punjab have joined hands to use Pusa bio-decomposer – a microbial solution that can decompose paddy straw in 15 to 20 days – on 5,000 acres of land in the agrarian state to prevent stubble burning, which is a major cause of air pollution.

As part of a pilot project to be implemented with the help of the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), the bio-decomposer will be sprayed over 5,000 acres or 2,023 hectares of land in Punjab. This year, the total area under paddy cultivation in Punjab is pegged at 29-30 lakh hectares. "Joint meeting with Punjab Agriculture Minister Kuldeep Dhaliwal ji and officials of IARI Pusa regarding stubble pollution. Free spraying of bio-decomposer will be done in some areas of Punjab as a pilot project this year under the supervision of IARI," Delhi environment minister Gopal Rai tweeted.

"We knew this was going to happen sooner or later," said Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU) president Balbir Singh Rajewal.

With HTC inputs from New Delhi

On the occasion of World Ozone Day, let us all come together and take a pledge to protect the ozone layer for the protection of the environment and nature."


- Manohar Lal

Let us collectively do whatever possible to ensure the flora and fauna with whom we share the Earth thrive. May we leave an even better planet for the coming generations."

- Narendra Modi


World Ozone Day

Friday, September 16, 2022



Save Ozone, Save Nature Step Ahead, for Green Future

Do's	Don'ts
Adopt Eco-Friendly vehicles	Avoid use of Pesticides
Prevent Gas Leakage of AC/Fridge	Avoid usage of Chlorofluorocarbon contained sprays
Reduce usage of Spray Paint	Avoid using disposables
Proper disposal of e-Waste	Reduce usage of vehicles
Use cotton-made mattresses instead of Foam	Prevent emission of smoke



Collective Action - For Ozone Protection

Information, Public Relations & Languages Department, Haryana

69% Indians say impacted by climate change: Survey

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 15

Around two-thirds of people in India say climate change has already had a severe effect in areas they live and it is likely that their families will be displaced from their homes in the next 25 years, according to a new survey.

Conducted for the World Economic Forum among 23,507 people in 34 countries between July 22 and August 5 on Ipsos's Global

Advisor online survey platform, it revealed that on an average, more than half (56 per cent) of all adults surveyed in the 34 countries said climate change has already had a severe effect in the areas they live.

As many as 22 countries show a majority reporting that they have already been severely impacted by climate change, including nine countries where it exceeds two-thirds of all those surveyed.

Natural farming to be part of curriculum, says minister

KURUKSHETRA, SEPTEMBER 15
The Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Kailash Choudhary, today said natural farming would be part of the curriculum from Class III to PhD for which a committee had been constituted to prepare the syllabus.

The minister also informed that a model of natural farming would be prepared by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and agricultural institutions. He was here in Kurukshetra to attend a seminar on natural farming at Gurukul, Kurukshetra. He was accompanied by Gujarat Governor Acharya Devvrat. The minister said, "To make farmers self-reliant, the ICAR and the agricultural institutions will prepare a model of natural farming and the world will see the Indian model. Gurukul, Kurukshetra, will be the base and the main research centre for it." "To connect the future generation with natural farming, it will be included in the curriculums from Class III to PhD for which a committee comprising agriculture scientists and vice-chancellors has been formed. The subject of natural farming will be included in the syllabus soon after receiving the report of the committee", he added. The minister visited the natural farming being done at Kainthala village. — TNS



Biological Agri Solutions Association of India



Farmers protest at the Taraori grain market in Karnal. FILE

Karnal farmers lift dharna after 24 hrs

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**RELIEF APPROVED BY
CMO: GANGWA**

KARNAL, SEPTEMBER 15

The farmers' protest that started on Wednesday afternoon outside the Taraori Market Committee office, over the use of fans to clean grains and charging unloading fee from them, ended today after a meeting with the arhtiyas.

The farmers had blocked all entry gates. They pulled an all-nighter. On Thursday, after a meeting with the arhtiyas, who assured them to resolve their issues, they lifted the dharna.

"Our issues have been resolved and we have lifted the dharna," said Bhupinder Singh Ladi, a farm leader.

The farmers led by Ladi, met Anubhav Mehta, SDM, Karnal, and demanded the government to start the procurement of the PR varieties. They even handed over a memorandum for the government to the SDM.

"We demand the government to start the procurement

■ **Hisar:** Dy Speaker Ranbir Gangwa on Thursday said the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) had approved ₹37-cr relief for the farmers of Balsamand sub-tehsil in Hisar

■ He said: "As soon as the file gets approval from the Finance Department, the compensation amount for crop damage in 2020 will be credited to the accounts of the farmers concerned."

■ Kisan Sangharsh Samiti spokesperson Sandeep Dhiranwas, however, said the farmers will withdraw the call to gherao Gangwa's residence if he showed them any written proof in that regard before September 19

as the paddy crop has matured and climate changes are unprecedented," said Ladi.

Mehta said, "The decision of procurement of food grains is taken by the government. We will forward your memorandum for acknowledgement."