



## Seed Connect

The monthly newsletter of Federation of Seed Industry of India

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The Interim Budget presented earlier this month was a pro-farmer and pro middle-class budget with tax rebate to the middle class and an array of incentives for the farmers. The direct money transfer scheme for marginalised farmers and Interest Subvention announced for farmers pursuing Animal Husbandry and Fishery will provide a boost to agricultural sector. Overall, the budget was welcomed by urban and rural population alike and will strengthen the consumption story in the Indian economy.

As far as the agriculture sector is concerned the provisions of PM Kisan Samman Nidhi are expected to address the existing agrarian crisis by providing small and marginalised farmers with financial security. The scheme is expected to benefit 12 crore farmers across the country. Doubling the interest subsidy on crop loans and raising the interest subvention when farm loans are restructured in times of natural calamities will also prove beneficial to farmers and is welcome.

The seed industry welcomes the new initiatives provisioned by the Government for the farmers. However, additional support and incentives for adoption of modern agri-technologies and hybrids would have encouraged/increased research and investments by private and public entities in the sector. The budget seems to have overlooked providing provisions enabling agriculture linked R&D that would go a long way in enhancing agricultural productivity and farmer incomes. It would have been desirable if budgetary provisions specific to research-based seeds industry, allowing for easier, more efficient infusion of modern technologies and processes, had also been considered.

We believe that innovative and forward-looking seed technologies will provide the solutions to counter the negative impact of unpredictable climate, strained resources and improve the livelihoods of our farmers. Futuristic public-private partnerships are the need of the hour and should be encouraged by providing necessary support in terms of incentives and policies. This we believe will go a long way in supporting Indian farmers with better quality technology which in turn would help farmers increase their incomes.

- Dr. Shivendra Bajaj

## **Agriculture News in India**

### **[Tamil Nadu government allocates Rs 10,550 crores to agriculture in Budget 2019-20 - Highlights inside](#)**

#### **[Times Now News]**

Tamil Nadu deputy chief minister and finance minister O. Panneerselvam presented the ruling All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) government's third budget. The Tamil Nadu government allocated Rs 10,550 crores to agriculture. Panneerselvam announced that the government will give priority to better water management in the state.

### **[Seed Rolling Plans for Southern States by Regional Station of Indian Institute of Seed Science](#)**

#### **[Krishi Jagran]**

Dr. Trilochan Mohapatra, Secretary (DARE) & Director General (ICAR) inaugurated ICAR-Indian Institute of Seed Science Regional Station building at GKVK Campus, University of Agricultural Sciences, Bengaluru. Dr. Mohapatra exhorted the centre to play a prominent role in seed sector at global level in imparting technical know-how of seed production and strengthening the competency skills through capacity building programmes.

### **[New Varieties Released at 57th IARI Convocation Week](#)**

#### **[Krishi Jagran]**

The varieties and technologies developed by IARI have been instrumental in enhancing crop productivity as well as the income of farmers manifold besides attaining national food security. The Institute released new varieties for various benefits.

### **[Centre Approves 2,000 Crore fund for Agriculture Rural Markets Upgradation](#)**

#### **[NDTV]**

The Centre approved the creation of a corpus of Rs. 2,000 crores for Agr-Market Infrastructure Fund (AMIF) for development and upgradation of agricultural marketing infrastructure in Gramin Agricultural Markets and Regulated Wholesale Markets. The AMIF will be created with National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD). It will help provide state governments subsidised loans to develop marketing infrastructure in 585 Agriculture Produce Market Committees (APMCs) and 10,000 Grameen Agricultural Markets (GrAMs).

### **[Netherlands to partner with India in best agricultural practices: Ambassador Marten van den Berg](#)**

#### **[Economic Times]**

Netherlands will partner with India in best agricultural practices so that it grows best, wastes less and exports more.

### **[75 lakh small farmer families in Tamil Nadu to get Rs 6000 aid](#)**

#### **[New Indian Express]**

Around 75 lakh small and marginal farmer families holding of up to two hectares of land in Tamil Nadu will be getting Rs 6,000 under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-

KISAN). The first instalment of benefit (Rs 2,000) for the period from December 1, 2018 to March 31, 2019 is expected to be disbursed by this month-end.

#### [New mustard seed hub in Rajasthan to boost production](#)

##### **[Times of India]**

A new mustard seed hub has been opened in Rajasthan to increase mustard production in the state. The step has been taken under the scheme of the Central Government to improve the production of edible oil in the country.

#### **Agriculture News Around the World**

#### [Ghana to produce cash crop seedlings for export – Minister](#)

##### **[Journal Du Cameroun]**

Ghana has a target to expand its agricultural economy to cover the production of six cash crops seedlings for sale on the international market. The crops, coconut, oil palm, rubber, cashew, mango and coffee have been identified under the government flagship programme, “Planting for Food and Export (PFE)”, for export to help the country earn some foreign income.

#### [Shortage of seed potatoes might limit growth of potato area](#)

##### **[Fresh Plaza]**

In all countries of the NEPG, the actual stocks of consumption potatoes are lower than last year, and they’re also lower than the five-year average. The total harvest of 2018 in the five NEPG countries was 17.8% lower than in the previous year.

#### [The International Rice Research Institute and Nagoya University strengthen partnership in rice research and education](#)

##### **[Seed Quest]**

The International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) and Nagoya University strengthened their partnership by signing an agreement to intensify cooperation in rice research and education. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed by Dr. Seiichi Matsuo, President of Nagoya University, and by Dr. Matthew Morell, Director General of IRRI, outlines the scientific and technical collaboration.

#### [Sound Agriculture reimagines farm trials with aerial applications](#)

##### **[Ag Daily]**

Sound Agriculture, a San Francisco-based company developing products that sustainably enhance agriculture productivity, is launching a new type of farm trial called Source by Sound. The unique farm trials rely on patterned aerial application, data, and images to clearly showcase the effectiveness of Source on the health and yield of crops.

#### [Space technology predicts droughts several months in advance](#)

##### **[Space Daily]**

Scientists from The Australian National University (ANU) have used new space technology to predict droughts and increased bushfire risk up to five months in advance.

## [‘Orange Corn’ Launches in U.S. Markets](#)

### **[Seed World]**

Orange corn,” a more nutritious, naturally bred variety of corn is now available in the U.S. markets through Purdue-affiliated startup NutraMaize LLC. The bright orange corn is derived from varieties that originated in South America and the Caribbean. It is not the variety eaten off the cob. It is milled to make products such as cornmeal, grits and polenta.

### **New Study/Research**

## [Flax seed fiber can protect against obesity, finds study](#)

### **[Deccan Chronicle]**

Flax seed is among one of the fiber crops, highly used in Ayurvedic medicines and a rich source for nutrients. It also seems to protect against obesity in the context of a high-fat diet. A recent study found that flaxseed fiber ferments in the gut and influence the gastrointestinal microbiota. The process is said to have a positive impact on metabolic health and reduces obesity.

## [A very small number of crops are dominating globally: That's bad news for sustainable agriculture](#)

### **[Science Daily]**

A new University of Toronto (U of T) study suggests that globally we’re growing more of the same kinds of crops, and this presents major challenges for agricultural sustainability on a global scale.

### **Awards and Recognition**

## [NITI Aayog’s Ramesh Chand Nominated for Top Post at UN's Food Agriculture Organisation](#)

### **[Krishi Jagran]**

NITI Aayog member, Ramesh Chand has been nominated by the government for the coveted position of the Director General of the United Nation’s (UN) Food & Agriculture Organisation (FAO).

## [Hon. Dr. Owusu Afriyie Akoto honoured as 'Seed Champion of Africa'](#)

### **[Peace FM Online]**

The Minister of Food and Agriculture, Hon. Dr. Owusu Afriyie Akoto, has once again been honoured by AfricaSeeds, the largest seed producing organization in Africa, for his pioneering role in championing food security and improvement of technology in agriculture in Ghana and the rest of Africa.

### **Upcoming Events**

#### **February 2019**

#### **Agricultural Science Congress**

**Date:** February 20-23, 2019

**Venue:** National Agricultural Science Museum, New Delhi, India

**Indus Seed Expo**

**Date:** February 23-24, 2019

**Venue:** Hotel Millennium Airport, Dubai (UAE)

**Gene Editing in Agriculture: Science, Policy, Story**

**Date:** February 25-28, 2019

**Venue:** Taj Krishna, Hyderabad, India

**7<sup>th</sup> Annual Congress on Plant Science and Molecular Biology**

**Date:** February 28- March 1, 2019

**Venue:** Osaka, Japan

**March 2019****UP Kissan Vikas Sammelan**

**Date:** March 7- 9, 2019

**Venue:** Ram Leela Ground, Meerut

**Agri Expo 2019**

**Date:** March 8- 10, 2019

**Venue:** Madurai ,Tamil Nadu

**World Agri – Tech Innovation Summit**

**Date:** March 19-20, 2019

**Venue:** Hilton San Francisco Union Square, San Francisco, CA, USA

**Sixth Annual Salinas Valley Agricultural Technology Summit**

**Date:** March 26-27, 2019

**Venue:** Hartnell College, Salinas, CA, USA

**April 2019****Global Forum for Innovation in Agriculture**

**Date:** April 1-2, 2019

**Venue:** Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre – ADNEC, Abu Dhabi, UAE

**International Conference on Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering**

**Date:** April 2-3, 2019

**Venue:** New York, USA

**ISER - 567th International Conference on Agricultural and Biological Science (ICABS)**

**Date:** April 15-16, 2019

**Venue:** New Delhi, India