

## Prime Minister Inaugurates Krishi Unnati-National Agriculture Fair

*19<sup>th</sup> March 2016, New Delhi*

Shri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister, inaugurated the three-day (19-21 March, 2016) National Agriculture Fair-Krishi Unnati here today.



Hon'ble Prime Minister, in his address, emphasized the important role of rural economy in enhancing and pushing up the national economy which largely depends on agricultural growth. Government is striving for and has taken necessary steps for doubling the income of farmers by 2022, he added. He appreciated the initiative of National Agriculture Fair on mega scale which is an effective outreach and training effort to communicate and demonstrate new technologies and innovations directly to farmers. While highlighting some key features of the Union Budget, he said this budget is for poor, farmers and villagers and targets holistic development of agriculture including overall welfare of the farmers particularly their prosperity through agricultural pursuits. He stressed the need of second agricultural revolution for which eastern region of the country has the potential and government is making all out efforts for enhancing the productivity through S&T applications and other necessary support mechanisms.



Hon'ble Prime Minister advised farmers to practice agriculture based on three pillars-regular farming of cereals, fruits, vegetables etc; plantation of tree species for timber on edges of the farms; and animal husbandry which should include dairy, fisheries, poultry and also the profitable bee keeping. He suggested adoption of organic agriculture and value addition for increasing the profitability and income from farming for which Government is also providing support through various schemes. Stressing the need of effective market linkages for farmers, he elaborated upon the e-market initiative of the government and emphasized that Indian farmers have the opportunity to explore the potential of attractive global market. Hon'ble Prime Minister elaborated on some of the recent initiatives of the Government such as Soil Health Card Scheme, Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana and Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana and called upon farmers to take full benefits of these schemes which have been launched for welfare of the farming community. Elaborating on per drop, more crop, he urged farmers and all stakeholders to conserve maximum rain water this season in farms ponds for better irrigation facilities in future.

Hon'ble Prime Minister conferred Krishi Karman awards to States and progressive farmers for the year 2014-15. Chief Ministers and Agriculture Ministers of the States received the awards on behalf of the respective States. Prime Minister also launched a Mobile App *Kisan Suvidha* for providing various farmer friendly services.

Earlier, Hon'ble Prime Minister visited various pavilions of the Fair and took keen interest in exhibits and demonstrations.



Shri Radha Mohan Singh, Union Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Minister highlighted major features of the National Agriculture Fair and also appreciated Hon'ble Prime Minister for his keen interest, dedication and involvement in farmers' welfare.

Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Balyan, Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, delivered welcome address.

Shri Mohanbhai Kundariya, Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare proposed vote of thanks.

The mega event is organized by Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Government of India in which Indian Council of Agricultural Research is a major partner and facilitator. Institutes of ICAR across the country are participating and exhibiting farmer friendly technologies, innovations and products. Besides, various government departments, NGOs, private sector and other stakeholders are also participating in the National Agricultural Fair. More than 50,000 farmers from across the country are likely to participate and gain benefit from the Fair.



Exhibition of agricultural produce, horticulture, animal husbandry, dairy, fisheries, farm machinery and equipments etc. including live demonstrations is one of the major highlight of the Fair. Display and sale of high yielding seeds and plants is another attraction of the event. Farmers' interactive sessions are being organized in which experts and scientists are providing technological knowledge in simple way along with details of the various government schemes.

The Fair is organized in the sprawling Mela Ground of the prestigious Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi.