

Inauguration Ceremony of Pusa Krishi Vigyan Mela: 22 February 2025

Press Release

The Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Shri Shivraj Singh Chauhan inaugurated the “Pusa Krishi Vigyan Mela 2025” organized at Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi. Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Shri Ramnath Thakur, Director General of Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Dr. Himanshu Pathak, Director, Dr. C.H. Srinivas Rao, Deputy Director General (Crop Science), Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Dr. D.K. Yadav, Joint Director (Extension), ICAR-IARI, Pusa, Dr. R.N. Padaria, agricultural scientists, farmer representatives and progressive farmers from various states were present.

In his inaugural address, Union Agriculture Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan said that Indian agriculture is not only self-reliant but is also becoming an important pillar of global food supply. He called upon farmers to "turn from being an entrepreneur" and said that farming needs to be taken forward from traditional methods to a profitable business. He discussed the various initiatives being taken by the Government for the welfare of farmers and said that it is the priority of the Government to make advanced technology, high quality seeds and scientific innovations reach every farmer of the country. He said that the Government is working towards “Second Green Revolution” by promoting drought-tolerant, pest-resistant and climate-resilient crops. He said that institutes like Indian Agricultural Research Council and Pusa are empowering farmers by developing better varieties and new agricultural techniques.

The Union Agriculture Minister said that farmers are the soul of the country and the Government is constantly striving for their upliftment. Various schemes of the Government are aimed at making the latest technologies available to the farmers and improving their living standards. Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) has made a significant contribution in the development of improved seeds, and now special attention will be given to making high quality seeds available to the farmers. The main goal of the Government is to increase the production per hectare, for which integrated farming system and horticulture are being encouraged.

The agriculture minister informed that Adhunik Krishi Chaupal has been started, which will be made more comprehensive. From next month, it will be broadcasted on the internet under the direction of Indian Agricultural Research Council (ICAR), which will benefit farmers across the country. The government is committed to providing financial assistance to farmers. The next installment of Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi will be released on 24 February. Apart from this, Makhana Board will be formed on the basis of advice from farmers.

Agricultural loan has been increased from Rs 7 lakh crore to Rs 25 lakh crore, so that necessary financial resources can be made available to farmers.

Along with wheat and rice, now whole lentils, black gram and pigeon pea will also get minimum support price. The purchase of rice will be done at MSP. The government will bear the transport charges of the farmer's produce, so that they can get better price in the market. The export policy of onion and rice will be made farmer-friendly, and arrangements will be made under the MIS scheme for the purchase of Chilli so that farmers can get fair price. India's Basmati and Madhya Pradesh wheat are making their mark in the global market. India is now moving ahead from self-reliance to strengthen exports further.

Efforts are being made to connect farmers with Krishi Vigyan Kendras so that they can benefit from the latest technologies and scientific innovations. The government is focusing on bringing scientists to the fields to realize the concept of 'Lab to Land'. 300 stalls have been set up in the fair and a huge display of improved varieties is being held. The target is to attract more than 1 lakh farmers and more than 400 quintals of improved seeds in the fair.

The Minister advised the farmers to move beyond the wheat-paddy crop cycle and said that "time has come for farmers to give priority to maize, barley, pulses, oilseeds and horticulture crops". He said that the Government is promoting schemes like micro-irrigation, drip irrigation and water harvesting to promote water conservation. He also said that lakhs of hectares of land has been connected with irrigation facilities under 'Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana' by the Government of India, which has given farmers an opportunity to adopt techniques of more production with less water.

He said that efforts will be made to reduce the production cost of farmers and increase crop productivity. The Minister also said that "good seeds are most important for good yield." The government has launched several schemes to strengthen the seed production and distribution system. He said that Pusa Krishi Vigyan Mela is playing an important role in providing direct access to better quality seeds and planting material to farmers. He also said that the government is strengthening 'Farmer Producer Organization' (FPO) to connect farmers to the market. "Farmers should not limit themselves to only production, they should also focus on marketing and branding of their products." The Minister said, "The government is making every possible effort for the welfare of farmers. Pusa Krishi Vigyan Mela 2025 is an effective platform to promote innovation and scientific research in Indian agriculture. Farmer brothers should adopt new technologies, focus on crop fortification and modernize their farming as per scientific advice".

Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Shri Ram Nath Thakur in his inaugural address said that Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), Pusa, is the premier center of agricultural research, education and extension in the country, which has played a vital role in the success of Green Revolution. He said that improved varieties of wheat, paddy and basmati rice developed by the Institute are not only ensuring food security of India, but are also making a significant contribution to the global agricultural trade. He also inaugurated the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN), Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY),

Soil Health Card Scheme and referring to government schemes like Krishi Vikas Yojana, he said that these schemes are providing economic, technical and scientific support to the farmers. He called upon the farmers to adopt new technologies and make their farming more profitable by participating in the Pusa Krishi Vigyan Mela 2025.

During the fair, farmers were motivated to adopt innovations and scientific techniques. “Adhyata Krishak” awards were given to 5 farmers (Mrs. Pooja Sharma from Haryana, Mr. Mavram Malikaarjun Reddy from Telangana, Mr. Radha Shyam Biswal from Odisha, Mr. Ram Narayan Chaudhary from Rajasthan and Mr. Sanjeev Kumar Premi from Uttar Pradesh) who have done exemplary work by adopting new techniques in their farming. Major publications of the Institute were released by the guests. Important information like improved seeds, organic fertilizers, climate-friendly techniques, drone spray techniques, staff irrigation techniques and market linkages were made available to the farmers in the fair. Pusa Krishi Vigyan Mela 2025 proved to be an effective platform to present scientific innovations, modern technologies and practical solutions for farmers. This event provided farmers an opportunity to adopt new technologies, directly communicate with scientists and obtain necessary information to make their farming profitable.

