

# Take up allied jobs, PM tells farmers

## Asks Them Not To Rely On Farming Alone

Times News Network

**New Delhi:** Seeking to double incomes of farmers by 2022, PM Narendra Modi on Saturday called on farmers to take a series of steps to conserve water and adopt modern technology to increase their productivity. In the face of repeated droughts and extreme weather events, he urged farmers not to depend "only on farming" but to also take up other activities to boost their incomes.

Modi, while inaugurating the 'Krishi Unnati Mela' (agriculture development fair)



Modi suggested a 'three pillars' approach to farming to insulate against crop losses

here at the IARI's Pusa campus, suggested a "three pillars" approach to farming to insulate against crop losses. "At present, farmers follow one pillar that is farming alone. When this pillar falls due to unseasonal rains and hailstorm, their survival is affected. So, it is important to have our farming based on three pillars," he said.

The PM advised that the first 'pillar' must be to continue regular farming while the second one should be to grow timber on the boundary of the farm field and the third one is to adopt animal husbandry, poultry and bee keeping among other activities simultaneously.

Putting a premium on water conservation to raise farm productivity and income, Modi said the government has identified 90 stuck irrigation projects which can irrigate 80 lakh hectares. The government is spending Rs 20,000 crore to boost irrigation projects.

He said his government has taken several initiatives for agriculture growth, including introduction of a new insurance scheme and giving soil health cards to farmers, with a view to doubling their income by 2022.

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## Meet Yuvraj, whose semen sells for millions

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**New Delhi:** Even as cricket-lovers are looking forward to see one of their favourite players, Yuvraj Singh, in action at the T20 World Cup, it was a four-legged Yuvraj who stole the show here at the 'Krishi Unnati Mela' (agriculture development fair), inaugurated by PM Modi at the sprawling IARI Pusa campus on Saturday.

Thousands of farmers, from across the country, thronged the enclosure of Yuvraj — a much sought after Murrah-breed donor bull — and his proud owner, Karamvir Singh, in an effort to convince him to part with some of the animal's semen to help artificially inseminate their milch buffaloes.

They all were, however, told to visit Karamvir's farm in Sunarion village in Kurukshetra, Haryana where the owner has state-of-the-art facilities to collect semen and store it safely.

A single ejaculation of Yuvraj, triggered with the help of a teaser animal or by electro-stimulation method, generates between 4-6 ml of semen, which is then diluted scientifically and 500 to 600 doses prepared with it. Karamvir sells a single dose, preserved inside plastic straws and stored in liquid nitrogen containers, for Rs 300.

Asked about how much his money-making bull earns for him, Karamvir told TOI that he roughly earned



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Rs 40-45 lakh per annum from Yuvraj but hastened to add that he spent a lot of the cash to keep his prized possession in good health.

"I spend roughly Rs 3,000 per day on eight-year-old Yuvraj's food. The money which I earn from Yuvraj helps me to keep my other buffaloes in better condition. I could have charged more than Rs 300 for a single dose, but I deliberately keep the price low as I want to carry on with this business as a social service", said Karamvir.

What had prompted you to name the donor bull after the cricketer Yuvraj Singh? He said, "Uska stare cricketer ke booch buland the (he was among the shining star among cricketers). So, I kept the then baby bull's name after him."

Karamvir later named Yuvraj's father (bull) Yograj

(after Yuvraj Singh's cricketer father Yograj Singh) and mother Ganga. "Both Yograj and Ganga are with me in my farm. Ganga, which gave birth to buffaloes, still produces 26 litres of milk every day. Karamvir claimed that a couple of rich dairy farmers have been offering him as much as Rs 9 crore for Yuvraj, but he says he isn't tempted.

The huge demand for high-yielding Murrah buffaloes is behind the success story of Yuvraj. The Murrah breed is mainly found in northern and central India and is considered among the best high-yield native breed in south Asia along with Jaffarabadi and Neeli Ravi.

Since it is difficult to find superior bulls as they are rare, dairy farmers across north India look for semen of any known Murrah bull for their milch buffaloes.

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### GREEN GOALS



#### PM for raising farm income through diversification

**NEW DELHI:** PM Narendra Modi called for raising farm income through diversification in farming activities, urged all stakeholders including states to take a resolve to double the income of farmers by 2022, and said the next revolution in agriculture will be based on technology. Addressing farmers, he said: "The next revolution in Indian agriculture has to be built on technology and modernisation, and the eastern part of India had maximum potential to achieve it."

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