

किसान पंचायत में शिरकत करेंगे कई केंद्रीय मंत्री

मुजफ्फरनगर, 18 जून (जनसत्ता)। जिले के सिसौली में 19 जून को किसान पंचायत होने जा रही है। इसका आयोजन राज्य मंत्री संजीव बालियान की ओर से किया गया है। पंचायत की अध्यक्षता भारतीय किसान यूनियन के राष्ट्रीय अध्यक्ष नरेश टिकैत करेंगे।

इसमें संसदीय कार्य और शहरी विकास मंत्री वैकैया नायडू, वित्त राज्य मंत्री जयंत सिन्हा और भाजपा नेता प्रवक्ता विजय सोनकर, पंचायत मंत्री निहाल चंद, भाजपा किसान मोर्चा के राष्ट्रीय अध्यक्ष विजय पाल तोमर भी मौजूद रहेंगे। किसानों के साथ ही उद्योग समूह से जुड़े लोगों से चर्चा की जाएगी।

इस दौरान किसानों की समस्याएं सुनी जाएंगी, जिस पर आगे केंद्रीय मंत्रियों से चर्चा की जाएगी। चीनी मिलों पर गन्ना किसानों के बकाया 2200 करोड़ रुपए के भुगतान को लेकर भी चर्चा होगी। राज्य मंत्री संजीव बालियान ने बताया कि केंद्रीय मंत्री किसानों की समस्याओं को सुनकर उनका समाधान करेंगे। कार्यक्रम की तैयारियां जोर-शोर से चल रही है।

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10-15% cotton area may shift to pulses, oilseeds

VIMUKT DAVE
Ahmedabad, 18 June

About 10-15 per cent of the area under cotton may switch to pulses and oilseeds this year despite predictions of a normal monsoon.

India had cotton sown on 11.99 million hectares in 2015. Most cotton farmers sold their produce at ₹750-900 per 20 kg between October and January. Cotton prices have since inched up to ₹1,120 per 20 kg.

"Pulses, groundnut and sesame have provided good returns to farmers during the year. Cotton farmers have faced weak prices and crop damage from pests and this could reduce the area under cotton by 10-15 per cent this kharif season," said Shirish Shah, a cotton trader from Mumbai and member of the

FARMERS' WOES

- Cotton farmers have faced weak prices and crop damage from pests, which could reduce the area under cotton by 10-15 per cent
- Minimum support price for groundnut, soyabean and pulses has been raised by ₹190 per quintal, while the cotton MSP has been raised by ₹60 per quintal

Cotton Association of India. Groundnut has traded in the price range of ₹900-1,400 per 20 kg during the season. Pulses, too, have traded on the upside.

According to Shah, farmers

in Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra may make the switch. Since May, demand for groundnut seed has risen in Rajasthan, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh.

"Crop shifting happens every year, and this year it could be higher than last year. However, it is early to predict acreages," said B V Mehta, executive director of the Solvent Extractors' Association of India. The ending stock for the 2015-16 cotton year is expected to be 1.9 million bales against eight million bales in 2014-15.

There is also a lower likelihood of an increase in exports due to large stockpiles in China and other parts of the world. "Prices of cotton between November 2016 and February 2017 could remain in the range of ₹860-960 per 20

kg," said M G Dhandhalya, associate research scientist at the department of agricultural economics in Junagadh Agriculture University.

"Farmers might reduce the area under cotton by at least by 15 per cent in hopes of better returns in the 2016-17 harvesting season," he added.

The government has increased the minimum support price (MSP) for groundnut, soyabean and pulses by ₹190 per quintal, while the cotton MSP has been raised by ₹60 per quintal. Experts, said this, too, would lead to a change in crop choice for this kharif season.

According to the government's third advance estimates, cotton production decreased to 30.5 million bales in 2015-16, from 34.8 million bales in 2014-15.