Centre hikes copra MSP by Rs 250-300 per quintal

Increase in MSP of ball copra sharply lower than 2023 season

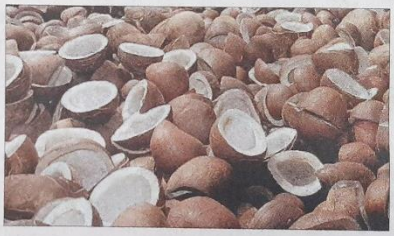
GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The central government on Wednesday decided to increase the minimum support price (MSP) of milling copra by Rs 300 per quintal and ball copra by Rs 250 per quintal for 2024 season.

The MSP for fair average quality of milling copra has been fixed at Rs 11,160 per quintal and for ball copra at Rs 12,000 per quintal for 2024 season. The decision to increase the MSP was taken in the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The increase in MSP of ball copra for the 2024 season is sharply lower than the previous year's hike. In 2023 season, MSP for ball copra was hiked by Rs 750 per quintal. The MSP of milling copra was increased by Rs 270 per quintal.

Addressing a media briefing Union Minister Anurag Thakur said the government has decided to increase MSP for copra despite decline in its price in the global markets. "Copra prices have fallen globally. But the Modi government has decided to provide MSP at least 50% higher than the production cost. Accordingly, the copra MSP has been increased by Rs 250-300 per quintal for 2024 season," he said.



Kerala and Tamil Nadu are major producers of milling copra, whereas ball copra is produced predominantly in Karnataka. Milling copra or the dry part of coconut, is used to extract oil, while ball copra is consumed as a dry fruit and used for religious purposes.

According to a statement released by the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, the new MSP of ball copra is 63.26% higher than its production cost, while MSP for milling copra will ensure a margin of 51.84% to farmers.

The MSP for milling copra has gone up by 113% and for ball copra by 118% in the past 10 years. In 2014-15, the MSP for milling copra stood at Rs 5,250 per quintal and that for ball copra at Rs 5,500 per quintal.

"A higher MSP will not only ensure better remunerative returns to the coconut growers but also incentivise farmers to expand copra production to meet the growing demand for coconut products both domestically and internationally," the ministry said.

National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd (NAFED) and National Cooperative Consumers' Federation (NCCF) will continue to act as central nodal agencies for procurement of copra.

Through these nodal agencies the government has procured over 1.33 lakh metric tonnes of copra at a cost of Rs 1,493 crore. The procurement in the current season is 227% higher when compared with the previous season.

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Citrus conservation and the community

Across Karnataka, individuals and organisations are working together to graft wild varieties of oranges and other citrus fruits, writes Naina J A

Nayi Kittale,' a variety of wild orange found largely in Sullia taluk of Dakshina Kannada, has found a new lease of life with the efforts of the Naada Maavu Mitraru Balaga (NaMaMi), a conservation initiative. The wild species faced an uncertain future, until the first week of December when the group embarked on "Mission Citrus". They decided to focus on its conservation by grafting.'

"As we delved deeper, we discovered individuals cultivating similar citrus varieties under different names in various districts. This emphasised the potential for broader citrus cultivation, extending beyond Kodagu, once renowned for Coorg mandarin and Nagpur oranges, making our efforts more inclusive and diverse," says Shree Padre, editor of 'Adike Patrike' and the brains behind the wild orange conservation initiative.

Not many are aware that citrus varieties or wild oranges are grown outside Kodagu — especially in Sullia, Sirsi, Sagar and Chikkamagaluru. They are called 'illi hannu', 'chittagittale', 'kaadu kithale' and so on.

While there have been isolated successes in growing oranges with one or two trees, many farmers have not made serious attempts to grow these citrus fruits on their plantations.

The 'wilder cousins'

The NaMaMi Balaga in Sullia works on the conservation of local varieties of mangoes and jackfruit. They came across the 'Nayi Kittale' wild variety and decided to focus on its conservation by grafting. The idea started with gathering information on 'wilder cousins of oranges' to find wild citrus fruits available in the Western Ghats.





Nayi Kittale oranges on a tree at Nettana in Dakshina Kannada district; Chittagittale oranges. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"To popularise and revive this variety of citrus fruit, we started collecting details on social media, and the NaMaMi Balaga succeeded in tracing a few trees in Sullia," Padre says.

On tracking down a few trees of Naayi Kittale, NaMaMi collected scions of the tree for grafting. Already, 70 grafted plants have been given away to those interested.

"Now, we are planning to graft at least 200 saplings," says Jayaram Mundolimoole, a core member of the group and an agriculturist. "I had tasted 'Nayi Kittale' many years ago and was keen on grafting a plant for a long time. Now, the dream has been realised. In fact, the fruit tastes the same as it did when I had it a few years ago," Jayaram recollects.

Similarly, Natesh Sagar, an enthusiastic grafter from Sagar says having consumed "illi hannu" in the past, he wanted to graft the plant. "After several searches, I found this rare variety of citrus fruit tree inside the Mavinasara forest near Konanakatte and brought the rootstock for grafting and planted a sapling. After four years, the tree has borne over 500 fruits this year," he says proudly and adds that he has grafted over 200 plants of the species.

Wild citrus varieties

The momentum for the community-driven conservation of wild oranges in Sullia is growing steadily. The latest addition to this conservation movement is Chittagittale, a wild citrus variety rarely found in Chikkamagaluru district.

Along with the community, the Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) in Mudigere has also joined the cause. "Using a WhatsApp group, we connected with a few individuals who have this endangered variety of citrus fruit in their plantation or backyard. Efforts are underway to conserve it," says Padre. It is also known as Mangana Kittale and Kaadu Kittale in some places, he adds.

Krishnamurthy A T, head of KVK in Mudigere, says the group is planning to organise a discussion with farmers on preserving the Chittagittale species. A survey to identify the existing number of trees in the area will be taken up, he adds. "Individuals who have Chittagittale trees in their backyard have enthusiastically joined the cause," he says.

Ramakrishna Puranik from Kalasa, who has three trees in his estate says, "I plan to develop saplings using seeds during the next season and distribute them among those interested."

The peak season for Chittagittale fruit variety is between July and November. Depending on the shade, age of the tree, some trees yield nearly 5,000 fruits a year, says Ramakrishna. "The tree in my plantation is around 50 years old. If anyone wishes to graft, I will extend all support to them, so that this variety which is on the verge of extinction is saved," he adds.

Bengaluru

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ಕೇಂದ್ರದಿಂದ ಭಾರತ್ ಅಕ್ಕಿ ಮಾರಾಟ

ಈ ಹಿಂದೆ ಯಶಸ್ವಿಯಾಗಿದ್ದ 'ಭಾರತ್ ಅಟ್ಟಾ' ಹಾಗೂ 'ಭಾರತ್ ದಾಲ್'

ದೆಹಲಿ: ಭಾರತ್ ಅಟ್ಟಾ (ಗೋಧಿ ಹಿಟ್ಟು) ಮತ್ತು ಭಾರತ್ ದಾಲ್ (ಬೇಳೆಕಾಳುಗಳು) ನಂತರ, ಮುಂದಿನ ವರ್ಷದ ಸಾರ್ವತ್ರಿಕ ಚುನಾವಣೆಗೆ ಮುಂಚಿತವಾಗಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚುತ್ತಿರುವ ಧಾನ್ಯಗಳ ಬೆಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ನಿಯಂತ್ರಿಸಲು ಕೇಂದ್ರವು ಈಗ ಭಾರತ್ ಅಕ್ಕಿಯನ್ನು ರಿಯಾಯಿತಿ ದರದಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾರಾಟ ಮಾಡಲು ಯೋಜಿಸುತ್ತಿದೆ ಎಂದು ಹಿರಿಯ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಯೊಬ್ಬರು ತಿಳಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

'ಭಾರತ್ ಅಟ್ಟಾ' (ಗೋಧಿ ಹಿಟ್ಟು) ಮತ್ತು 'ಭಾರತ್ ದಾಲ್' (ಬೇಳೆಕಾಳುಗಳು) ರಿಯಾಯಿತಿ ದರಗಳನ್ನು ಯಶಸ್ವಿಯಾಗಿ ಜಾರಿಗೆ ತಂದ ನಂತರ ಈ ಕ್ರಮ ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಪ್ರಸ್ತಾವಿತ ಭಾರತ್ ಅಕ್ಕಿಯನ್ನು ರಿಯಾಯಿತಿ ದರದಲ್ಲಿ ನೀಡಲಾಗುವುದು ಮತ್ತು ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಕೃಷಿ ಸಹಕಾರ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಒಕ್ಕೂಟ (ನಾಫೆಡ್), ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಸಹಕಾರಿ ಗ್ರಾಹಕರ ಒಕ್ಕೂಟ ನಿಯಮಿತ (ಎನ್‌ಸಿಸಿಎಫ್), ಕೇಂದ್ರೀಯ ಭಂಡಾರ್ ಮಳಿಗೆಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ಮೊಬೈಲ್ ವ್ಯಾನ್‌ಗಳಂತಹ ಸರಕಾರಿ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳ ಮೂಲಕ ಲಭ್ಯವಾಗಬಹುದು ಎನ್ನಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಅಕ್ಕಿಯ ಅಖಿಲ ಭಾರತ ಸರಾಸರಿ ಚಿಲ್ಲರೆ ಬೆಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಗಮನಾರ್ಹ ಏರಿಕೆಯ ಮಧ್ಯೆ ಈ ನಿರ್ಧಾರ ಬಂದಿದ್ದು, ಪ್ರತಿ ಕಿಲೋಗ್ರಾಂಗೆ 43.3 ರು.ಗೆ ತಲುಪಿದೆ, ಇದು ಹಿಂದಿನ ವರ್ಷಕ್ಕೆ ಹೋಲಿಸಿದರೆ ಶೇಕಡಾ 14.1 ರಷ್ಟು ಹೆಚ್ಚಳವನ್ನು



ಪ್ರತಿಬಿಂಬಿಸುತ್ತದೆ. ಪ್ರಸ್ತುತ, ಸರಕಾರವು ಗ್ರಾಹಕರಿಗೆ ಭಾರತ್ ಗೋಧಿ ಹಿಟ್ಟು ಮತ್ತು ಕಡಲೆ ಬೇಳೆಯನ್ನು ಕ್ರಮವಾಗಿ ಪ್ರತಿ ಕಿಲೋಗ್ರಾಂಗೆ 27.50 ಮತ್ತು 60 ರು.ಗಳ ರಿಯಾಯಿತಿ ದರದಲ್ಲಿ ಒದಗಿಸುತ್ತದೆ. ಈ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನಗಳನ್ನು 2,000 ಕ್ಕೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಚಿಲ್ಲರೆ ಕೇಂದ್ರಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ವಿತರಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಭಾರತ್ ಅಕ್ಕಿಯನ್ನು ಮಾರಾಟ ಮಾಡುವ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯು ಭಾರತ್ ದಾಲ್ ಮತ್ತು ಇತರ ಮಾದರಿಗಳಂತೆಯೇ ಅನುಸರಿಸುವ ನಿರೀಕ್ಷೆಯಿದೆ.

28-12-2023
Vishwa Vani Pg.01

ಪ್ರತಿ ಕ್ವಿಂಟಾಲ್‌ಗೆ 250-300 ರೂ.ವರೆಗೆ ಏರಿಕೆ
ಕೊಬ್ಬರಿ ಬೆಂಬಲ ಬೆಲೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಳ

ಹೊಸದಿಲ್ಲಿ: 2024ರ ಋತುವಿಗೆ ಪ್ರತಿ ಕ್ವಿಂಟಾಲ್ ಕೊಬ್ಬರಿಗೆ 250-300 ರೂ.ವರೆಗೆ ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ಬೆಂಬಲ ಬೆಲೆ (ಎಂಎಸ್‌ಪಿ) ಹೆಚ್ಚಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು ಇದರೊಂದಿಗೆ ಕೊಬ್ಬರಿ ಬೆಲೆ ಪ್ರತಿ ಕ್ವಿಂಟಾಲ್‌ಗೆ 11,160-12,000 ರೂ ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ಬೆಂಬಲ ಬೆಲೆ ನಿಗದಿಯಾಗಲಿದೆ ಎಂದು ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಬುಧವಾರ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಿದೆ. ಇದರಿಂದ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸೇರಿ ವಿವಿಧ ರಾಜ್ಯಗಳಲ್ಲಿನ ತೆಂಗು ಬೆಳೆಗಾರರಿಗೆ ಅನುಕೂಲವಾಗಲಿದೆ.

ಪ್ರಧಾನಿ ನರೇಂದ್ರ ಮೋದಿ ಅವರ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷತೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನಡೆದ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ವ್ಯವಹಾರಗಳ ಸಂಪುಟ ಸಮಿತಿ (ಸಿಸಿಇಎ) ಸಭೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ನಿರ್ಧಾರ ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಜಾಗತಿಕವಾಗಿ ಕೊಬ್ಬರಿ ಬೆಲೆ ಕುಸಿದಿದೆ. ಆದರೆ ಮೋದಿ ಸರ್ಕಾರವು ಉತ್ಪಾದನಾ ವೆಚ್ಚಕ್ಕಿಂತ ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ಶೇಕಡಾ 50 ರಷ್ಟು ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಬೆಂಬಲ ಬೆಲೆ ನೀಡಲು ನಿರ್ಧರಿಸಿದೆ. ಅದರಂತೆ, 2024 ರ ಋತುವಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಕೊಬ್ಬರಿಯ ಬೆಂಬಲ ಬೆಲೆಯನ್ನು ಕ್ವಿಂಟಾಲ್‌ಗೆ 250-300 ರೂ.ಗಳಷ್ಟು ಹೆಚ್ಚಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ ಎಂದು ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಮತ್ತು ಪ್ರಸಾರ ಖಾತೆ ಸಚಿವ ಅನುರಾಗ್ ಠಾಕೂರ್ ತಿಳಿಸಿದರು.

➡ 9



25 ರೂ.ಗೆ ಭಾರತ ಅಕ್ಕಿ

ಹೆಚ್ಚುತ್ತಿರುವ ಆಗತ್ಯ ಆಹಾರ ಪದಾರ್ಥಗಳ ಬೆಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ನಿಭಾಯಿಸುವ ಪ್ರಯತ್ನದ ಭಾಗವಾಗಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ರಿಯಾಯಿತಿ ದರದಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾರತ ಅಕ್ಕಿ (ಭಾರತ್ ರೈಸ್) ವಿತರಿಸಲಿದೆ ಎಂದು ಹಿರಿಯ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಯೊಬ್ಬರು ತಿಳಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಈಗಾಗಲೇ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಭಾರತ ಅಟ್ಟಾ(ಗೋಧಿ ಹಿಟ್ಟು) ಮತ್ತು ಭಾರತ ಧಾಲ್‌ನ್ನು(ದ್ವಿದಳ ಧಾನ್ಯಗಳು) ರಿಯಾಯಿತಿ ದರಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ನೀಡುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಅದರಂತೆ ಅಕ್ಕಿಯನ್ನೂ ಕಡಿಮೆ ಬೆಲೆಗೆ ಪ್ರತಿ ಕೆಜಿ ಅಕ್ಕಿ 25 ರೂ.ಗೆ ನೀಡಲು ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಮುಂದಾಗಿದೆ ಎಂದು ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ ತಿಳಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

28-12-2023
Hosa Digantha Pg.01

ISRAELI TECH

25-ft tall cane crop grabs eyeballs in Vijayapura



The unusually tall sugarcane crop grown in the farm of Narayan Salunke in Nidagundi taluk in Vijayapura district

FIROZ ROZINDAR @ Vijayapura

UNUSUALLY tall sugarcane stalks sway far overhead — around 25ft above — leaving the onlooker awestruck, on the farm of Narayan Salunke and his brother Sidduba, in Golasangi village of Nidagundi taluk. The abnormally tall cane crop is an uncommon sight in these parts.

Having adopted Israeli technology to cultivate the sugarcane crop, the brothers have harvested a whopping 686 tonnes on a 5-acre plantation.

According to the farmers, a normal sugarcane stalk weighs around 2kg, while the cane grown by Salunke weighs 3.5-4kg. While normal cane grows to a length of about 8-10 feet, this variety shoots up to 25 feet.

"Experts suggest various aspects, and based on their advice we cultivated SNK 13374 variety of sugarcane crop. We used drip irrigation method and applied only organic manure which helps us get higher yield," he said. With news about the unusually tall sugarcane crop reaching other farmers, four persons from Uttar Pradesh recently visited Golasangi to meet the Salunke brothers and find out more about the crop. "They wanted to know how we cultivated this variety and where we got information about it. The four persons had come from Amroha in UP. I gave them the required information," said Narayan Salunke.

He said that before cultivating the crop, the brothers took the guidance of agriculture scientists on the suitability of the variety and grow it on his farm.

Narayan said he had even offered to send some experts from his place to educate sugarcane farmers on how to tie the tall crop so the stalks don't bend, which helps in an easy harvest. The siblings said they are ready to offer information to any farmer who evinces interest in cultivating the sugarcane crop to get higher yield and better earnings. "We want more farmers to adopt new farming technology to earn profit with minimum investment," he said.

28-12-2023
Ind. Exp. Pg.04

SIGH OF RELIEF

New cotton variety a boon for farmers of drought-prone areas

BOSKY KHANNA @ Bengaluru

WHILE Karnataka is reeling under drought and farmers crying foul over their losses, those cultivating cotton have a reason to smile.

The drought seems to have proved helpful for research on cotton. Researchers from Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR)-Central Institute for Cotton Research (CICR) conducted a pilot study of cultivating high density cotton crops in Yadgir and Dharwad early this year on 175 hectares of land. They found high density cotton cultivation to be successful and helpful to farmers of drought-hit areas. With this success, the researchers have asked the union government to implement the same in the eight cotton growing states – Maharashtra, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.

Elaborating on the pilot study, ICAR-CICR Director Dr YG Prasad told The New Indian Express that usually three to eight quintals of cotton can be harvested from one acre. But with the high density cultivation, the yield will be 37-50% higher. Normally, 18,000 saplings are planted on one hectare, but under the pilot project, 74,000 saplings were planted. The sapling grows faster and in an aligned manner, so cotton picking is easier.

The saplings were grown in light soil (shallow soil where water holding capacity is also less) in drought-prone areas and it was found to be ideal for cultivation. Ideally, a cotton plant will be ready for harvest in 180 days, but in the new format, it was ready in 150 days. The distance between the saplings was 19x15cm, Prasad said.



Rajesh S Patil, principal scientist (genetics and plant breeding) and head of University of Agricultural Sciences-Dharwad, said it is not BT cotton, but a new hybrid variety. Last year, the yield was good, but prices weren't. This year, there is a demand. But due to late sowing and poor monsoon, the crop has taken a hit by 30 to 40%. Ideally, per hectare 483kg lint can be harvested. One bale is equal to 170kg lint (the fibrous coat covering the cotton seeds).

Patil said the plots where the high density crop was grown showed positive results. However, the final market report on overall cotton production will be known in February-March, when the markets open.

Against the usual practice, sowing in Karnataka was done in August this year. The new high density cultivation will help farmers, the researchers said.

28-12-2023
Ind. Exp. Pg.05

Food products to be developed from silkworm pupae for export market

Laiqh A. Khan
MYSURU

Mysuru-based Central Sericulture Research Training Institute (CSRTI) in Mysuru has joined hands with Central Food Technological Research Institute (CFTRI) in the city to come out with a number of food products from silkworm pupae fit for human consumption.

With the silkworm rearing and reeling process generating several by-products, CSRTI director Gandhi Doss said the scientists of the Institute have been involved in studies related to developing technologies for appropriate utilisation of technology for use of by-products on a commercial scale.

Range of products

Recently, the scientists of the Institute worked alongside the food scientists from CFTRI to come out with a range of food products like cookies, pasta, mayonnaise, beverage mix and pickles from silkworm pupae. "Technology has been developed. We will shortly be carrying out large-scale trials for taste and sensory evaluation.

"We will also have to get approval from Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)," CSRTI Scientist Dr. Yeruva Thirupathaiah told *The Hindu*. While much of the by-products of silkworm pupae like oil and animal feed are developed from spent pupae, the scientists used "fresh or green" pupa for coming out with food products for human consumption.

Even though natives of North East India like Assam consume "roasted and spiced" silkworm pupae as food items, CSRTI is looking to export the food products to countries like China, Taiwan, Japan, Thailand, Vietnam and other countries, where dishes made out of silkworm pupae are a traditional culinary item.

The development of cookies, pasta, mayonnaise, beverage mix and pickles out of silkworm pupae adds to the already available list of food items available for human consumption from the sericulture industry.

While mulberry fruit is already used for production of jams, jellies and red wine, mulberry leaves, which is mainly used for feeding silkworm, had gained importance for human consumption because of its medicinal values and is now used even for manufacturing mulberry tea

"Mulberry leaf is known for its rich source of antioxidants. It is believed to have anti-diabetic properties and used in the manufacture of mulberry green tea", said Dr. Thirupathaiah.

28-12-2023
The Hindu Pg.05

Grow local, eat local: Bengal farmers hold a celebration of indigenous seeds

Hundreds of farmers from different districts brought native varieties of paddy, pulses and vegetables and exchanged traditional knowledge; NGOs planning a seed bank at grassroots level

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

Farmers from several districts of West Bengal organised an indigenous seed festival and took a pledge to conserve different varieties of native seeds. The festival, a one-of-its-kind, was held at Contai in Purba Medinipur earlier this month.

Hundreds of farmers from various districts brought indigenous varieties of paddy, pulses and vegetables, and exchanged traditional knowledge among themselves.

The festival was organised by ActionAid, an NGO, along with Kajla Janakalyan Samiti and Purba Medinipur Kisan Swaraj Samity.



Image used for representation. FILE PHOTO

"This is a unique initiative where practising farmers exchanged their knowledge of indigenous seed varieties. ActionAid works in 22 States in India on the issue of climate resilience and sustainable farming. The seed festival was a step in that direction," said Ashok Nayak, programme manager, ActionAid.

Mr. Nayak said the initiative is part of the climate justice campaign launched by ActionAid across India. "Interface between farmers will help in building discourse between climate change and organic farming, and will help us understand and systematically expand the access and control over indigenous seeds," he added.

By organising the festival, the NGOs plan to build a seed bank in different parts of the State at the grassroots level.

Pradut Samanta, an organic farmer from Paschim Medinipur district, is working to revive traditional paddy. "This seed festival is a very pragmatic initiative because farmers are at a crossroads and have lost control over their input and made themselves vulnerable. They have also done lots of damage to their own soil, water as well as flora and fauna," Mr. Samanta said.

Sailen Chandi, a national award-winning farmer from Nadia, who is trying to revive traditional aromatic rice *Radha Tilak*, said: "Seeds have potential to provide safe food, recharge our biodiversity and stimulate our local economy."

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India eyes $1 billion in banana exports in next five years

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

With the successfully export of a trial shipment of fresh bananas to the Netherlands through sea route, India is now aiming at increasing the exports of this fruit to $1 billion in the next five years, an official said.

Currently, most of the fruits are exported from India by air because of lower volumes and different ripening periods.

To increase the volumes, India is developing sea protocols for fresh fruits and vegetables like bananas, mangoes, pomegranates and jackfruit to promote their exports through ocean routes.



The protocol includes understanding voyage time, scientifically understanding the ripening of these commodities, harvesting at a particular time and training farmers.

Despite being the world's largest banana producer, India's global export share is just 1%, though the country accounts for 26.5% of the world's production.

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ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಮೀನು ಅಭಾವ ತಿನ್ನುವವರಿಗೆ ಬೆಲೆ ಏರಿಕೆ ಬಿಸಿ

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ಮಳೆ ಕೊರತೆಯಿಂದ ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಮತ್ಸ್ಯ ಅಭಾವ ಉಂಟಾಗಿದೆ. ಈಗ ಶೇ.50ರಷ್ಟು ಮೀನು ಉತ್ಪಾದನೆ ಇಳಿಕೆಯಾಗಿದೆ. ಮೀನುಗಳ ಬೆಲೆ ಈಗಾಗಲೇ ಶೇ.40ರಷ್ಟು ಏರಿಕೆ ಕಂಡಿದ್ದು, ಜನವರಿ ಹೊತ್ತಿಗೆ ಮೀನು ಖಾದ್ಯ ಪ್ರಿಯರಿಗೆ ಇನ್ನಷ್ಟು ದರ ಏರಿಕೆ ಬಿಸಿ ತಟ್ಟಲಿದೆ.

ಈಗಾಗಲೇ ಜಲಾಶಯ, ಕೆರೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಮೀನಿನ ಮರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಬಿಡಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಆದರೆ, ಬಿಸಿಲಿನ ಪ್ರಖರತೆಗೆ ನೀರು ಆವಿಯಾಗುವ ಪ್ರಮಾಣ ಅಧಿಕವಾಗಿದೆ. ಹೀಗಾಗಿ, ಮೀನಿನ ಮರಿಗಳ ಬೆಳವಣಿಗೆ ಪ್ರಮಾಣ ಕುಂಠಿತಗೊಂಡಿದೆ. ಇದರಿಂದಾಗಿ ಇಳುವರಿ ಕುಸಿತ ಕಂಡಿದೆ. ಡಿಸೆಂಬರ್ ಅಂತ್ಯದವರೆಗೆ ಜಲಾಶಯಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ನೀರು ಇರಲಿದ್ದು, ಜನವರಿ ನಂತರ ಬರದ ಕರಿಛಾಯೆ ಮೀನು ಉದ್ಯಮಕ್ಕೆ ಆವರಿಸಲಿದೆ.

ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ 2022-23ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ 12,834 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ಮೌಲ್ಯದ 12,24,947 ಮೆಟ್ರಿಕ್ ಟನ್ ಮೀನು ಉತ್ಪಾದನೆ ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಆದರೆ, ಈ ಸಲ ರಾಜ್ಯಾದ್ಯಂತ ಜಲಾಶಯ, ಕೆರೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಶೇ.40-50ರಷ್ಟು ನೀರು ಇರುವುದರಿಂದ ಮೀನಿನ ಮರಿ ಉತ್ಪಾದನೆ ಇಳಿಕೆಯಾಗಿದೆ.

ಶೇ.50ರಷ್ಟು ಮೀನು ಉತ್ಪಾದನೆ ಇಳಿಕೆ

ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ ಮೀನುಗಳ ಬೆಲೆ ಭಾರಿ ಏರಿಕೆ



2 ವರ್ಷ ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ ಮೀನು ಅಲಭ್ಯ?

ಮುಂಗಾರು ಉತ್ತಮವಾಗಿದ್ದರೆ, ಜನವರಿ, ಫೆಬ್ರವರಿಗೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಮೀನುಗಳು ಲಭ್ಯವಾಗುತ್ತಿದ್ದವು. ಈ ಸಲ ಬರಗಾಲದಿಂದಾಗಿ ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ ಮೀನುಗಳೇ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಿಗುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ. ಮುಂದಿನ ಎರಡು ವರ್ಷಗಳವರೆಗೆ ಈ ಸ್ಥಿತಿ ಮುಂದುವರಿಯುವ ಸಾಧ್ಯತೆ ಇದೆ ಎನ್ನುವುದು ಮೀನು ತಜ್ಞರ ಅಭಿಪ್ರಾಯ. ಕೆರೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ನೀರು ಇಂಗಿರುವುದರಿಂದ ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ ಮೀನಿನ ಮೊಟ್ಟೆಗಳೂ ಹಾಳಾಗುತ್ತವೆ. ಅದೇ ಕೆರೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮತ್ತೆ ಆ ಪ್ರಭೇದದ ಮೀನು ವಾಪಸ್ ಕಾಣಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬೇಕಾದರೆ ಅತಿಯಾಗಿ ಮಳೆಯಾಗಿ ಎಲ್ಲಾದರೂ ಮೀನುಗಳು ಉಳಿದುಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದರೆ ಅವುಗಳು ವಿವಿಧೆಡೆ ಪಸರಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತವೆ. ಇದೆಲ್ಲವೂ ಆಗಬೇಕಾದರೆ 2 ವರ್ಷವಾದರೂ ಬೇಕು.

ಒಳನಾಡು ಮೀನುಗಾರರಿಗೆ ಅನ್ಯಾಯ

ಜೂನ್, ಜುಲೈನಲ್ಲಿ ಕರಾವಳಿ ಮೀನುಗಾರರಿಗೆ ಡೀಸೆಲ್ ಸಬ್ಸಿಡಿ, ಅಕ್ಕಿ, ಹಣ ಸೇರಿ ಇನ್ನಿತರ ಮೂಲಸೌಕರ್ಯಗಳನ್ನು ಕಲ್ಪಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಆದರೆ, ಒಳನಾಡು ಮೀನುಗಾರರಿಗೆ ಸೌಲಭ್ಯ ನೀಡಲು ಸರಕಾರದ ಆದೇಶ ವಿದ್ದರೂ ಇವುಗಳನ್ನು ನೀಡುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ. ಇಲಾಖೆ ಹಂತದಲ್ಲಿ ಉತ್ತಮ ಸ್ಪಂದನೆ ಇದೆ. ಸರಕಾರ ಇದರೆಡೆಗೆ ಗಮನಹರಿಸಬೇಕು. ಮೀನುಗಾರರು ಸಾಕಷ್ಟು ಸಂಕಷ್ಟದಲ್ಲಿದ್ದು, ಸರಕಾರ ತಾರತಮ್ಯ ನಿಲ್ಲಿಸಬೇಕು. ಮನೆಗಳ ಹಂಚಿಕೆಯಲ್ಲೂ ಜನಪ್ರತಿನಿಧಿಗಳ ಶಿಫಾರಸು ಇರುವವರಿಗೆ ನೀಡಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಹೀಗಾಗಿ, ನೈಜ ಮೀನುಗಾರರಿಗೆ ಮನೆಗಳು ಸಿಗುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ ಎನ್ನುವುದು ಮೀನುಗಾರರ ಅಳಲು.

ಈಗಾಗಲೇ ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ ಮೀನುಗಳ ಬೆಲೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಾಗಿದೆ. ಜನವರಿ, ಫೆಬ್ರವರಿ ಹೊತ್ತಿಗೆ ಇನ್ನಷ್ಟು ಹೆಚ್ಚಳವಾಗಲಿದೆ.

- ಗಿರೀಶ್ ಮೀನುಗಾರಿಕೆ ಜಂಟಿ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕ, ಶಿವಮೊಗ್ಗ

ನಮ್ಮ ಸಹಕಾರ ಸಂಘದಲ್ಲೇ ವಾರ್ಷಿಕ 1 ಟನ್ ಮೀನು ಸಿಗುತ್ತಿತ್ತು. ಈ ಸಲ 150-200 ಕೆಜಿಯಷ್ಟೂ ಸಿಗುವುದು ಅನುಮಾನ. ಹೀಗಾಗಿ, ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಮೊತ್ತ ಮನ್ನಾ ಮಾಡಿ, ಈಗಾಗಲೇ ಭರಿಸಿರುವ ಹಣವನ್ನು ಮುಂದಿನ ವರ್ಷಕ್ಕೆ ಹೊಂದಾಣಿಕೆ ಮಾಡಬೇಕು.

- ಮೀನಾ ತಿಪ್ಪೇಶಪ್ಪ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷೆ, ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಜಾತಿ, ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಪಂಗಡ ತುಂಗಾ ಮಹಿಳಾ ಮೀನುಗಾರರ ಸಹಕಾರ ಸಂಘ, ಶಿವಮೊಗ್ಗ

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