ವಿವಿಧ ತಳಿಗಳ ಪ್ರದರ್ಶನ: ಸೊಪ್ಪು, ಹೂವು, ತರಕಾರಿ ಪ್ರಾತ್ಯಕ್ಷಿಕೆ

ನಾಳೆಯಿಂದ ವಿ.ಸಿ.ಫಾರಂನಲ್ಲಿ ಕೃಷಿ ಮೇಳ

ಮಂಡ್ಯ: ವಲಯ ಕೃಷಿ ಸಂಶೋಧನಾ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಕೃಷಿ ಮಹಾವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕೃಷಿ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನ ಕೇಂದ್ರ, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಕೃಷಿ, ತೋಟಗಾರಿಕೆ, ರೇಷ್ಮೆ, ಅರಣ್ಯ, ಮೀನುಗಾರಿಕೆ ಮುಂತಾದ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ಸಹಯೋಗದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೃಷಿ ಮೇಳ-2022 ಬನ್ನಿ ನಾವೂ ಬೆಳೆಯೋಣ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮ ಡಿ.2 ಮತ್ತು 3ರಂದು ಎರಡು ದಿನಗಳ ಕಾಳ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ ವಿ.ಸಿ.ಫಾರಂ ಆವರಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಹಮ್ಮಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲಾಗಿದೆ ಎಂದು ವಿಸಿ ಫಾರಂ ವಲಯ ಕೃಷಿ ಸಹ ಸಂಶೋಧನಾ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕ ಡಾ.ಎನ್. ಶಿವಕುಮಾರ್ ತಿಳಿಸಿದರು.



ಸುದ್ದಿಗೋಷ್ಠಿಯನ್ನುದ್ದೇಶಿಸಿ ಮಾತನಾಡಿದ ಅವರು, ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಉಸ್ತುವಾರಿ ಸಚಿವ ಕೆ.ಗೋಪಾಲಯ್ಯ ಕೃಷಿ ಮೇಳವನ್ನ, ರೇಷ್ಮೆ, ಯುವ ಸಬಲೀಕರಣ ಮತ್ತು ಕ್ರೀಡಾ ಸಚಿವರಾದ ಡಾ.ಕೆ.ಸಿ.ನಾರಾಯಣಗೌಡ ರವರು ಕೃಷಿ ವಸ್ತು ಪ್ರದರ್ಶವನ್ನ ಹಾಗೂ ಕೃಷಿ ಸಚಿವ ಬಿ.ಸಿ.ಪಾಟೀಲ್ ಅವರು ಕೃಷಿ ಪ್ರಾತ್ಯಕ್ಷಿಕಾ ತಾಕುಗಳ ಉದ್ಘಾಟಿಸಲಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ವಿಧಾನಸಭಾ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರದ ಶಾಸಕ ಸಿ.ಎಸ್. ಪುಟ್ಟರಾಜು ಆಧ್ಯಕ್ಷತೆ ವಹಿಸಲಿದ್ದಾರೆಂದು ತಿಳಿಸಿದರು.

ಕೃಷಿ ಮೇಳದ ಆಕರ್ಷಣೆಗಳು: ಈ ಬಾರಿಯ ಕೃಷಿ ಮೇಳದ ಆಕರ್ಷಣೆಗಳೆಂದರೆ ಭತ್ತದ ಸುಧಾರಿತ ತಳಿಗಳ ಹಾಗೂ ಹೈಬ್ರಿಡ್‌ಗಳ ಪ್ರಾತ್ಯಕ್ಷಿಕೆ, ಶ್ರೀಪದ್ದತಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಏರೋಬಿಕ್ ಭತ್ತದ ಬೇಸಾಯ ಪ್ರಾತ್ಯಕ್ಷಿಕೆ, ಡ್ರಂಸೀಡರ್‌ನಿಂದ ಹಾಗೂ ಯಂತ್ರಚಾಲಿತ ನಾಟಿ ಪ್ರಾತ್ಯಕ್ಷಿಕೆ, ಭತ್ತದಲ್ಲಿ ನೇರ ಬಿತ್ತನೆ ಪ್ರಾತ್ಯಕ್ಷಿಕೆ ಬೀಜೋತ್ಪಾದನಾ ತಾಕುಗಳು, ನೂತನ ರಾಗಿ ತಳಿಗಳ ಪ್ರಾತ್ಯಕ್ಷಿಕೆ, ವಿವಿಧ ಸುಧಾರಿತ ಸಿರಿಧಾನ್ಯ ತಳಿಗಳು.

ಮುಸುಕಿನ ಜೋಳ ಮತ್ತು ಶಕ್ತಿಮಾನ್ ಜೋಳದ ನೂತನ ಹೈಬ್ರಿಡ್ ತಳಿಗಳ ಪ್ರಾತ್ಯಕ್ಷಿಕೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಮೌಲ್ಯವರ್ಧಿತ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನಗಳು. ವಾಣಿಜ್ಯ ಬೆಳೆಗಳಾದ ಸುಧಾರಿತ ಕಬ್ಬಿನ ತಳಿಗಳು, ಅಂಗಾಂಶ ಕೃಷಿ ತಂತ್ರಜ್ಞಾನದಲ್ಲಿ ರೋಗಮುಕ್ತ ಕಬ್ಬಿನ ಸಸಿಗಳ ಉತ್ಪಾದನೆ, ಕಬ್ಬಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಆಧುನಿಕ ಬೇಸಾಯ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕತೆಗಳು, ರಾಸಾಯನಿಕ ಮುಕ್ತ ಬೆಲ್ಲ ತಯಾರಿಕೆಯ ಪ್ರಾತ್ಯಕ್ಷಿಕೆ, ಕಬ್ಬು ನಾಟಿ ಮಾಡುವ ಹಾಗೂ ತರಗು ಪುಡಿ ಮಾಡುವ ಯಂತ್ರಗಳ ಪ್ರಾತ್ಯಕ್ಷಿಕೆ ಹಾಗೂ ವಿವಿಧ ಹತ್ತಿ ತಳಿಗಳ ಪ್ರಾತ್ಯಕ್ಷಿಕೆ ಇರಲಿದೆ.

ಇದಲ್ಲದೆ ಮೇವಿನ ಬೆಳೆಗಳ ಸುಧಾರಿತ ತಳಿಗಳು, ರಸಮೇವು, ಜಲ ಕೃಷಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮೇವು ಉತ್ಪಾದನೆ, ದ್ವಿದಳ ಧಾನ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಎಣ್ಣೆ ಕಾಳು ಬೆಳೆಗಳು, ನೀರು ನಿರ್ವಹಣಾ ತಂತ್ರಜ್ಞಾನ, ದೂರ ಸಂವೇದಿ ನೀರಾವರಿ ಪದ್ದತಿ, ಕೃಷಿ ಯಂತ್ರೋ ಪಕರಣಗಳ ಪ್ರಾತ್ಯಕ್ಷಿಕೆ, ಕೃಷಿ ವಸ್ತು ಪ್ರದರ್ಶನ, ಸಮಗ್ರ ಮೀನುಸಾಕಾಣಿಕೆ, ವಿವಿಧ ಸೊಪ್ಪು, ತರಕಾರಿ, ಹೂವಿನ ಬೆಳೆಗಳ ಪ್ರಾತ್ಯಕ್ಷಿಕೆಗಳನ್ನು ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆ ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿದೆ ಎಂದು ವಿವರಿಸಿದರು.

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SC worried over effect of GM crops on livelihood of women farm labourers

Petitions challenge environmental nod given to GM mustard; petitioner says widespread use of herbicide-tolerant crops will encourage farmers to spray chemical weed-killers, leaving large amounts of toxic chemical residue on the crops

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday expressed concern about the plight of thousands of women agricultural labourers in rural areas traditionally engaged in de-weeding as they would be part of the human cost if the government permitted the commercial cultivation of herbicide-tolerant crops such as GM mustard.

"In rural areas, women are experts in removing weeds. They are a part of the labour force in agriculture in India. It brings them employment... You know it is because women started agriculture that humankind stopped being nomads and we saw the sprouting of civilisations," Justice B.V. Nagarathna observed orally while hearing challenges against the environmental clearance given to genetically modified mustard by the Centre.



Crucial factor: Women working on a mustard field in Krishna district of Andhra Pradesh. CH. VIJAYA BHASKAR

Justice Dinesh Maheshwari, the lead judge on the Bench, agreed that women were an integral part of the Indian agricultural landscape from paddy fields to tea estates, across the country.

"They work in knee-deep water in the fields, bending the whole day and working," Justice Nagarathna said.

Senior advocate Sanjay Parikh, for a petitioner, said the widespread use of herbicide-tolerant crops would encourage farmers to spray chemical weed-killers, leaving toxic chemical residue in large amounts on the crops.

'Not meant for India'

"The Supreme Court's own Technical Expert Committee [TEC] had said that these GM crops were not meant for agriculture in the Indian context. They may be suitable in the western context where there are large farms, but not here," Mr. Parikh argued.

Advocate Prashant Bhushan, for activist Aruna Rodrigues, submitted that India had 5,477 varieties of mustard, which would be at risk. He argued that the regulatory system under the Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC), which cleared the environmental release of Dhara Mustard Hybrid-11 (DMH-11), a genetically engineered variant of mustard, was "horrendous" and riddled with conflict of interest.

Mr. Bhushan said the Department of Biotechnology had funded DMH 11 and then was part of the regulatory mechanism. The environmental release of the hybrid mustard variety was cleared despite warnings from the parliamentary committee and the Supreme Court's Technical Expert Committee report calling for its ban. Besides, the government had not placed the biosafety dossier on the GM crop in the public domain.

He said the Supreme Court-appointed member of the GEAC, Pushpa M. Bhargava, had said the commercial cultivation of GM mustard would open the door wide, for multinational corporations.

He said GM mustard, if approved for commercial cultivation, would be the first genetically modified food crop available to Indian farmers. He recalled how Bt Brinjal was withdrawn by the government years ago after the regulatory system was found riddled with inconsistencies.

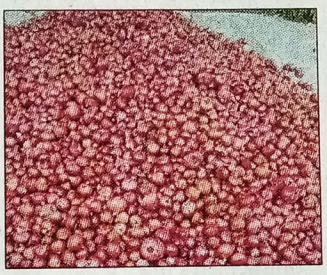
"Hybrid crops should not be released in the open fields and allowed to contaminate other crops... It would trigger a chain reaction which would be irreversible," he said.

Mr. Bhushan said the testing of the GM crop was "completely flawed". There were no labs capable of doing bio-safety tests.

The Attorney-General will argue on behalf of the government on Thursday.

Better prices for other state produce rile NK's onion growers

SHAYIN MOKASHI
GADAG, DHNS



"After two years of pandemic followed by nature's vagaries, the sudden fall in prices has only made matters worse for us," said farmer Pavadeppa Hallikeri, who made just Rs 8 after selling 205 kg of onion.

Pavadeppa of Thimmapura village near Gadag had spent Rs 25,000 to grow onions on his land. It cost him Rs 250 to harvest and pack a bag of onions. This includes Rs 40 of the bag cost and labour cost of Rs 50 to clean the onions.

Last week, he had taken four bags of onion (205 kg) to sell at the Yeshwantpur APMC in Bengaluru. The onion was categorised as third quality by the wholesaler and was sold at Rs 200 per quintal: That is just Rs 2 per kg, which was a bolt from the blue for Pavadeppa.

Just Rs 8 for 205 kg

For 205 kg of onions, he got Rs 410. Of this, Rs 24 was deducted as porter charge and Rs 377.64 was as freight charge. In the end, the farmer received Rs 8.36 from the trader.

The plight is no different for a large number of onion growers of North Karnataka.

In just one week, 58 farmers, including Pavadeppa, transported onions in 38 trucks (350 bags in one truck) to the Yeshwantpur APMC.

The bags were categorised into three categories (Rs 500 a quintal for first quality, Rs 300 for second and Rs 200 for third quality). While a kg of onion is being sold at Rs 40 in supermarkets, farmers are finding it difficult even to get Rs 10 a kg.

They are planning to stage protests, seeking the state government's intervention and to bail them out by fixing minimum support price (MSP).

Yallappa Babari, Gadag district president of the Karnataka State Farmers' Association, said farmers from Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu who bring their produce to Yeshwantpur APMC are getting good price as their yield is categorised as first quality. Farmers from north Karnataka were being neglected in their own state, he said.

"The farmers wanted to sell their produce at the Hubballi APMC. However, they have to give a 5% commission to dealers there. Hence, they go to Bengaluru," he said.

The receipt received by Pavadeppa went viral on social media, inviting widespread criticism.

Falling prices leave tomato growers of Kolar in doldrums

A 15-kg box is being sold at Rs 50 to Rs 200 at APMC

KOLAR, DHNS



Glut in tomato production and late blight disease (angamaari) together have resulted in price slump. As many as 9,300 quintals of the vegetable arrived at the Kolar APMC on Wednesday. DH PHOTO

Tomato growers of the district are facing a torrid time due to deep fall in prices. This season, the district saw good yield of tomatoes, but the falling prices have left farmers high and dry.

Good quality tomato is fetching a below par Rs 200 per 15 kg produce at Kolar APMC, said to be the second biggest tomato market in Asia. The fruits with blight disease (angamaari) are being sold at a measly Rs 50 per 15 kg box. The Kolar APMC is flooded with arrivals, but the rain-hit produce has a very few takers. Over 3,500 farmers have grown tomatoes on more than 2,500 hectares in the district. On Wednesday, Kolar APMC alone had 9,300 quintals of tomatoes in stock.

The APMC has been seeing a sharp increase in arrivals. Most of the produce is of poor quality owing to untimely and prolonged rainfall. This resulted in a price slump, Kolar APMC secretary Vijayalakshmi told *DH*.

Also, angamaari blight and spotted wilt are rendering ripe tomato waste in 3 to 4 days. Further, production glut in Andhra Pradesh and Odisha is preventing the traders from entering Kolar APMC.

Last year, many growers in the district had made a fortune from tomatoes. Expecting a good price, the farmers in the district took up tomato cultivation. They managed to get good yield, but a prolonged monsoon affected the quality. The cultivators are said to have spent Rs 2.5 lakh per hectare but they are incurring heavy losses owing to late blight to fruits and considerable drop in prices.

"We keep growing tomatoes, season after season, hoping for a good price. In the corresponding period, last year, a 15 kg box sold at Rs 2,000. More farmers took up tomato cultivation hoping for a repeat. But by doing so, many small and marginal farmers burnt their fingers," Ramesh, a tomato cultivator from Thotli village, told *DH*.

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