

## Hon'ble Prime Minister dedicates to the Nation 35 crop varieties with special traits

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Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi dedicated to the Nation 35 crop varieties with special traits through video conference. The Hon'ble Prime Minister also dedicated to the nation the newly constructed campus of the National Institute of Biotic Stress Management Raipur. On this occasion, the Hon'ble Prime Minister also distributed the Green Campus Award to Agricultural Universities. He interacted with farmers who use innovative methods and address the gathering.

Hon'ble Prime Minister mentioned that in the last 6-7 years, science and technology are being used on a priority basis to solve the challenges related to agriculture. The focus is very high on more nutritious seeds, adapted to new conditions, especially in changing climates. India had tackled Corona pandemic attack by making a lot of efforts, saving farmers from incurring too much damage.

Hon'ble Prime Minister stressed that whenever farmers and agriculture get a safety net, their growth becomes rapid. The 11 crores Soil Health Cards were issued for the protection of the land. Moreover, the listed farmer-friendly initiatives of the Government such as campaigns to complete about 100 pending irrigation projects for providing water security to the farmers, providing new varieties of seeds to farmers to protect crops from diseases thus getting a higher yield. Along with increasing the MSP, the procurement process was also improved so that more and more farmers can get the benefit. More than 430 lakh metric tonnes of wheat has been procured in the Rabi season and farmers have been paid more than 85 thousand crore rupees. Wheat procurement centres were increased more than three times during the pandemic.

By connecting the farmers with technology, It has become easier for the farmers to get help from banks. Recently, more than 2 crore farmers have been given Kisan Credit Cards. The efforts are being made to take the farmer out of the crop-based income system and encourage them for value-addition and other farming options. He stressed the need to further develop millets and other grains with solutions from science and research. He said that the purpose is that they can be grown in different parts of the country according to the local needs. The farmer should be prepared to use the opportunities provided by the UN declaring the coming year as the Year of the Millet.

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