

## India Agri News & Policy Update, Jan 22- Jan- 28, 2016



### ***1. How organic farming and right prices are helping Kerala farmers, The Economic Times, Jan 26, 2016***

*There is a light in Joseph Pendanath's eyes when he walks through his farm, whose thick foliage resembles a forest in parts. He checks how the nutmeg graft is doing, throws a coconut frond over a few spinach saplings for shade, caresses a pepper vine here, smells a green lime there, and loosens the soil around a slender arecanut tree. From the tubers underground to the tallest coconut tree, Pendanath's three acres in the foothills of Wayanad in Kerala is filled from soil to sky with layers of more than 30 food and cash crops. The ideal forest farm.*

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### ***2. Extend Start-up India to farm sector, says Minister, The Hindu, Jan 28, 2016***

Union Agriculture Minister Radha Mohan Singh on Jan 27, 2016 said migration of rural youth to cities was alarming. This could have several implications on the future of Indian agriculture and hence, to create interest among rural youth in agriculture, there was a need to make farming more profitable. He was addressing an event on attracting and retaining youth in agriculture organised jointly by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and the All India Agriculture Students Association (AIASA) here. Realising the importance of rural youth in agricultural development, especially from the point of view of food security, the ICAR has initiated a

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programme on “Attracting and Retaining Youth in Agriculture.”

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### ***3. Technology can help increase agricultural productivity: Experts, The Times of India, Jan 27, 2016.***

Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) organized a one day workshop on 'Sustainable Agriculture: Harnessing Technologies - Harvesting Prosperity' here on Jan 27, 2016. The workshop outlined the core issue of increasing agriculture productivity, which is vital to meet India's food security.

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### ***4. Crop insurance scheme: Success hinges on state govt support, The Indian Express, Jan 26, 2016***

While the launch of the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), a uniform 'one nation-one scheme' type crop insurance scheme for the entire country, promises to change the face of the agricultural insurance sector in terms of growth premium and crop coverage technology, several ifs and buts remain on the success of the scheme.

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### ***5. Agriculture ministry selects Haryana for Krishi Karman award, The Times of India, Jan 23, 2016***

In recognition of Haryana's exemplary performance in the field of paddy production, the state has been selected for the prestigious Krishi Karman Award in Rice category for the year 2014-15. Union ministry of agriculture would also felicitate two progressive farmers of the state with the 'Agriculture Minister's Krishi Karman Award'.

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### ***6. State agriculture dept to be renamed, The Times of India, Jan 22, 2016***

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The state government has decided to rename the agriculture department as agriculture development and farmers welfare department. The decision follows a recommendation in this regard in the agriculture policy document, which was notified and approved in 2015. The central government has already renamed the Union ministry in a similar fashion, which is reportedly after getting inspired by the state's agriculture policy document submitted before it for approval.

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### ***7. India, Armenia to sign farm pact in February, The Hindu, Jan 24, 2016***

India and Armenia will sign an agreement on agriculture on February 19, 2016 when the Armenian Minister for Agriculture, Sergo Karapetyan, visits India. Last July, India had given the go-ahead for signing and ratification of an inter-governmental agreement between the two countries. "We are very interested in familiarising ourselves with the research and development potential of agriculture in India. We are also interested in the potential of your manufacturing and agriculture techniques. Traditionally we have been importing from Russia and Belarus. Now, our farmers are showing interest in Indian manufacturing," Armen Martirosyan, Ambassador of the Republic of Armenia, told The Hindu.

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