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**Highlights:**

- **Rapid warming of Indian Ocean weakening the monsoon, may impact agriculture and financial sectors: IITM**
- **Boost to agriculture & infrastructure: 8 important decisions taken today by Narendra Modi government**
- **Monsoon defying El Nino threat boosts India's crops, economy**
- **Tamil Nadu plans Special Organic Zone**
- **GM mustard developed by DU under fire**
- **Pulses' MSP hiked by Rs 275 a quintal; Rs 50 rise for paddy**



**WEEKLY INDIAN AGRI POLICY, TRENDS UPDATES**  
**GreyMatters Communications & Consulting**

## **1. Rapid warming of Indian Ocean weakening the monsoon, may impact agriculture and financial sectors: IITM**

The rapid warming in the Indian Ocean is weakening the monsoon, particularly over central India where agriculture is still mostly rain-fed, a study by meteorologists at the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology shows. The weakening trend in summer rainfall during 1901-2012 was also observed over the central east and northern regions of India, along the Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna basins and the Himalayan foothills. This will include states of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgar, Jharkhand and Uttarakhand.

**Read more:** <http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/agriculture/rapid-warming-of-indian-ocean-weakening-the-monsoon-may-impact-agriculture-and-financial-sectors-indian-institute-of-tropical-meteorology/articleshow/47698341.cms>

## **2. Boost to agriculture & infrastructure: 8 important decisions taken today by Narendra Modi government**

From steps to check the rising price of pulses to ensuring smooth supply of urea in southern states, the government on June 10, 2015 approved a slew of measures to boost agriculture, international highways and a beleaguered sugar industry.

**Read more:** <http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/boost-to-agriculture-infrastructure-8-important-decisions-taken-today-by-narendra-modi-government/articleshow/47613139.cms>

## **3. GM mustard developed by DU under fire**

The Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) under the environment ministry is about to approve commercialisation of a genetically modified (GM) variant of mustard food crop developed by Delhi University (DU), civil society groups said on Wednesday. "DU's GM mustard is essentially a backdoor entry for herbicide-tolerant crops into India, in the guise of a public sector GM crop," said Rajesh Krishnan, convenor of Coalition for GM Free India.

**Read more:** [http://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/gm-mustard-developed-by-du-under-fire-115061800024\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/gm-mustard-developed-by-du-under-fire-115061800024_1.html)

## **4. Monsoon defying El Nino threat boosts India's crops, economy**

Planting of crops from rice to cotton and soybeans in India is gathering pace as farmers benefit from an increase in monsoon rains, defying forecasts that a developing El Nino would curb rainfall. Almost 80 % of India received excess or normal downpours since June 1, allowing farmers to begin sowing of rice, cotton, corn and soybeans in the south, west and central regions, according to the Meteorological Department. The good showing is set to continue through June, it estimates.

**Read more:** <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2015-06-17/monsoon-defying-el-nino-threat-aids-india-rice-cotton-planting>

### **5. Pulses' MSP hiked by Rs 275 a quintal; Rs 50 rise for paddy**

After much confabulations, the Centre has settled in favour of a nominal Rs 50 per quintal increase in the Minimum Support Price (MSP) in paddy for the 2015-16 crop season, but approved a steep Rs 250-275 per quintal increase in MSP of kharif pulses tur, urad and moong to give a strong signal to growers. "The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved the increase in the MSP of paddy for the 2015-16 kharif season," an official statement said. The decision on paddy is in line with the recommendation of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), a government advisory body.

**Read more:** [http://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/pulses-msp-hiked-by-rs-275-a-quintal-rs-50-rise-for-paddy-115061800032\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/pulses-msp-hiked-by-rs-275-a-quintal-rs-50-rise-for-paddy-115061800032_1.html)

### **6. Tamil Nadu plans Special Organic Zone**

Tamil Nadu has unveiled an ambitious plan to set up Special Organic Zones (SOZs) on the lines of special economic zones to promote organic farming in the state. But the proposal, which forms part of the proposed organic farming policy of the state government, is yet to materialise as the policy has not seen the light of the day though the draft was prepared almost three years ago. In the wake of Kerala raising concerns about the high level of chemical pesticide traces in vegetables grown in Tamil Nadu, organic farming policy has once again come into focus.

**Read more:** <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/tamil-nadu/Tamil-Nadu-plans-Special-Organic-Zone/articleshow/47701628.cms>