

Small farmers to benefit from Agri Infra Fund and FPOs through Krishi Vigyan Kendras - Shri Tomar

New Delhi, 11 August 2020.

The foundation stone of the administrative buildings of Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) at Kandukur Prakasam district, Andhra Pradesh and another at Lakhimpur Kheri, Uttar Pradesh was laid by the Central Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Tomar said that small farmers can benefit from the vast network of Krishi Vigyan Kendras at district level under the Rs. 1 lakh crore Agricultural Infrastructure Fund launched by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 9th August and creation of 10000 Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs).

Mr. Tomar said that despite the hard work of farmers, scientists and agriculture departments for enhancing farm production and income, farmers suffer losses due to natural disasters and sometimes lose their entire investment as well. The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has created the Prime Minister Crop Insurance Scheme to compensate for this loss of farmers. More than 13 thousand crore has been paid as premium on behalf of farmers after the new provisions of the crop insurance scheme have been implemented. Farmer received Rs. 58000 crores towards settlement of crop insurance claims. More number of farmers should take advantage and avail the provisions under this insurance scheme.

Shri Tomar said that farmers should be organized and it is essential that they should get the full benefit of agricultural technology. The Prime Minister has recently announced the creation of ten thousand new FPOs in the country. More than 80 percent are small farmers in the country. These farmers themselves are not able to invest in agriculture. In such a situation, formation of FPOs will increase their capacity, new investment will reach them and will usher in prosperity for the farm families.

In the program, Union Minister of State for Agriculture Shri Kailash Chaudhary expressed confidence that the additional KVKs will make an important contribution in transferring modern knowledge of agriculture to the farmers. Farmers are increasingly taking crop advisories from the KVKs. Shri Adala Prabhakar Reddy, Member of Parliament, Nellore thanked the Union Minister Shri Tomar for laying the foundation stone of KVK Bhavan at Kandukur and said that the establishment of this center will enable local farmers to move towards improved agriculture in this rainfed district. Dr. Trilochan Mohapatra, Director-General of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, along with Dr A.K. Singh, DDG (AE), ICAR, Dr Y.G. Prasad, Director, ATARI, Dr Damodar Reddy, Director, CTRI, Dr Anuradha, Head, KVK, Scientific Officers and officials of the Ministry of Agriculture were present in the program.

