

# NEWSLETTER

# VICHAR

CULTIVATING IDEAS,  
GROWING FUTURES



# GENERAL AGRICULTURE

## University of Agricultural Sciences-Bangalore to host 'Raitha Santhe'

Residents of Bengaluru who love to buy fresh and authentic agricultural produce directly from farmers have something to cheer as two such raitha santhes (shandies) are being held in different locations of the city on Saturday. While the Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha (KRRS- Collective Leadership) is holding its second edition of 'Raitha Santhe' for two days from Saturday in Rajarajeshwarinagar, the University of Agricultural Sciences-Bengaluru is holding a one-day 'Raitha Santhe' in which products developed by the University and promoted by self help groups will be on display as well as sale at the University's GKVK campus.



## Transforming India's agricultural insurance for a resilient future

The Indian agricultural sector is crucial for employment, GDP, food security, and economic growth. Despite government efforts like PMFBY, farmers face technological challenges and natural disasters. Agriculture insurance in India is limited, focusing only on crops. A holistic approach with wider coverage of livestock, tools, and assets is needed.



## Agrinnovate India declares maiden dividend of Rs 1.42 crore

Agrinnovate India Limited (AGIN), the commercial wing of ICAR, has announced its inaugural dividend of Rs 1.42 crore for fiscal year 2023-24, since its establishment in 2011. This milestone was marked by a formal presentation to Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chauhan, highlighting AGIN's role in bridging agricultural research with practical application. Source - THE ECONOMIC TIMES



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## IRRI showcases improved rice varieties and training farmers on climate-smart agriculture during Farmers' Field Day in the Haor Region

Bangladesh's haor region, responsible for 25% of boro rice and 15% of annual rice production, is increasingly vulnerable to climate shocks, old technologies, and systemic gaps in the rice value chain. The Climate-Smart Rice Value Chain (CS-RVC) Project, led by the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) and HSBC's philanthropic support, aims to address these challenges by introducing innovative, scalable solutions tailored to the haor context. The project, which runs from 2024 to 2027 in five upazilas of Kishoreganj and Sunamganj Districts, aims to benefit over 10,000 farmers and foster local entrepreneurship across the value chain. Source - AGROSPECTRUM



## Syngenta creates locally-adapted, disease-resistant vegetable seeds

Fresh squash is facing growing challenges from aggressive diseases, such as the Tomato Leaf Curl New Delhi Virus (ToLCNDV), which is causing significant losses in Europe and North Africa. Syngenta, a company known for its disease-resistant squash varieties, has introduced ToLCNDV-resistant varieties to protect squash growers. Syngenta's global teams are working closely with growers to identify early signs of potential threats and develop and test solutions rapidly. The company has developed disease-resistant varieties against various viruses and fungal diseases, including Zucchini yellow mosaic virus, Watermelon mosaic virus, Papaya ringspot virus, and powdery mildew. Source - AGROSPECTRUM



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## Kisani Urjaa empowers 1000+ farmers in Andhra Pradesh with health & sustainability camps

India's Kisani Urjaa Pvt. Ltd. (KUPL), the Agritech arm of Gruner Renewable Energy, conducted a two-day CSR outreach initiative in Vijayawada and Rajahmundry, addressing rural healthcare gaps and promoting eco-conscious farming practices. The initiative provided free health services and sustainability education workshops to over 1000 farmers, addressing common health conditions and promoting sustainable farming. The initiative also introduced women farmers to the Kisani Didi initiative, promoting micro-entrepreneurship and leadership among rural women in agriculture. Source - AGNEWS



## Orbia Netafim expands digital farming capabilities with Treetoscope's plant sensing tech

Orbia Netafim, the global leader in precision irrigation technology, has partnered with Treetoscope, an irrigation management platform that uses plant sensing technology to improve irrigation practices for tree crops and orchard growers. The partnership will provide farmers with real-time, data-driven irrigation recommendations, enhancing water use efficiency and crop performance. Orbia Netafim's digital farming solution, GrowSphere, is an intuitive all-in-one operating system that allows farmers to manage daily irrigation and fertigation activities. SOURCE- AGROSPECTRUM



## CANTERRA SEEDS acquires Alliance Seed to strengthen seed business and expand distribution across Western Canada

CANTERRA SEEDS has acquired Alliance Seed, a pedigreed seed business previously owned by Paterson Grain. The strategic acquisition aims to expand CANTERRA SEEDS's presence in the pedigreed seed market by introducing high-performing varieties like CDC Endure milling oats and AAC Leroy VB CWRS wheat to more farmers in Western Canada. The acquisition complements CANTERRA SEEDS's investment in Limagrain Cereals Research Canada, a wheat breeding joint venture with Limagrain. Alliance Seed will continue to operate as a standalone brand under CANTERRA SEEDS's umbrella, with key staff transitioning to maintain continuity and customer relationships. Source - AGNEWS



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## China's first official registration of Ethiprole 200 SC (Yifan) is now publicly announced

Yifan Biotech Group Co., Ltd. has officially registered Ethiprole 200 g/l SC formulation product for controlling rice planthoppers in China. This broad-spectrum insecticide disrupts insects' central nervous system, leading to mortality. It is effective against chewing and piercing-sucking pests via spray or seed treatment. Ethiprole is a core strategic product for Yifan, supporting its expansion into key markets like Asia-Pacific and South America, advancing its global deployment strategy. SOURCE- AGNEWS



## High temperatures and mango production

There is a drop in mango harvest. Mangoes no longer taste that sweet. Mangoes are expensive. Mangoes are arriving too early in the market. The mango pickle doesn't last through the year. The mango plant is flowering too early," these are some of the anecdotal conversations about mangoes in India over the past few years. Is this linked to higher temperatures. Source - THE HINDU



## Punjab hybrid rice ban to cost farmers up to Rs 10,000 per acre, says industry body FSII

The Federation of Seed Industry of India (FSII) is urging central intervention against Punjab's ban on hybrid paddy seeds, warning of substantial income losses for farmers. FSII argues the ban, citing water depletion and milling recovery issues, contradicts the Seed Act and threatens farmers relying on these high-yield, adaptable varieties. SOURCE - THE ECONOMIC TIMES



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## Spices Board host awareness programme on organic production

The Spices Board and APEDA held a sensitisation programme in Kochi to raise awareness about the 8th edition of the National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) on spices. The event aimed to promote the export of organic spices and products, and to deepen stakeholders' understanding of sustainable practices. Technical sessions covered organic certification, updated NPOP standards, market trends, and practical challenges.



## Indian trade seeks 50% minimum import duty on yellow peas

The Indian pulses trade is calling for a minimum 50% import duty on yellow peas to ensure the landed price is equivalent to the minimum support price of chana (gram). Currently, yellow pea imports are allowed duty-free until May 31, 2025. The government has extended the window for duty-free imports multiple times, aiming to protect domestic growers and boost supplies.



## CLFMA hosts strategic session on 'Poultry in India: Current Challenges & the Way Forward'

The Compound Livestock Feed Manufacturers Association (CLFMA) of India hosted a seminar in Patna, addressing critical issues in India's poultry industry. The event, titled "Poultry in India: Current Challenges & the Way Forward," brought together over 60 participants, including feed manufacturers, farmers, nutritionists, grain suppliers, and researchers. The seminar highlighted the need for strategic partnerships and collective action to overcome challenges and drive sectoral resilience. Source - AGROSPECTRUM



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## Fertilizer prices surge in 2025, affecting farmers' purchasing power

The Fertilizer Affordability Index indicates a shift from relative affordability to less accessible fertilizers in 2025. The report suggests that rising fertilizer prices will reduce farmers' profit margins and raise questions about future demand. Supply shortages, particularly for phosphates, are adding pressure. The fertilizer industry faces challenges due to commodity market volatility, trade disputes, and tariff threats. Despite these challenges, prices for corn, soybeans, and wheat remain within the range established in 2024.

source - AGROSPECTRUM



## Heranba Organics Private Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary company of Heranba Industries commences commercial production at its Saykha Unit

Heranba Organics Private Limited (HOPL) has started commercial production from Saykha Unit, Phase-I in Bharuch, India, aiming to generate annual revenue of Rs. 280-300 Cr. The production capacity is expected to be around 6000 MTPA.

Source- AGNEWS



## INVICT®, Syngenta's innovative fungicide, now offers protection for sugarcane crops in Brazil

Syngenta has approved INVICT® for use in sugarcane crops, addressing Sugarcane Wilting Syndrome (SWS). The technology, which targets fungal diseases like Pleocyta sacchari, Colletotrichum falcatum, and Fusarium sp., helps control SWS, which affects sugarcane productivity and quality. INVICT® offers superior efficacy, flexible management, and an innovative formulation for phytosanitary management.

Source - AGNEWS



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## India Pesticides expands PEDAs (intermediate of Pretilachlor Technical) production capacity to 6,000 MT annually

India Pesticides Limited has successfully completed the backward integration phase for Pretilachlor Technical's intermediate, increasing its installed capacity to 6,000 metric tonnes per annum. The company plans to increase its PEDAs capacity by 2,500 MT per annum by Q2 FY26, aiming to reach approximately 8,500 MT per annum. Source - AGNEWS



## Plotting a new course for weed control in carrots

An independent crop protection trial is examining the use of metribuzin, aclonifen, and prosulfocarb in carrots without affecting crop yield. The trial, which tested 50 herbicide treatments and combinations, found that high doses of aclonifen and prosulfocarb at the first true leaf (1TL) and second true leaf (2TL) timings were feasible without affecting yields. However, the full rate of aclonifen and prosulfocarb at 1TL makes them unavailable to control subsequent weed flushes later in the growing season. The trial is expected to continue for another year to explore alternative approaches and potential pipeline actives. Source - HORTNEWS



## FarMart Launches Consumer Brand in India, Eyes Quick Commerce for Rapid Growth

FarMart has launched its consumer brand, FarMart Pantry, in India's packaged food market. The company is introducing 27 pantry staples, including chakki atta, basmati rice, pulses, and millet-based products, to Indian consumers. The products will be available via leading quick commerce platforms and modern retail chains. FarMart aims to drive 50% of its revenue from quick commerce by the end of the year. The company is pursuing an omnichannel strategy, with India expected to contribute over 70% of its total revenue this year. Source - agro and food processing.



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## Empowering Growth: How Biostimulants Are Shaping the Future of Sustainable Agriculture

Biostimulants are transforming the farming industry by enhancing plant health, resilience, and productivity. They complement traditional fertilizers by stimulating natural processes within plants, such as nutrient uptake, stress tolerance, and overall vigor. These innovations offer farmers a powerful tool for addressing climate change and the demands of a growing global population. Biostimulants boost plant vigor, resulting in higher yields and better crop quality. They also enhance stress resilience, supporting natural metabolic pathways that regulate stress responses. They stimulate root growth, improving nutrient use efficiency, and enhancing soil health. However, challenges such as scientific complexity, regulatory compliance, and cost barriers can slow innovation. However, ongoing research is expanding knowledge of plant-microbe interactions, stress signaling pathways, and optimizing application timing. The regulatory environment is evolving to support biostimulant use while ensuring product safety and efficacy. Source - KRISHIJAGAT



## College of Agriculture students kick off week-long rural awareness programme

Agri-clinics, interactive sessions with farmers and kitchen garden development drives are among the highlights of a week-long rural awareness programme kicked off by the final-year undergraduate students of the College of Agriculture, Vellayani, in the Kattakkada grama panchayat on Wednesday. Titled 'Gramodaya 2025,' the programme is designed to explore local farming practices, understand the challenges faced by farmers, and suggest practical solutions based on both traditional knowledge and modern agricultural science, the students said. Source - THE HINDU



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## Sugarcane fair price hiked to Rs 355 a quintal

The cabinet has increased the sugarcane purchase price for sugar mills by 4.41% to ₹355 per quintal for the season starting in October. This decision aims to benefit 50 million sugarcane farmers and 500,000 sugar mill workers. The new price is based on a 10.25% recovery rate, with adjustments for variations in sugar extraction.



## USA - National Corn Growers Association: Disappointed by Trade Commission decision on critical herbicide 2,4-D

The National Corn Growers Association is concerned about the International Trade Commission's decision to impose duties on imports of the herbicide 2,4-D, which is a growth regulator for corn. The decision, which was filed in 2024, could lead to availability shortages for the herbicide, which has minimal impact on grasses. The Department of Commerce will now determine the final duty rates. Source - AGNEWS



## Research led by the University of Florida reveals tomato disease spreading rapidly across continents

A global team of scientists led by plant pathologists from the University of Florida has discovered that the pathogen causing bacterial spot has multiple genetic variations. The disease, caused by a new xanthomonad, *Xanthomonas euvesicatoria* pathovar *perforans*, has spread throughout the eastern United States. The study, funded by the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture, aims to help plant breeders develop disease-resistant tomato varieties and better monitor bacterial spot to prevent further damage to the crop. Source - FNBNEWS



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## Herbicide and acid tolerance key to Western Australia's lentil growth

Western Australia's GRDC is developing 'best bet' agronomy packages, including herbicide use, to support the development of a high-value pulse industry, including lentils. The project, which focused on the Esperance Port Zone, aimed to highlight new varieties and their agronomy, including herbicide tolerance traits and new chemistries. Lentils are sensitive to soil-applied herbicides in Mallee soils, and growers prefer conventional varieties with low rates of triazine herbicides. The project aims to increase lentil production to 40,000 hectares by 2024, but has faced challenges due to soil and soil conditions. The potential production area for lentils in WA is estimated to be between 100,000 and 200,000 hectares. Source - AGNEWS



Table 1: Best practice agronomy of lentils in the Esperance Port Zone of Western Australia

Year	Sowing date	CROP/TON	PFA Base <sup>1</sup>	PFA Nutrient <sup>2</sup>
2020	28 April	2.0	1.7	0.8
	12 May	2.0	2.0	0.8
	2 June	2.1	2.0	0.8
2021	1 April	2.3	1.7	1.4
	16 April	2.0	1.4	1.0
	30 May	2.0	2.2	2.0
2022	12 April	1.8	0.8	1.2
	27 May	2.4	2.3	2.1

## USA - Drone-applied crop protection may face new labeling requirements

US crop protection chemical companies are funding studies to standardize the labeling of products applied to crops by drones to reduce red tape in product labeling for UAV use. The EPA has stated that current regulations governing the use of crop protection chemicals applied by unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) vary widely across the globe. To address future regulations, nine major crop protection chemical companies pooled money in 2021 to fund research and generate data under the Unmanned Aerial Pesticide Applications System Task Force (UAPASTF). The task force aims to study drift data, human operator exposure data, and other research that agencies such as the EPA, Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA), and regulators in Europe and Australia will be requesting. The goal is to generate reference data from which a mechanistic model can be built to simplify the process.

Source - AGNEWS

