



# KRISHI

A NEWSLETTER  
by

KRISHI CARE & MANAGEMENT SERVICES PVT LTD

**August 2025**

*This issue highlights the current landscape of Indian agriculture in August 2025, where weather challenges, farming innovations, policy measures, and market developments converge. Discover how floods, crop improvements, government schemes, and new agri-technologies are influencing farmer livelihoods, rural resilience, and the future of India's agricultural sector.*

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## Weather Update – Heavy Rainfall Alert

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued heavy rainfall alerts for several states including Rajasthan, Gujarat, Odisha, Bihar, and parts of the Northeast and South. Farmers in rainfed areas are being advised to delay fertilizer application to prevent nutrient loss. In waterlogged zones, agricultural officers recommend creating drainage channels to protect standing crops such as paddy and pulses. The IMD has also urged farmers to secure harvested produce stored in open areas. While the rains are crucial for kharif crops, excessive downpours may raise risks of flooding and disease outbreaks in livestock.

Source: <https://krishijagran.com/news/weather-update-25-08-2025-imd-issues-heavy-rainfall-alert-for-rajasthan-gujarat-odisha-bihar-northeast-and-southern-states/>



## August 2025 Floods: Agriculture and Infrastructure at Risk

August 2025 saw intense flooding across India, driven by heavy monsoon rains and cloudbursts, causing severe damage to crops, farmland, and infrastructure. In Jammu and Kashmir, a cloudburst in

Doda district caused the Tawi and Chenab rivers to overflow. Several villages were submerged, damaging standing crops and farm assets. At least three lives were lost, and roads, bridges, and irrigation systems were disrupted, affecting agricultural supply chains. Uttarakhand's Dharali village experienced a cloudburst, triggering flash floods that destroyed homes, hotels, and farmland. Rescue operations saved around 190 people, but five fatalities and over 50 missing were reported. The floods also washed away fields of wheat and maize, creating significant economic losses for local farmers. In Punjab, the Beas River embankment near Sultanpur Lodhi breached, inundating thousands of acres of paddy and vegetable fields. Damage to irrigation channels and farm machinery further compounded the losses.

Source: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/dehradun/isro-satellite-images-show-over-130-buildings-damaged-in-dharali-flood/articleshow/123438200.cms>

## Fertilizer Policy: Ensuring Sustainable Agricultural Growth

Fertilizers are pivotal in enhancing agricultural productivity, contributing significantly to India's food security. In the financial year 2023–24, India achieved its highest-ever domestic urea production, surpassing 314 lakh metric tonnes. This achievement underscores the nation's commitment to self-reliance



in food production. The government has commissioned six new urea plants in the last six years, adding 76.2 LMT to the production capacity. Additionally, new international agreements with countries like Saudi Arabia, Nepal, Bhutan, and Sri Lanka aim to secure long-term fertilizer supplies. These strategic initiatives are part of India's broader efforts to strengthen the agricultural sector, ensuring that farmers have access to essential inputs for optimal crop yields. The fertilizer policy aligns with the vision of 'Amrit Kaal,' focusing on sustainable and inclusive agricultural growth.

Source: <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressNoteDetails.aspx?id=154966&Noteld=154966&ModuleId=3>



### **Soil Health Card Scheme: Enhancing Agricultural Productivity**

The Soil Health Card (SHC) Scheme is a transformative initiative aimed at promoting sustainable farming practices. As of July 2025, over 25 crore SHCs have been distributed to farmers across India. The scheme has led to the establishment of 8,272 soil testing

laboratories, including 1,068 static labs, 163 mobile labs, 6,376 mini labs, and 665 village-level labs. Soil mapping has been completed on 290 lakh hectares in 40 aspirational districts, and 1,987 village-level fertility maps have been prepared for 21 States and Union Territories. These efforts aim to provide farmers with precise information about soil health, enabling them to make informed decisions regarding fertilizer application and crop selection. By promoting soil health, the scheme contributes to increased agricultural productivity and sustainability, aligning with the government's vision of 'Swasth Dharaa, Khet Haraa.'

Source: <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressNoteDetails.aspx?id=155036&Noteld=155036&ModuleId=3>

### **India's Cotton Sector Under Strain**

India's cotton sector is facing pressure from shrinking acreage, rising production costs, and growing import dependence. Farmers are struggling with uneven monsoon rains and pest infestations, while global competitors benefit from higher subsidies. Recent data shows a decline in domestic cotton planting, raising concerns for the textile industry, which relies heavily on stable supplies. Experts warn that unless input subsidies and research investments are expanded, India risks losing its edge as the world's leading cotton producer. Farmer unions are urging policymakers to provide timely

support, including price stabilization measures and greater access to high-yielding seed varieties.

Source: <https://krishijagan.com/blog/india-s-cotton-sector-under-strain-subsidy-disparities-shrinking-acreage-and-import-pressures/>



### PM Kisan 20th Instalment Released

The government has transferred the 20th instalment of the PM Kisan scheme, sending ₹20,500 crore directly into the accounts of 9.7 crore farmers. On the same day, projects worth about ₹2,200 crore were launched in Varanasi in areas such as education, healthcare, tourism, and road connectivity. Since the start of the scheme, close to ₹3.9 lakh crore has been distributed across the country. Officials are encouraging farmers to check their payment status online to avoid delays. The instalment will help households manage seasonal input costs and support small and marginal farmers at the start of the cropping season.

Source: <https://krishijagan.com/news/pm-kisan-20th-installment-released-rs-20-500-crore-transferred-to-over-97-crore-farmers-check-your-payment-status-here/>



### PMFBY to Disburse ₹3,200 Crore Crop Insurance

The Centre has announced the release of ₹3,200 crore in crop insurance claims under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana. More than 30 lakh farmers are set to benefit from this round of payouts. The scheme, which protects farmers against crop losses from natural disasters, has already disbursed over ₹1.8 lakh crore since its launch in 2016. Farmers' premiums remain affordable as most of the cost is covered by central and state subsidies. With timely settlement of claims, the scheme continues to provide a safety net to cultivators, especially in states facing erratic monsoons and weather uncertainties.

Source: <https://krishijagan.com/news/pmfby-centre-to-disburse-rs-3-200-crore-crop-insurance-claims-to-30-lakh-farmers-today/>

### Government Highlights Agricultural Initiatives and Farmer Welfare in Press Release

The government has issued a formal statement emphasizing recent actions to improve agricultural outcomes and



farmer welfare. The release outlines programs providing direct financial transfers, crop insurance protection, and infrastructure development. It underscores the importance of integrating modern farming technologies with traditional practices. State governments are encouraged to coordinate closely with the Centre to ensure seamless execution. By combining technology-enabled solutions with field-level support, the administration aims to enhance farmers' resilience to climate-related risks, while simultaneously supporting national food security and generating rural employment opportunities.

Source: <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=215519>  
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### **Government Factsheet Highlighting Farmer Support Programs**

The government has published a comprehensive factsheet detailing progress in key farmer-centric initiatives, including PM-KISAN, PMFBY, and irrigation projects. Since the launch of

PM-KISAN, over ₹2.8 lakh crore has been directly credited to farmers' accounts. The document also highlights enhancements in crop insurance coverage, rural credit accessibility, and agricultural extension services. Efforts to promote mechanization and support agri-tech startups are emphasized as part of a broader strategy to make India's agricultural sector more resilient. Analysts note that while these measures strengthen the farming ecosystem, consistent rainfall and coordinated state-level implementation remain critical to achieving sustained productivity gains.

Source: <https://www.pib.gov.in/FactsheetDetails.aspx?id=149246&NoTelId=149246&ModuleId=16>

### **Fisheries Ministry Pushes Infrastructure and Digital Upgrades**

The Department of Fisheries, under the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, has released a comprehensive backgrounder outlining key investments aimed at strengthening infrastructure such as cold chains, aquaculture facilities, fishing harbours and digital platforms to reduce post-harvest losses, especially for perishable produce. Enhanced logistics and value chain integration are expected to connect fishers and farmers more directly with markets, reducing reliance on intermediaries. Experts underscore infrastructure as a critical weakness in

Indian fisheries, with these sustained investments pivotal for fair pricing and rural resilience.

Source: <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressNoteDetails.aspx?id=155080&Noteld=155080&ModuleId=3>

### **National Cooperation Policy 2025: Strengthening India's Cooperative Sector**

India boasts over 8.44 lakh cooperatives with more than 30 crore members, making it home to over a quarter of the world's cooperatives. The National Cooperation Policy (NCP) 2025 aims to revitalize this sector to drive the nation towards its 2047 development goals. The policy focuses on legal reforms, digitalization, and financial empowerment, promoting inclusive participation of women, youth, and marginalized communities. It also encourages the expansion of cooperatives into emerging sectors like clean energy, waste management, and technology. By leveraging the cooperative model, the NCP seeks to enhance economic democratization and uplift rural economies through collective participation. This strategic roadmap aligns with the vision of 'Sahkar-se-Samridhi,' aiming to make cooperatives key drivers for a developed India by 2047.

Source: <https://www.pib.gov.in/FactsheetDetails.aspx?id=149229&Noteld=149229&ModuleId=16>



### **PAU Gets ₹4 Crore Project for Guava Breeding**

Punjab Agricultural University has secured a ₹4 crore government project focused on improving guava quality and shelf life. The project will use predictive breeding to develop superior varieties that resist spoilage and maintain flavour longer. Researchers aim to reduce post-harvest losses and make guava more profitable for growers. Better quality fruit with extended storage potential could strengthen both domestic markets and export opportunities. The initiative is expected to help farmers access varieties suitable for processing as well as direct consumption. With support from advanced breeding methods, guava growers may see higher returns and reduced wastage.

Source: <https://krishijagran.com/news/pau-secures-rs-4-crore-goi-project-for-predictive-breeding-to-enhance-guava-quality-and-shelf-life/>

### **IIT Madras Creates Eco-Friendly Packaging**



IIT Madras researchers have developed biodegradable packaging material made from agricultural and paper waste. By cultivating fungi such as *Ganoderma lucidum* and *Pleurotus ostreatus*, they created bio composites that are sturdy, lightweight, and naturally compostable. In one trial, mycelium grown on cardboard was ten times stronger than thermocol. The innovation offers a sustainable replacement for single-use plastic foams while putting crop residues to use. India generates millions of tonnes of farm waste every year, much of which is burnt. This technology provides a cleaner option while supporting the packaging industry. A startup named NatureWrks Technologies has been established to bring the product to market.

Source: <https://theprint.in/india/iit-madras-develops-agriculture-waste-based-packaging-materials-to-eliminate-plastic-use/2708829/>



### Art of Living to Promote Organic Farming

The agricultural wing of the Art of Living has signed agreements with multiple partners to expand organic and natural

farming practices across India. The collaboration includes farmer training, sharing of resources, and promotion of low-input techniques that improve soil health. Through workshops and field-level support, the initiative will help cultivators transition from chemical-intensive farming to sustainable systems. The program also aims to create greater consumer demand for organic products while strengthening rural incomes. By building networks of practitioners and encouraging natural methods, the project is expected to support long-term ecological balance as well as farmer well-being.

Source: <https://agrinews.in/art-of-livings-agri-wing-signs-mous-to-boost-organic-and-natural-farming/>

### India's Pesticide Market Moving Toward Innovation

India's pesticide sector is undergoing a shift toward sustainable and innovative products. Rising awareness about environmental impacts and consumer demand for residue-free food are encouraging companies to invest in bio-based formulations. Industry experts note that regulatory changes are also nudging the market toward safer alternatives. While traditional chemical pesticides still dominate, biological products and precision application methods are gaining ground. Farmers are gradually adopting integrated pest management practices that balance



chemical and biological solutions. With India being one of the world's largest pesticide markets, this transition could reduce ecological stress while maintaining crop productivity.

Source: <https://agrinews.in/is-indias-pesticide-market-transforming-toward-sustainable-innovation/>

### Young Graduates Driving Agri-Startups

A growing number of agricultural graduates are choosing entrepreneurship over traditional government jobs. Rural-focused startups led by young professionals are addressing challenges in precision farming, agri-fintech, organic produce, and supply-chain logistics. According to experts, this shift is partly driven by new incubation centres and funding support from both government and private investors. Such ventures are helping farmers access better inputs, advisory services, and direct markets. While sustainability of these startups remains a challenge, the trend marks a positive change in rural employment generation. Many graduates are combining scientific training with local knowledge to deliver region-specific solutions.

Source: <https://agrinews.in/new-gen-agri-grads-taking-up-agri-startups-seriously-fateh-rural-chief/>

### UK FTA Brings Limited Gains for Raw Farm Goods

India is unlikely to see major benefits for raw farm products under the Free Trade

Agreement with the United Kingdom. Although India exported 2.09 lakh tonnes of rice worth around 210 million dollars to the UK in 2024–25, the market remains small. Most of India's exports to the UK are processed items such as fruit pulp, spices, and marine products. Experts point out that non-tariff challenges, including strict quality standards, could further restrict entry of raw produce. The agreement may therefore create more opportunities for processed and value-added foods than for raw commodities. Farmers and exporters will need to align production with these demands if they want to benefit from the deal.

Source: <https://agrinews.in/india-may-not-gain-big-from-uk-fta-in-raw-farm-goods-its-not-major-importer/>



### India's Coffee Consumption Set to Double

Coffee consumption in India is expected to nearly double over the next five to ten years, according to industry estimates. Rising urban lifestyles, growing café culture, and increased demand for instant and specialty coffee are driving this trend. While southern states remain

the largest consumers, interest in northern and eastern regions is growing rapidly. The shift could bring significant opportunities for Indian coffee growers and processors, who can expand their domestic market alongside exports. Industry experts caution that farmers may need to focus on quality improvement and sustainable practices to meet changing consumer preferences.

Source: <https://agrinews.in/indias-coffee-consumption-expected-to-double-in-next-5-10-years/>

### Gene Discovery to Reduce Rice Breakage

Indian scientists have identified a gene that prevents rice grains from breaking during milling, a common problem that reduces both yield and market value. The discovery could improve grain quality, benefiting both farmers and exporters. By developing varieties that retain grain integrity, breeders hope to address consumer demand for unbroken rice, especially in premium export markets. Researchers are working on transferring this trait into widely cultivated varieties, which may take several seasons before large-scale adoption. The finding reflects the growing role of genetics in tackling long-standing post-harvest challenges.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/scientists-find-gene-that-keeps-rice-from-breaking-during-milling/article69924142.ece>



### GM Maize Trials in Punjab

The Punjab Agricultural University is set to begin confined field trials of genetically modified (GM) maize after securing regulatory approval. The trials aim to test the crop's resistance to pests and adaptability to local conditions. Supporters argue that GM maize could help improve yields and reduce pesticide use, while critics raise concerns over biodiversity loss and contamination of traditional varieties. Farmer groups are divided, with some viewing GM maize as a way to reduce input costs and others worried about dependence on multinational seed companies. The outcome of the trials is likely to influence broader debates on GM crops in India.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/punjab/confined-field-trials-on-gm-maize-to-begin-soon-at-punjab-agricultural-university/article69814457.ece>

### Pilot Project to Revive Fish Farming in Kuttanad

The government is preparing to launch a pilot project to restore diversified fish farming in Kerala's Kuttanad region. Once



a thriving hub for inland fisheries, Kuttanad has seen a steady decline due to salinity changes, flooding, and reduced investment. The new initiative will test integrated aquaculture systems that combine traditional methods with modern techniques. By reintroducing multiple fish species and improving water management, officials hope to enhance farmer incomes while restoring ecological balance. The project is expected to provide valuable lessons for expanding similar models across the state. For local communities, it could revive both livelihoods and food security.

Source: <https://krishijagran.com/news/govt-to-launch-pilot-project-to-revive-diversified-fish-farming-in-kuttanad-kerala/>



### **Kerala's Best Nutrition Garden Awarded in Thiruvananthapuram**

N. Harikesan Nair has been recognised with the state award for Best Nutrition Garden in Thiruvananthapuram. The model garden showcases a mix of vegetables, fruits, greens, herbs, and tubers grown year-round with careful use of compost and water-saving practices. Officials say it demonstrates how a

small, well-planned kitchen garden can meet a family's daily needs while cutting market dependence. The award aims to inspire households, schools, and resident associations to start similar plots using local seeds and organic inputs. With vegetable prices rising and concerns about residues in food, Kerala's push for nutrition gardens highlights a practical way to improve diets, reduce waste, and build resilience in urban and peri-urban areas.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/life-and-style/n-harikesan-nair-best-nutrition-garden-thiruvananthapuram-state-farm-awards/article69958869.ece>

### **Farmers Oppose India-US Trade Deal**

Over 31 farmers' organizations under the Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) held a mahapanchayat in Samrala, Punjab, celebrating the cancellation of a controversial land-pooling policy. The gathering also expressed strong opposition to a potential India-US free trade agreement (FTA), fearing unfair competition in agriculture, dairy, and fisheries. SKM leaders criticized the government for yielding to U.S. pressure after the 11% reduction in cotton import duties, which they claim harms domestic farmers. Leaders vowed to resist corporate-favouring land acquisitions and warned of nationwide protests if import duties are further cut.

Source: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/chandigarh/farmers-warn-govt-against-trade-pact-with-us-reduction-of-import-duties/articleshow/123489828.cms>



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