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This issue delivers a comprehensive look at the dynamic forces reshaping Indian agriculture in late 2025, where strategic public finance, cutting-edge technology adoption, and pressing sustainability concerns intersect. Explore how massive governmental investments, the modernization of allied industries, increasing threats from climate events, and the critical drive for social equity are influencing farmer prosperity and the nation's pathway to agricultural self-reliance.

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₹11,440 Crore Pulses Self-Reliance Mission

The government launched the Mission for Aatmanirbharta in Pulses on October 11, 2025, with an outlay of ₹11,440 crore. The six-year initiative, running until 2030-31, aims to achieve self-sufficiency in pulse production and significantly reduce India's import dependence. The core objective is to boost domestic production to 350 lakh tonnes by expanding cultivation to 310 hectares. To secure farmers' income and encourage cultivation, the guarantees 100 percent procurement of key pulses including Tur, Urad, and Masoor at the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for four years. The program will also support farmers by distributing millions of free seed kits and quality certified seeds, directly benefiting nearly two crore pulse growers nationwide. This initiative marks a major step toward enhancing nutritional security and farm prosperity.

Source: https://www.pib.gov.in/PressNoteDetails.aspx?id=155497&NoteId=155497&ModuleId=3



Significant Boost in Farm Income: Cabinet Hikes MSP for Key Crops

The Union Cabinet has sanctioned a substantial increase in the Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for all Rabi crops for the 2026-27 marketing season and continued the elevated rates for all Kharif crops of the 2025-26 season, effective October 1. This strategic move is designed to ensure remunerative prices farmers and accelerate government's goal of strengthening agricultural self-reliance. A highlight of the announcement is the MSP for wheat, which has been raised to ₹2,585 per quintal. This revised price guarantees farmers an impressive 109 percent margin over their cost of production. Among the pulses, Masoor (lentil) received the largest absolute increase of ₹300, setting its new MSP at ₹7,000 per guintal. Additionally, the MSP for Paddy (Common) stands at ₹2,369 per quintal for the current Kharif season. The government confirmed that this pricing mechanism provides a vital economic lifeline, encouraging farmers to invest in better agricultural practices and assuring them of guaranteed returns.

Source: https://www.pib.gov.in/PressNoteDetails.aspx?id=155560&NoteId=155560&ModuleId=3

PM Dhan-Dhanya Krishi Yojana: ₹24,000 Crore Boost for Rural India

Prime Minister launched the Pradhan Mantri Dhan-Dhanya Krishi Yojana (PMDDKY) on October 11, 2025, with an annual budget of ₹24,000 crore for six

years, starting from FY 2025-26. The farmer-centric initiative aims to agriculture transform 100 across underdeveloped India. districts in targeting about 1.7 crore farmers. Instead of launching a new scheme, PMDDKY uses a convergence model, integrating 36 existing Central and State schemes under one framework. This is designed to maximize outreach and eliminate duplication in districts facing low productivity and poor credit access. The scheme focuses on five pillars: boosting productivity, promoting crop diversification, strengthening postharvest infrastructure, improving irrigation, and expanding access to agricultural credit. Local committees, chaired by district heads, will prepare customized plans, with progress tracked via a central dashboard and real-time monitoring to ensure accountability and transparency. The initiative is set to create climate-resilient and self-reliant rural livelihoods.

Source:https://krishijagran.com/explainers/pm-dhan-dhaanya-krishi-yojana-launched-rs-24-000-crore-scheme-to-benefit-17-crore-farmers-in-100-districts/

Government Notifies Higher MSP for Rabi Crops

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved an increase in the Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for all mandated Rabi crops for the 2026-27 marketing season, ensuring

remunerative prices for farmers and promoting crop diversification.

The new MSP for wheat has been fixed at ₹2,585 per quintal, marking an increase of ₹160 and guaranteeing a 109 percent margin over the cost of production. The sharpest absolute hike was announced for safflower at ₹600 per quintal, followed by lentil (Masur), which saw an increase of ₹300, bringing its price to ₹7,000 per quintal. The hikes align with the government's commitment to setting the MSP at least 1.5 times the cost of production. This decision aims to strengthen farmers' returns and enhance the resilience of India's agricultural economy.

Source: https://ddnews.gov.in/en/cabinet-approves-hike-in-msp-forrabi-crops-for-marketing-season-2026-27/



India Highlights Progress on Food Security for World Food Day

On World Food Day (October 16), the government highlighted India's advancements in food security and nutrition. The nation has increased foodgrain production by around 90 million metric tonnes and now ranks first

globally in milk and millet output. The core of India's strategy involves schemes like the National Food Security Act (NFSA), which provides subsidized grains to 81.35 crore people, and the recently extended Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY), which provides free foodgrains for five Furthermore, the government completed the universal supply of fortified rice across all central schemes to combat micronutrient deficiencies. with funding secured until December 2028. These efforts, complemented by the launch of new missions for pulses self-reliance. underscore India's commitment to building a nourished and sustainable future.

Source:https://www.pib.gov.in/PressNoteDetails.aspx?id=155580&NoteId=155580&ModuleId=3



Free Foodgrains to 81 Crore Citizens

The Cabinet has decided to extend the provision of free foodgrains to approximately 81.35 crore beneficiaries under the National Food Security Act (NFSA), continuing the zero-cost scheme

for another five years starting January 1, 2024. This extension, entirely funded by Central Government with the estimated financial outlay of ₹11.80 lakh crore, aims to ensure food and nutritional security for the poorest households. The NFSA guarantees subsidized foodgrains to up to 75 percent of the rural population and 50 percent of the urban population. Under the Act, Antyodaya Anna Yojana families receive 35 kg of foodgrains per month, while Priority Households receive 5 kg per person. This decision reinforces the commitment to maintaining social safety nets and addressing malnutrition among vulnerable groups across the country.

Source:https://www.pib.gov.in/PressNoteDetails.aspx?id=155583&NoteId=155583&ModuleId=3

GST Cuts to Propel Karnataka's Agriculture

The recent GST rate rationalization is set deliver substantial benefits Karnataka's crucial agricultural and rural livelihoods sectors. The GST rate was cut from 18% to 5% on instant coffee and its extracts, a major boon for the state which produces 71% of India's coffee. This change is expected to lower retail prices 11–12%, stimulating domestic demand and improving margins for small growers in regions like Kodagu and Hassan. The dairy sector, supporting over 26 lakh farmers, will see UHT milk and paneer become tax-free (nil GST), while butter and ghee drop to 5%, lowering retail prices 5-7%. by Additionally, taxes on processed cashew nuts and marine products were cut from

12% to 5%, boosting coastal livelihoods and women-led MSMEs. Lastly, the GST on tractors and agricultural machinery was reduced significantly, making farm mechanization more affordable and increasing rural productivity.

Source:https://www.pib.gov.in/FactsheetDetails.aspx?id=150420&Noteld=150420&ModuleId=16

Farmers Seek Debt Relief After Rains Devastate Karnataka Crops

Farmer organisations in Karnataka have urged the state government to establish debt relief commission after continuous and excessive rainfall during the kharif season destroyed vast areas of farmland. Official data shows that sowing took place on only 67.7 lakh hectares against the seasonal target of 82.5 lakh hectares, while crops on 5.2 lakh hectares were completely damaged. The northern districts of Kalaburagi, Dharwad, Bidar, Belagavi, Bagalkot, Haveri and Vijayapura have been the most severely affected. Farmer leaders said that repeated crop failures have deepened rural debt and worsened the financial situation of cultivators. They argued that one-time loan waivers announced in the past have not addressed the core issues and demanded a more permanent solution. They cited Kerala's model of a debt relief commission, which provides structured support to farmers facing similar crises. The state agriculture department, in

coordination with the revenue department, has begun conducting joint field surveys to assess crop losses. The findings will be used to determine compensation and plan further measures for farmer assistance.

Source:https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/bengaluru/farmerspush-for-debt-relief-commission-as-rains-wipe-out-crops-acrosskarnataka/articleshow/124055652.cms



NITI Aayog Targets 7.16 million Tonnes in Deep-Sea Fishing Push

NITI Aayog, India's public policy think tank, has unveiled a comprehensive strategy aimed at developing country's largely unexploited deep-sea and offshore fisheries sector. The report, released on October 13, 2025, sets an ambitious roadmap to harvest estimated 7.16 million tonnes of marine resources from India's vast 2 million square kilometre Exclusive Economic Zone. This initiative seeks to transform India, already the world's second-largest fish producer, into a global leader in sustainable deep-sea fishing. strategy emphasizes a science-based, technology-enabled approach with a

focus on social inclusion. It proposes key interventions, including fleet modernization, regulatory reforms, and supporting fisher cooperatives and cluster-based approaches to ensure local communities benefit from the capital-intensive deep-sea operations. The plan is structured across three distinct phases, with the final phase, starting in 2033, aiming to establish India's global leadership in the sector.

Source: https://krishijagran.com/news/niti-aayog-unveils-blueprint-to-harness-716-million-tonnes-of-deep-sea-fisheries/



PM Launches ₹1,166 Crore Livestock Initiative, Opens North East's First IVF Lab

Prime Minister launched and laid the foundation for livestock and dairy projects worth ₹1,166 crore on October 11, 2025, in a major push to boost India's agri-allied sector. The initiatives were announced alongside the launch of the Pradhan Mantri Dhan-Dhanva Krishi Yojana and the Mission for Aatmanirbharta in Pulses. Α kev development was the inauguration of the

IVF North East's first Livestock Laboratory in Guwahati. Assam. established under the Rashtriya Gokul Mission. This state-of-the-art facility is set to significantly enhance breed improvement and dairy development across the region. Additionally, major infrastructure dairy projects were launched across several states. including a large milk powder and UHT plant in Mehsana, and the foundation was laid for an Integrated Dairy Plant in Andhra Pradesh. The government also introduced animal health campaigns under the Pradhan Mantri Dhan-Dhanya Krishi Yojana and distributed certificates to over 2,000 newly trained MAITRIS (Artificial Insemination Technicians) in Uttar Pradesh. These efforts aim to secure livelihoods and improve animal health and milk production nationwide.

Source: https://krishijagran.com/news/pm-modi-launches-rs-1-166-crore-livestock-and-dairy-projects-inaugurates-north-east-s-first-ivf-lab/

PM GatiShakti - Offshore for Blue Economy

The government has launched the PM GatiShakti – Offshore digital platform to streamline planning and management for offshore development, marking a significant step for India's Blue Economy and green energy goals. Launched on October 13, 2025, the platform is the first of its kind, promoting a "Whole-of-Government" approach to utilizing

offshore potential along India's 11,098km coastline. The unified geospatial interface consolidates crucial datasets multiple from central ministries. including New and Renewable Energy, and Fisheries. This Environment. integration enables data-driven decision-making for complex offshore projects such as wind farms, marine exploration, and coastal infrastructure. By hosting layers on energy zones, marine habitats, and oceanic hazards, the platform helps identify regulatory bottlenecks and environmentally sensitive This enhanced areas. precision, transparency, and multianalysis layered are expected to significantly reduce project delays and while supporting sustainable resource management.

Source:https://krishijagran.com/news/govt-launches-pm-gatishaktioffshore-to-boost-india-s-blue-economy-and-green-energy/

Major Fisheries Projects Worth ₹693 Crore Launched

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched and laid the foundation for 16 major fisheries projects valued at over ₹693 crore on October 11, 2025. Implemented under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana and the Fisheries Infrastructure Development Fund, the initiatives aim to strengthen India's Blue Economy and support fishers nationwide. The projects, which include hatcheries, cold storages, and aqua

parks, will enhance fisheries infrastructure and boost exports. Key initiatives include a ₹170 crore trout fisheries project in Uttarakhand and a smart fishing harbour in Puducherry. The investment is expected to generate employment and significantly improve livelihoods for coastal and inland communities.

Source: https://krishijagran.com/news/government-launches-16-major-fisheries-projects-worth-over-rs-693-crore/



e-NAM Platform Expands to 247 Commodities, Boosting Farmer Access

The National Agriculture Market (e-NAM), leading digital platform for India's agricultural trade, has announced the addition of nine new commodities, expanding significantly its trading ecosystem. This move raises the total number of tradable items on the platform to 247, fulfilling a long-standing demand from farmers and traders for broader coverage. The expansion aims to provide farmers with wider market access, competitive pricing, and a transparent

trading environment, minimizing the role of middlemen. New additions include specialized products such as Green Tea, Ashwagandha Dry Roots, Lavender Oil, and Virgin Olive Oil. The guidelines for these items were developed by the Directorate of Marketing and Inspection approved by Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan. implementing standardized parameters, the platform ensures that prices are directly linked to quality. This secures better value for the farmers' produce and strengthens the economic resilience of the agricultural community across the country.

Source:https://krishijagran.com/news/e-nam-platform-expanded-9-new-commodities-added-to-boost-farmers-market-access/



Trade Tensions Accelerate Agtech Adoption in India

The imposition of new US tariffs, including a 50% duty on key Indian agricultural exports like marine products and Basmati rice, is forcing India's farming sector to rapidly transform. While the tariffs immediately pressure the \$5.7 billion export market, industry analysts suggest the disruption will

accelerate technology adoption. Facing reduced profitability from traditional exports, Indian farmers are increasingly seeking to cut input costs and boost yields through agricultural technology (agtech). This need for technological transformation is attracting major global agribusiness firms, like Syngenta and Bayer, which are actively investing in new R&D and digital solutions in India. These companies see the country's need to modernize, driven by trade volatility, climate change, and resource constraints, as a strong tailwind for agtech innovation and market growth.

Source: https://agfundernews.com/could-us-tariffs-accelerate-agtech-adoption-in-india

Government Invests ₹2,265 Crore in Organic Farming Promotion

The government is actively promoting organic farming across India through the Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY), a scheme launched in 2015 under the National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture. The program has released ₹2,265.86 crore as of early 2025 and has significantly boosted the sector. The PKVY's main objective is to establish an eco-friendly, chemical-free model by mobilizing farmers into 20hectare clusters. As of February 2025, the scheme has formed 52,289 clusters and benefited over 25 lakh farmers, bringing nearly 15 lakh hectares under organic cultivation. Farmers receive financial assistance of ₹31,500 per hectare over three years to support

organic inputs, training, and certification. The scheme facilitates two certification systems: the international NPOP and the community-based PGS-India for domestic markets. Furthermore, the Large Area Certification (LAC) program was launched to quickly certify vast, naturally chemical-free regions like Sikkim, which is now recognized as the world's only fully organic state under the LAC.

Source:https://www.pib.gov.in/FaqDetails.aspx?id=155374&NoteId=155374&ModuleId=4

Minister Chouhan Urges Punjab Farmers to Adopt Eco-Friendly Practices

Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan recently visited Ludhiana, Punjab, where he urged farmers to adopt modern, eco-friendly practices stubble management and direct seeding to improve soil health and increase income. During a visit to Nurpur Bet village, Chouhan praised local farmers for completely halting stubble burning since 2017. He observed demonstrations of advanced machinery, specifically the Happy Smart Seeder, which helps in wheat sowing without burning crop residue. The Minister emphasized that these sustainable methods not only save time and cost but also naturally enhance soil fertility. He projected that within two years, the nitrogen content in the soil would rise, leading to a reduced need for urea and a potential increase in yield of up to two quintals per acre. Chouhan called on all Punjab farmers to follow this model for long-term agricultural sustainability.

Source: https://krishijagran.com/news/shivraj-singh-chouhan-highlights-stubble-management-and-direct-seeding-in-punjab-to-improve-soil-fertility-and-cut-urea-use/



Microbial Mechanism Links Arsenic to Lower Rice Yields

A new study has uncovered a microbial mechanism linking arsenic contamination in soil to significantly reduced rice yields. Researchers found that arsenic dramatically increases the population and activity of a methaneproducing microbe called methanogen. This microbe fiercely competes with the rice plants for essential soil nutrients, specifically iron and phosphate. By effectively hijacking the nutrient cycle, the methanogen starves the rice, leading to lower crop productivity in contaminated areas. The findings suggest that future agricultural strategies should focus on selectively managing these specific soil microbes

rather than solely targeting arsenic. This microbial management approach offers a novel pathway for mitigating arsenic toxicity and sustainably improving food security in regions heavily reliant on rice production.

Source:https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/microbial-link-between-arsenic-in-soil-lower-rice-yield-uncovered/article70165810.ece



Symbiotec Positions India as Bridge for Biomanufacturing Scale-up

India-based Symbiotec, an manufacturer, is positioning the country as a crucial bridge for startups struggling to scale up biomanufacturing—often called the "Valley of Death." The firm, traditionally an Active Pharmaceutical Ingredient manufacturer, is operating as a Contract Development Manufacturing Organization for and sectors like alt proteins, nutraceuticals, and specialty chemicals. Symbiotec has opened four 100,000-liter new fermenters at its Ujjain facility, offering downstream extensive processing capabilities. A key advantage for startups is the significant cost reduction, with capital expenditure estimated at just a third to a quarter of US or European benchmarks. Symbiotec's deep

experience in industrial fermentation and rapid, cost-effective facility construction provides a unique, streamlined pathway for companies looking to move from pilot to industrial scale quickly.

Source: https://agfundernews.com/biomanufacturings-valley-of-death-has-a-new-bridge-in-india-says-symbiotec

Thiruvananthapuram Museum Showcases Fodder Grass Diversity

Fodder Grass Α unique Museum. operated by the State Fodder Farm at Valiyathura in Thiruvananthapuram, showcases more than twenty distinct varieties of fodder grass and crops cultivated for livestock feeding. The museum features both high-yielding hybrid varieties such as Bajra Napier and specialized species like Red Napier, offering visitors and trainees comprehensive view of the state's efforts in improving fodder production. The museum attracts farmers, students, and agricultural officers who come to learn about efficient forage management. The farm itself plays a crucial role in supporting dairy farmers across the district by supplying thousands of kilograms of fresh fodder every day. However, the Department of Dairy Development now faces major challenge. The farm's total land area has been drastically reduced from 131 acres to just nine acres over the years. This severe loss of cultivable land has sharply

restricted the farm's production capacity and made it increasingly difficult to meet the steadily rising demand for quality fodder grass from local livestock farmers.

Source:https://www.thehindu.com/life-and-style/fodder-grass-museum-state-fodder-farm-thiruvananthapuram/article70112080.ece

States told to expedite crop-loss surveys for Fasal Bima

The Union Agriculture Ministry has asked all state governments to expedite croploss surveys under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) after heavy rainfall caused extensive damage to kharif crops across several regions. States have been directed to complete mid-season loss assessments quickly, issue damage notifications without delay, and ensure faster coordination between district officials and insurance companies. The ministry has also urged states to release their share of premium subsidies on time so that insurance claims can be settled promptly. Officials highlighted that crops such as paddy, pulses, cotton and sugarcane have been badly affected this season. The ministry said it is closely monitoring claim settlements and has emphasized strict adherence to timelines to maintain farmer confidence in the scheme. States have been asked to send regular updates on loss assessments and disbursement progress.

Source:https://www.financialexpress.com/policy/economy/states-told-to-expedite-crop-loss-surveys-for-fasal-bima/4004911/



Climate Change Threatens India's Tea Industry

Climate change has been identified as one of the biggest long-term risks facing India's tea industry, according to industry experts and the Indian Tea Association (ITA). Recent events, such as the devastating floods and landslides in north Bengal, are cited as direct manifestations of these climatic adversaries, causing tragic loss of life and eroding plantation areas in Darjeeling, Terai, and Dooars. Irregular rainfall and temperature increases have already led to reduced production, with Darjeeling tea production seeing a significant shortfall. To combat these threats, the ITA is partnering with Solidaridad Asia to promote regenerative tea farming, aligning practices with Regen-Agri standards in various gardens to enhance sustainability and resilience against environmental changes.

Source:https://www.thehindu.com/business/climate-change-one-of-the-biggest-challenges-to-tea-industry-experts/article70152060.ece

GST Cut to Boost Uttarakhand's Hill Agriculture

The recent GST rate rationalization is set to provide a significant and timely boost to Uttarakhand's agricultural sector, particularly benefiting small marginal farmers across the state's 13 hill districts. The reform lowers the GST rate from 12% to 5% on several key regional agricultural products, aiming to improve both affordability and market competitiveness. The reduced tax rate applies to traditional crops such as Pahari Toor Dal, which is cultivated under the rain-fed Barahnaja mixed cropping system, and Uttarakhand Red Rice, known for its cultural heritage, nutritional value, and contribution to local agrobiodiversity. Additionally, the GI-tagged Almora Lakhori Mirchi also benefits from the tax cut introduced under this reform. This policy change is expected to make these locally reputed and often organically produced items more competitive domestic markets. in thereby improving income prospects for small and marginal farmers while encouraging sustainable and resilient hill farming practices throughout Uttarakhand. The lower price is also intended to stimulate rural employment opportunities and further strengthen the region's evolving agro-industrial base.

Source: https://www.pib.gov.in/FactsheetDetails.aspx?id=150400&NoteId=150400&ModuleId=16

Samba Paddy Cultivation Targets 4,500 Hectares in Karaikal

Samba paddy cultivation in Karaikal district is expected to cover a significant 4,500 hectares for the current season, an increase from last year's area. The Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare is actively preparing for the sowing phase, aiming to ensure a successful crop across the region. Officials are facilitating the widespread distribution of high-quality seeds and essential fertilizers to all registered cultivators.

The department is also focusing on educating farmers regarding proper agronomic practices to maximize yields and secure the crop against pests and weather variations. This ambitious coverage target is crucial for boosting the district's agricultural output and strengthening local food security.

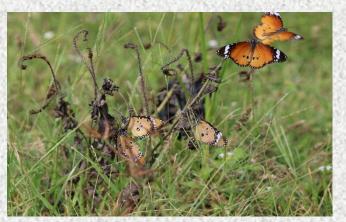
Source:https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Tiruchirapalli/sambacultivation-expected-to-cover-4500-hectares-in-karaikal-district/article70175708.ece



₹1.36 Crore for Village Biodiversity

The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare has released ₹1.36 crore to accelerate biodiversity conservation efforts in rural areas of Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh. The funds are specifically aimed at supporting the establishment and effective functioning of Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) in villages. These local committees are tasked with creating People's Biodiversity Registers (PBRs), which are comprehensive documents detailing the flora, fauna, and traditional ecological knowledge of the area. This financial injection is a strategic move to empower local governance structures to protect their ecological heritage and ensure sustainable resource management. The initiative marks a significant step toward integrating community-level action with national biodiversity conservation goals and preserving India's rich agricultural ecosystems.

Source:https://krishijagran.com/news/govt-releases-rs-136-crore-for-biodiversity-conservation-in-maharashtra-uttar-pradesh-villages/



Rabi Sowing Starts Slow Despite High Water Reserves

The initial phase of Rabi sowing shows a slightly increased overall area compared to last year, but sowing for crucial winter cereals is lagging. This mixed start occurs against a backdrop of severe, immediate weather warnings for coastal and central regions. The total area under Rabi crops stands at \$27.46\$ lakh hectares, which is \$0.53\$ lakh hectares more than the area sown last year. This early growth is mainly supported by Oilseeds, particularly Rapeseed and Mustard, and Pulses, led by Gram, which shows a positive area increase. However, sowing for Wheat is down by \$0.31\$ lakh hectares, and Rabi Rice acreage has decreased by \$0.42\$ lakh hectares. The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) forecasts an immediate threat from Cyclonic Storm "Montha", which is expected to intensify and cross the coast as a severe cyclonic storm. This system will bring isolated extremely heavy rainfall to Coastal Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and Odisha, posing a severe risk to standing Kharif crops. Crucially, the national water supply is excellent for the Rabi season, with storage in 161 major reservoirs reaching 115.95 percent of the normal ten-year average. This high reserve provides a strong buffer for mitigating irrigation, early sowing concerns.

Source: https://upag.gov.in/pdf-

reports?rurl=https%3A%2F%2Fstorage.googleapis.com%2Fupag-10-128-23-3%2FMIR-Reports-Crop-

Outlook%2FI 17615661929004877 Crop%2C Rainfall%2C Reservoir Situation as on 27 October 2025-numbered.pdf

FAO Warns of Global Setbacks on Key SDG Targets

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has warned that the world is significantly off track from meeting key 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) related to hunger, nutrition, and environmental sustainability. According to the latest report, progress is slow on 22 indicators across six SDGs. Global food insecurity has worsened drastically since 2015, with nearly 2.3 billion people facing moderate or severe food insecurity in 2024. Hunger now affects about 8.2 percent of the global population. The report highlights persistent challenges, including rising food prices, gender disparity in land ownership, and ongoing forest cover decline, despite some improvements in water-use efficiency. The FAO urgently calls for intensified global action to prevent failure on the 2030 targets.

Source: https://krishijagran.com/agriculture-world/fao-report-highlights-slow-progress-on-22-sdg-indicators-23-billion-face-food-insecurity/



Half of India's Female Agricultural Workforce is Unpaid

Despite women making up over 42% of India's agricultural workforce, nearly half of them continue to work as unpaid family labourers, reflecting severe and deep-rooted gender disparities in farm employment. Data from the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) shows that the number of women classified as unpaid family workers soared from 23.6 million to 59.1 million over eight years (2017-18 to 2024-25).

This prevalence of unpaid work limits economic empowerment, as women's labour is often seen as assisting men or as part of household duties due to patriarchal norms. The disparity is particularly pronounced in states like Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, where over half of the women engaged in agriculture remain unpaid.

Without land titles, women also struggle for recognition as "farmers," limiting their access to credit, technology, and government schemes. To promote genuine empowerment, India must dismantle systemic barriers like the wage gap and denial of land rights.

Source: https://www.thehindu.com/data/more-women-employed-in-agriculture-but-half-of-them-are-unpaid/article70124571.ece



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