

PM dedicates 17 biofortified varieties of 8 crops to the nation

In its history of 75 years, role of Food and Agriculture Organization is inevitable in increasing agricultural production, eradicating hunger and increasing nutritional security in India along with the world

PM, Shri Narendra Modi issues a Commemorative Coin of Rs. 75 on 75th Anniversary of Agriculture and Food Organization (FAO)

16th October, 2020, New Delhi

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi issued a Commemorative Coin of Rs. 75 and dedicated 17 biofortified varieties of 8 crops to the nation on the occasion of 75th Anniversary of the Agriculture and Food Organization (FAO), the United Nations today.



The biofortified varieties are 1.5 to 3.0 times more nutritious than the traditional varieties. The rice variety CR DHAN 315 has excess zinc; the Wheat variety HD 3298 is enriched with protein and iron while DBW 303 and DDW 48 are rich in protein and iron. The Maize hybrid varieties 1, 2 and 3 are enriched with lysine and tryptophan, the Finger varieties of Millet CFMV 1 and 2 are rich in calcium, iron and zinc. The CCLMV1 variety of Small Millet is rich in iron and zinc. The Pusa Mustard 32 is enriched with low Araucic Acid, while Girnar 4 and 5 varieties of Peanuts are rich in increased Oleic Acid and Yam's Shri Neelima and DA 340 varieties are enriched with Anthocyanin.



Shri Narendra Modi stressed that the improved varieties of crops achieved by the hard work of the Indian farmers will change the normal Indian Thali (food plate) into a nutritious one. He outlined about the collection of the high zinc-rich rice variety from the Garo Hills Region and Dang District of Gujarat.

Shri Modi emphasized on promoting the biofortified varieties of crops by linking them with the several government programmes namely - Mid-Day Meal, Anganwadi, etc., to make India free from malnutrition. He stressed that this will ensure good income for the farmers along with opening new avenues of entrepreneurship for them.



The PM applauded the inevitable roles of the policy-makers, Annadata Farmers, Agricultural Scientists and Anganwadi and Asha Workers who whole-heartedly helped in fighting against the COVID-19 Pandemic and acted as a link between the government and the poor sections of the society. He also accentuated on empowering the farmers to realize the dream of malnutrition-free India.

The Prime Minister stated that the event which reflects India's long-standing relationship with the FAO also reflects Government of India's priority to completely eliminate hunger, under-nutrition and malnutrition from the country.

Shri Modi also highlighted the starting of the World Food Programme during the tenure of Dr. Binay Ranjan Sen, an Officer of the Indian Civil Service as the Director General of FAO during 1956-1967. He stated about the support by the FAO to India's proposals for declaring the Year - 2016 as the International Pulses Year and the Year - 2023 as the International Year of Millet. The programme will be seen by Anganwadi Workers, Krishi Vigyan Kendras, Organic and Horticulture Missions across the country.

He also underlined the launching of the Government of India's ambitious Poshan Abhiyan targeting more than 100 million people that aims to overcome the problems like slow physical development, malnutrition, anemia and low birth weight.

The Prime Minister highlighted the major role of agriculture in contributing to the Atmanirbhar Bharat Campaign. He accentuated that the goal of self-sufficiency in agriculture is to make farmers both productive and entrepreneurs. For this, a number of agricultural reforms have been initiated. This will help the farmers to sell their products in any markets at their wills along with

earning good prices for their products. The Government has set-up a special dedicated fund of Rs. 1 Lakh Crore to provide better facilities and promote industries in the cluster-based approach.

The PM stressed that the decision of setting-up of 10,000 new Farmers' Producers' Organizations will play an important role in helping the farmers to effectively deal with the various challenges like technology, improved seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, proper finance and marketing of products faced during the agricultural production.

Shri Modi highlighted the implementation of the campaign to provide drinking water to every household at a fast pace. He mentioned the approval of 500 Water Projects worth more than Rs. 10,000 Crores for the area.

Shri Narendra Singh Tomar, Union Minister of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare; Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani, Union Minister of Women & Child Development; Shri Parshottam Rupala, Union Minister of State for Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare; Shri Kailash Choudhary, Union Minister of State for Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare; Shri Sanjay Agrawal, Secretary, Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers' Welfare, Government of India; Dr. Trilochan Mohapatra, Secretary (DARE) & Director General (ICAR) and the Representatives of FAO also virtually participated in the event. Shri Tomio Shichiri, FAO, New Delhi proposed the vote of thanks.

(Source: ICAR-Directorate of Knowledge Management in Agriculture, New Delhi)

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