

Andhra Pradesh gets Rs 1,250 Cr World Bank loan for agriculture project in climate vulnerable districts

By P Pavan, Mumbai Mirror | Updated: Nov 6, 2018

Hyderabad: Andhra Pradesh got around Rs 1,255 crore World Bank loan assistance for a project aiming at enhancing agricultural productivity.



The central government, state government and World Bank on Monday signed the loan agreement for a \$172.20 million project to enhance agricultural productivity, profitability and climate resilience of about two lakh poor and marginalised farmers in the state, while ensuring

that farming continues to remain a financially viable activity.

The AP Integrated Irrigation and Agriculture Transformation Project (APIIATP) will be implemented in rural areas largely dependent upon rain-fed agriculture. It will strengthen the resilience of poor and marginalised farmers against adverse climate events by improving access to irrigation, drought seed varieties and post-harvest technology that are aimed at improving soil health, water-use efficiency and crop productivity, according to a media release.

The project aims to work with 1,000 small-scale community-based irrigation (SSCBI) systems spread over an area of 90,000 hectares in 1,000 villages across 12 most climate vulnerable districts of Andhra Pradesh. In the recent years, climate variability has seriously affected agriculture in Andhra, where farming is largely dominated by farmers with landholdings of less than two hectares. Farmers have low crop productivity and over 55 percent of farms are dependent on rainfall. Deterioration in the quality of natural resources has affected the state's agricultural performance.

Speaking after signing the agreement, World Bank country director Junaid Ahmed said, "Strategic shifts are needed for India to transform its agriculture into a modern and resilient system, where the rural poor farmer, largely dependent on rain-fed agriculture, is able to use more climate-resilient farming technologies and conserve water, a scarce resource." He said the project would support the state's strategic shift that puts climate resilience at the core of agricultural growth and rural development.

The agreement was signed by Sameer Kumar Khare, additional secretary in the department of economic affairs (finance ministry), APIIATP state project director PS Raghavaiah and Junaid Ahmed.

Source: <https://mumbaimirror.indiatimes.com/news/india/andhra-pradesh-gets-rs-1250-cr-world-bank-loan-for-agriculture-project-in-climate-vulnerable-districts/articleshow/66516109.cms>