

## India to push for climate resilient farm practices as part of economic revival, support agriculture marketing in north-east

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**NEW DELHI:** The Centre will revive the North Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation (NERAMAC) to help farmers in eight northeastern states get



remunerative prices of agriculture-horticulture produce, promote climate-resilient and sustainable farming across India, and provide Rs 14,775 crore for additional fertilizer subsidy as part of the stimulus package this financial year.

Though the announcement on additional fertilizer subsidy was made on June 16, the Centre on Monday included it as part of the 17 key measures to give a boost to the pandemic-hit economy and support

different sections of society.

Under the allocation, Rs 9,125 crore additional subsidy will be meant for DAP fertilizer while Rs 5,650 crore will be earmarked for additional subsidy for NPK based complex fertilizer. The additional allocation will increase the overall nutrient-based subsidy (NBS) from Rs 27,500 crore to Rs 42,275 crore in 2021-22.

Under the agriculture marketing revival package, the finance ministry announced to provide Rs 77.45 crore to the NERAMAC which was established in 1982 to support farmers of the North-East. The move aims to enhance agricultural, procurement, processing and marketing infrastructure in all the north-eastern states.

The Corporation has already facilitated the registration of 13 Geographical Indicator (GI) crops of North-East. It has prepared a business plan to give 10-15% higher price to farmers by eliminating the system of middlemen/agents. There is also a proposal to set up North-Eastern Centre for Organic Cultivation, facilitating equity finance to entrepreneurs.

As part of promoting sustainable farming, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) will release climate-resilient special traits varieties (tolerant to diseases, insect, pests, drought, salinity, and flooding and early maturing) of crops to support farmers and encourage them to opt for sustainable agriculture.

The ICAR has already developed bio-fortified crop varieties having high nutrients like protein, iron, zinc, vitamin-A. Twenty-one such varieties of rice, peas, millet, maize, soybean, quinoa, buckwheat, winged bean, pigeon pea and sorghum will soon be released for use.

Earlier, the focus on developing higher yield crop varieties lacked attention towards nutrition, climate resilience and other traits. In these varieties, the concentration of important nutrients was far below the required level, and they were susceptible to biotic and abiotic stresses, causing heavy losses to farmers.

**Source:** <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/india-to-push-for-climate-resilient-farm-practices-as-part-of-economic-revival-support-agriculture-marketing-in-north-east/articleshow/83927160.cms>