

To promote PM Fasal Bima Yojana, Govt targets over 1 crore farmers

Normal monsoon forecast may affect enrolment, fears Centre

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New Delhi, April 26

On Wednesday, over one crore farmers will tune into Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar speech on the benefits of the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY). They are expected to listen to the minister's address through gram sabhas, common service centres (CSCs), primary agri cooperative societies (PACS) and farmer producers organisations (FPOs).

Last week, Tomar had written to all Members of Parliament to participate in the programme preferably at a place in their constituency while mobilising maximum number of farmers for the programme. He also asked them to coordinate with district



magistrates concerned for the success of the event.

Interaction with farmers

The Centre also requested all State Agriculture Ministers to be present at the event in which Tomar will interact with three pre-identified farmer-beneficiaries each, from Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Odisha on PMFBY-related topics and with Assam and Maharashtra on issues related to Kisan Credit Card (KCC) and on revised weather-based crop insurance scheme with growers from Himachal Pradesh.

States like Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana

and Tamil Nadu have also been asked to ensure larger participation of farmers in the programme to be webcast through CSCs and other agencies.

"We have been providing various services to farmers like tele-consultations, Fasal Bima, KCC and PM Kisan schemes. The 'Kisan Bhagidari, Prathamikta Hamari' campaign initiated by the Ministry of Agriculture will help us reach out to farmers through the combined efforts of our VLEs and Gram Sabhas," said Dinesh Tyagi, Managing Director of CSC SPV.

"Though there is no concern in the States where PMFBY is under implementation, the gov-

ernment is worried about a possible lower enrollment this kharif in view of expectations of a normal monsoon," said an expert.

Lower enrolment

During the last kharif season, 1.5 crore farmers had registered — a 10.5 per cent drop from previous season.

Though there was lower enrolment of farmers, there was an increase in farmers' applications as the land records got digitised in some States and also linked with the scheme. If one farmer has land at two places, he has to file applications separately for both the places as both premium and crop may be different in each location.

For instance, in Rajasthan 30.92 lakh farmers got enrolled during kharif 2021 against 30.45 lakh in the previous season. But, farmers' applications jumped to 1.89 crore in 2021 from 67.2 lakh in 2020 kharif