

Oil palm sector in Telangana gets a ₹1,000-cr boost

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The Telangana government has provided ₹1,000 crore in Budgetary support to the oil palm sector in the Budget tabled in the State Assembly on Monday. This is expected to go a long way in achieving the ambitious target that the State has set to promote the plantation crop on 8.5 lakh hectares.

A couple of years ago, the State Government launched an action plan to increase the area under oil palm plantations by 40 times — from the current 20,350 hectares to 8.5 lakh hectares. A predomi-



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antly rainfed region, the State has significantly augmented irrigation facilities by constructing the

Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation project and the ancillary projects under the project. Backed by increased irrigation facilities, the State Government had set its eyes on oil palm cultivation to diversify the cropping system in the State. It wanted a section of farmers to shift to oil palm from paddy and maize.

Oil palm companies have started focussing on Telangana chalking out expansion plans.

SURGING CONSUMPTION

“The consumption of palm oil has seen significant growth in India in the last 20 years,” a senior State government official said.

As the country predominantly depends on imports to meet the palm oil demand, there is a huge scope for the growth of oil palm cultivation. “We set up a technical committee to study the feasibility for oil palm cultivation in the State. It suggested that the plantation crop can be grown in 25 out of the 33 districts,” Agriculture Minister S Niranjan Reddy said.

DEDICATED PORTAL

With a view to ensure smooth coordination among the farmers, the Horticulture Department and other stakeholders, the State launched a web portal and an app on Monday evening.