

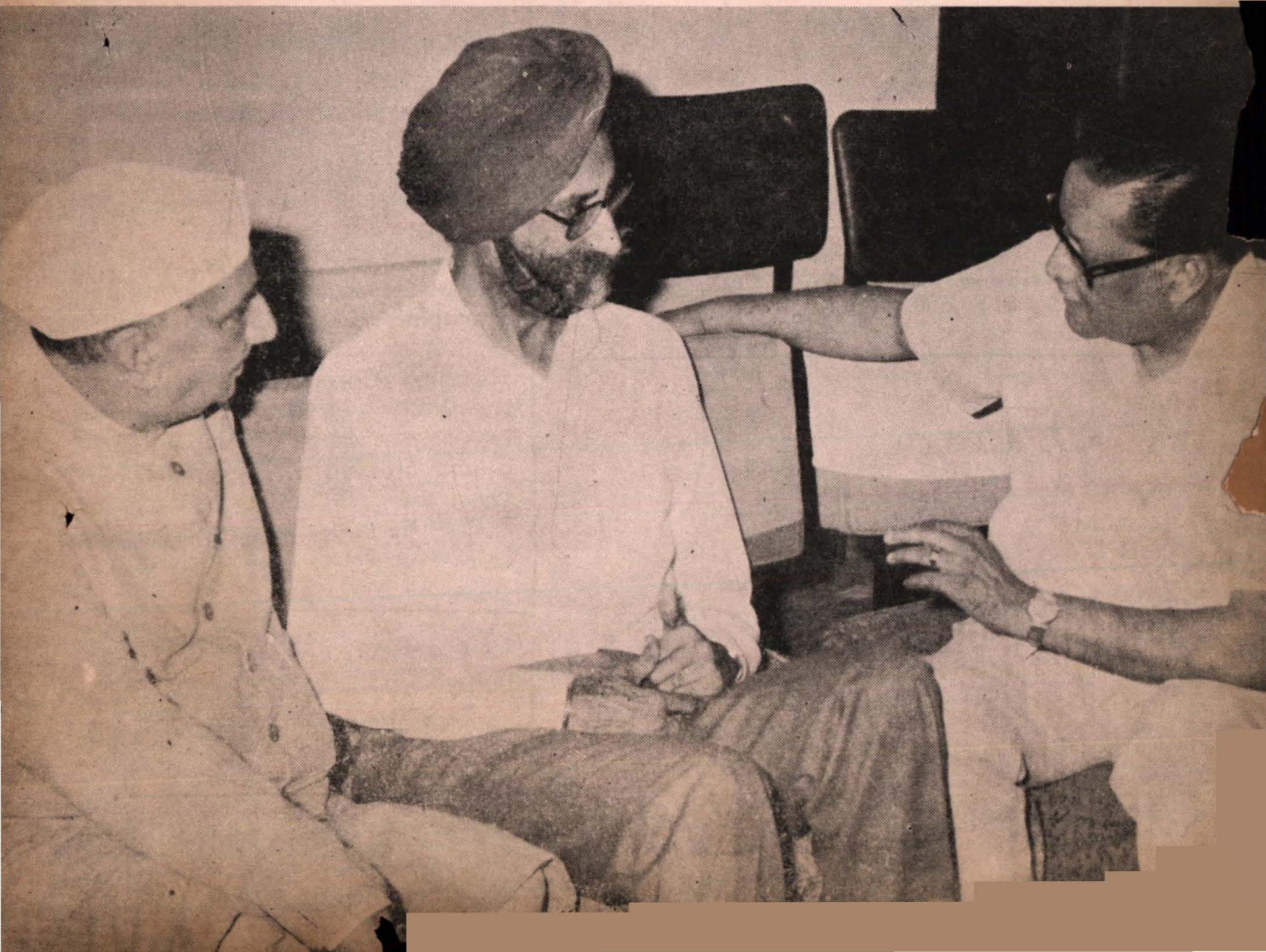


Dr. Punjab Rao Deshmukh,
Founder President

KRISHAK SAMACHAR

- ★ 12 Pt. Strategy for Agri. Development — Barnala Union Agriculture Minister
- ★ 18 acre land is non-incentive to a good farmer — Rajendra Singh U.P. Agriculture
- ★ Rice, Paddy Procurement Price raised

Union Agriculture & Irrigation Minister and new President of Bharat Krishak Samaj, Shri Surjit Singh Ba
Dr. S. R. Barooah, Chief Editor Krishak Samachar while he was interviewing him. On left : Shri S.N. Mushran
& Publication Trust & former Finance Minister of M.P.



KRISHAK SAMACHAR

ORGAN OF BHARAT KRISHAK SAMAJ

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Our Cover : Mr. Barnala being interviewed
by Dr. S. R. Barooah

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cides Formulators Association of
India.

*The views expressed in
this issue are not
necessarily of the editor
and publisher.*

Effective implementation of Resolutions

The Bharat Krishak Samaj in its 17th National Convention held at Hyderabad on 25th and 26th June resolved that the Panel from Bharat Krishak Samaj will be formed for the effective implementation and follow up of the resolutions passed in the Convention of Bharat Krishak Samaj, since such resolutions are the outcome of the practical suggestions of farmers. In pursuance of the resolution, the Chairman of the Bharat Krishak Samaj has constituted a Panel consisting of Shri Nathu Ram Mirdha, M.P., ex-Chairman, National Commission on Agriculture, Shri Param Pal Singh, a progressive farmer of Punjab, Shri Jagdeesh Kodesia, Secretary World Agriculture Fair Memorial Trust, Shri S.M. Wahi, Chairman, Farmers Cooperative Bank of India, Dr. S.R. Barooah, Managing Trustee, Farmers and Publication Trust and Chief Editor, Krishak Samachar and Dr. D.A. Bholay Secretary General, Bharat Krishak Samaj who will be the Member-Secretary. Shri R. Srinivasan, Chairman, Bharat Krishak Samaj will be the President of the Panel.

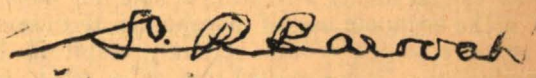
This is a step in the right direction taken at a right time by the Bharat Krishak Samaj. We congratulate the BKS for acting on the resolutions passed by the Convention and we hope that the Panel will meet regularly from time to time as most of the members on the Panel are in Delhi and will see that the resolutions adopted by the Convention are implemented effectively by the Central Government, State Governments Institutional agencies and the State Branches of the Bharat Krishak Samaj. This also requires sustained efforts.

It will be in fitness of things if the Union Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation will also constitute a small Committee of the concerned Officers of the Ministry and other ministries under the Chairmanship of the Union Minister or Minister of State for Agriculture to study the resolutions passed by the Bharat Krishak Samaj during their 17th Convention at Hyderabad and also the earlier resolutions and take necessary steps for implementation on the recommendations which requires Government's action.

We would also like to suggest that the Committee of the Ministry of Agriculture and the Panel of the Bharat Krishak Samaj can also have joint meetings on regular intervals of 3 months to review the progress so that the resolutions are implemented on a time bound basis by all concerned.

We would also like to submit to the State Governments that they may also constitute similar committees under the Chairmanship of the Minister of Agriculture with representatives from other concerned Departments of the State and consider the recommendations made by Bharat Krishak Samaj both at Central level and also by State Units. The State Units of the Bharat Krishak Samaj should also constitute similar Panel immediately as constituted by the Chairman of Bharat Krishak Samaj for effective implementation of the resolutions passed by the Annual Convention of Bharat Krishak Samaj.

This requires our urgent, sincere and sustained attention and we are sure that everyone of us will act in a constructive time bound approach.



Chief Editor

INTERVIEW WITH

Ch. CHARAN SINGH, Union Home
Minister on Agriculture in the

NEXT ISSUE

of KRISHAK SAMACHAR.

Readers are requested to send letters
to the Editor and also
questions on agriculture.

Procurement price for Paddy, rice raised

The government has decided to remove the zonal restrictions on the movement of paddy and rice from October 1 this year. Under the new kharif prices and procurement policy announced on 29-9-77 the procurement price for paddy has been raised to Rs. 77 per quintal against Rs. 74 last season. The prices of coarse grains will, however, remain unchanged at Rs. 74 per quintal.

Announcing this at a press conference after the Cabinet meeting Mr. S. S. Barnala, Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation, declared that even though the procurement prices for various grades of paddy were being raised, the government had decided not to alter the existing issue price of rice. For an increase of Rs. 3 per quintal in the price of paddy, the rice price normally would have gone up by Rs. 5 per quintal.

Mr. Barnala said that since no procurement target was being fixed the scheme of procurement bonus for rice has been scrapped.

The agriculture minister made an advance announcement of a higher prices of Rs. 125 per quintal for procurement of gram during the forthcoming rabi crop. The existing price being Rs. 95 per quintal, an increase of about 30 per cent has been allowed by the Government with a view to attracting larger area under gram which is one of main pulses crop in the country. The government believes that higher prices will enable the cultivators to make adequate use of phosphatic fertilisers and pesticides which would certainly result in higher production. It is expected that as a result of the latest decision, the gram output would go up to 7 million tonnes against the last year's production of 5.5 million tonnes.

He said that as a result of higher procurement prices of paddy, the price of short bold coarse rice will be Rs. 135 per quintal and that of long bold and medium Rs. 150 per quintal. These prices will be ex-FCI godowns.

Although no procurement target as such had been fixed for rice as well as coarse grains, Mr. Barnala emphatically stated that the official agencies will be willing to purchase all the available cereals at the prices announced by the government. Under no circumstances would the prices be allowed to fall below the support prices. The government had done so in the case of wheat.

Mr. Barnala also announced that the millers will be paid a premium of Rs. 5 per quintal for processing parboiled rice. This premium will not only be available for the current year but will also cover the next two years. He said that this step had been taken to encourage processing of parboiled rice and to encourage the millers to invest in machinery for processing this variety of rice.

The agriculture and irrigation minister told newsmen that with removal of restrictions on the movement of rice and paddy and the entry of private trade it would be possible for the cultivators to realise economic prices. Besides, the availability, particularly in the deficit states, will substantially improve.

Even though the government has not fixed any target for procurement of rice, it is generally believed that as in the case of wheat the official agencies might have to procure sizable quantities as a price support measure keeping in view the bumper paddy crop this year.

In its report released today, the APC has recommended that in view of the suggested rationalisation, the procurement price for the coarse variety of paddy for the 1977-78 marketing season be fixed at Rs. 77 per quintal. It is stated that the procurement prices for the different varieties of rice be derived from the procurement prices for the respective varieties of paddy on the basis of hulling/milling ratios and the processing and incidental charges obtaining in different states.

The APC has also recommended that the existing procurement price of Rs. 74 per quintal for jowar, bajra, maize and ragi be kept unchanged and the target for procurement of rice be fixed at 5 million tonnes.

Thus, while the government has accepted the prices suggested by the APC for different cereals, no procurement target has been fixed. The APC suggestion for selective enlargement of existing rice zone has also been set aside.

The government has apparently decided to remove zonal restrictions on movement of rice and paddy in view of the massive stocks already lying in its godowns. At present, out of a total stock of 19.5 million tonnes of food grains, rice stocks are estimated at 4.51 million tonnes.

Barnala's 12 Point Strategy for Agricultural Development

Sardar Surjit Singh Barnala in an exclusive interview with Dr. S.R. Barooah, Chief Editor of Krishak Samachar said that the accent on agricultural development in the policy statements of the Janata Government is much more than a mere preference for this sector relative to the industrial sector, it is also much more than a mere concern for increasing agricultural productivity which, admittedly, is low by the standard of agriculturally developed countries.

Government are so concerned about agriculture as about rural development and this distribution of emphasis is the true index to their thinking which regards agricultural development as an instrument of economic well-being for the larger number of the Indian people.

About eighty per cent of the Indian people live in rural areas and nearly forty-five per cent of them are below the poverty line (viz. spend less than Rs. 20/-per month at 1964-65 prices).

Sardar Barnala is a Law Graduate and also a farmer. He has got a seven acres farm at Dhaula Village in Sangrur District of Punjab. He grows mainly wheat, cotton, maize and gram. A very pleasing personality, always greets you with a smile. He is ever ready to discuss the various development programmes of agriculture in the country.

Sardar Barnala told that the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation has drawn up a 12 point strategy for agricultural development. The 12 points are :

- (i) Agricultural and rural development should be viewed together and any approach emphasising the former at the expense of the latter should be discouraged.
- (ii) Irrigation development must be accorded a very high priority and an effort should be made to remove the present constraints.
- (iii) Soil conservation and land development programmes should be intensified in unirrigated and erosion-prone areas.
- (iv) Production of pulses and oilseeds has to receive much greater attention.
- (v) Alongside crop production, programmes for development of subsidiary occupations among small and marginal farmers have to be developed. These programmes should be supported by adequate processing and marketing arrangements.
- (vi) Exploitation of the country's fishery resources (both inland and marine) should receive much greater emphasis.
- (vii) Efforts have to be made to increase the supply of institutional credit, especially short-term credit. A programme of doubling short-term credit supply in three years' time has to be taken up.

- (viii) Land reforms should be vigorously pursued so that the pace of allotment of ceiling-surplus lands to the landless is accelerated. Efforts should also be made to ensure that ownership of land vests in the tiller. Pragmentation of holdings has to be contained.
- (ix) Schemes of generating employment in rural areas through utilisation of local resources have to be given special attention in order that the economically weaker sections of rural population are benefitted from the development process.
- (x) Panchayat Raj bodies and cooperative institutions should be revitalised. Elections to these bodies should no longer be deferred.
- (xi) Price-support and price stabilisation measures should be accepted as essential ingredients of agricultural policy.
- (xii) Re-organisation of agricultural administration should be taken up with a view of developing a competent and well-trained cadre of agriculture officers and decentralising decision-making. Administrative policy should also aim at closely integrating research and development efforts.

Importance on Irrigation

Sardar Barnala also emphasised that he would like to give very high priority on irrigation which is one of the 12 point strategy. He mentioned that on irrigation he would like to emphasise on the following :

- (i) All on-going major and medium projects will have to be followed up and monitored so that bottlenecks do not upset the schedule of completion. As a matter of fact, every effort has to be made to advance this schedule.
- (ii) New Projects would have to be developed and the present paucity of well investigated projects removed. This will require rigorous

planning of investigation and formulation of project reports.

- (iii) Ground water development, particularly in States with large ground water resources, has to be intensified. The objectives should be almost total exploitation of resources in these States.
- (iv) Development of command areas would have to be given very high priority so that the potential created is actually utilised. Of equal importance is the remodelling and modernisation of existing systems which are threatened with the loss of their command areas.
- (v) Inter-State water disputes would have to be expeditiously resolved.
- (vi) The present system of Centre-State consultations both in regard to irrigation and flood control would have to be improved.

Rain-Fed Areas

Sardar Barnala was also very much concerned with the areas without any assured irrigation. He said that large areas will continue with unirrigated agriculture even after extensive irrigation development. The incidence in rural indebtedness is already high in these areas where, to make matters worse, degraded and erosion-prone soils constitute large-tracts. The approach in such areas has to be two-fold.

Firstly, dry farming technology has to be conveyed to farmers.

Secondly, a large soil conservation and land development programme—which, incidentally, would generate substantial employment—would have to be mounted.

High Priority for Pulses and Oilseeds Production

Sardar Barnala said apart from food crops, emphasis will have to be placed on pulses and oilseeds crops in view of the continued shortage of pulses and edible oils. Programme has already been drawn up by the Ministry for this.

Price of Inputs

Dr. Barooah mentioned to Sardar Barnala that the farmers feel that the price of inputs are very high. Sardar Barnala agreed to this and said that something needs to be done to bring down the prices of such inputs as fertilizers, pesticides, tractors, equipments etc. so that prices of agriculture produce can be more remunerative to the farmers and can be brought down.

Role of Bharat Krishak Samaj

Dr. Barooah said that Bharat Krishak Samaj is a very big and well established organisation of farmers throughout the country having units in all the States with a life membership of 15000 progressive farmers and over one million farmers as ordinary members. As such he asked what should be their

(Contd. on next page)



प्रकृति को सहारा दीजिए और अच्छी फसल उगाइए

सेन्ट्रल बैंक से खेती के लिए वित्तीय सहायता लीजिए

आपकी जमीन सोने की खदान जैसी है, यदि आप उसका उपयोग भली भाँति करते हैं—उसकी देखभाल ठीक तरह से करते हैं तो आप उससे बहुत आमदनी पा सकते हैं. अधिक-से-अधिक फसल उगाने के लिए आपको भी जमीन को उपजाऊ बनाने के लिए मेहनत करनी पड़ेगी. इसलिए, सेन्ट्रल बैंक से खेती के लिए वित्तीय सहायता लीजिए—अच्छी खाद डालकर अपनी जमीन को एक नयी जिंदगी दीजिए: कुआँ खोदिए—जरूरत के मुताबिक जमीन की सिंचाई कीजिए, अच्छे बीजों का उपयोग कीजिए और कई गुनी उपज पैदा कीजिए, सेन्ट्रल बैंक की मदद से प्रकृति को सहारा दीजिए और देखिए कि आपकी आमदनी भी कई गुना बढ़ जायेगी.



सेन्ट्रल बैंक ऑफ़ इंडिया

(भारत सरकार का उपक्रम)

यहाँ यह बैंक है जो हर तरह हर मनुष्य को सहायता देने में तैयार है

18-acre Irrigated Land is not enough incentive to progressive farmers—

Rajendra Singh

U. P. Agriculture Minister

Mr. Rajendra Singh, Minister for Agriculture, Uttar Pradesh in an exclusive interview to Dr. S.R. Barooah, Chief Editor, Krishak Samachar at Lucknow stated that he left profession of law to take up agriculture as his main occupation and devoted his entire energy in farming. He emphatically mentioned that he finds that the land ceiling imposed by the Government i.e. 18 acres standard of land does not give him enough incentive to take up farming. He further mentioned that it is also true with the all progressive farmers and they are finding it very difficult to maintain their own proper standard. He feels that some changes are required.

Mr. Rajender Singh who is M.A.L.L.B., hails from Kaingth village of Aligarh District is a very pleasant personality with full of life, vigour and very keen to improve agricultural production in Uttar Pradesh. He is a progressive farmer with 18 acres of land growing potatoes, wheat etc. He produces quality seeds for National Seeds Corporation. He drives his own tractor and grew with farming from childhood.

Priority for Oilseed and Pulse Production

Mr. Singh told Dr. Barooah that the Uttar Pradesh Government is giving highest priority for producing pulses, oilseeds, sugarcane, wheat, potatoes, vegetables etc.

Subsidy on Phosphatic and Potassic Fertilizers for first time

He further mentioned that 20% subsidy is given on phosphatic and potassic fertilizers to all farmers and in case of small and marginal farmers, a subsidy of 30% is given. This is being done in order to increase the use of phosphatic and potassic fertilizers for increasing agriculture production as these are considered to be very essential fertilizers apart from Nitrogenous fertilizers. This is the first time such subsidy has been given to farmers by the U.P. Government.

(Contd. from previous page)

role in agricultural production and how can they help the Government both in the Centre and in the States. Sardar Barnala said that Bharat Krishak Samaj should work closely with the extension agencies of the State and Centre and work as an extension channel. He further mentioned that progressive farmers can play the role of non-official extension agents to bring to the doors of the farmers the latest technology and help them.

Subsidy for Plant Protection upto 50% in Hill area

As far as Plant Protection is concerned, 50% subsidy is given for all crops in Hill area. This is to encourage plant protection measure to control pests and disease in Hills.

Mr. Rajendra Singh feels very strongly that the price of inputs more particularly fertilizers, pesticides, tractors and other machinery are very high and also the other requirements of farmers. The price of inputs should be brought down by reducing various taxes and by cutting down the cost of production.

Price of Agricultural produce should be Remunerative

He also feels that the price of agriculture produce should be remunerative so as to give incentive to the farmers to increase the agricultural production.

Bharat Krishak Samaj should work closely with Agriculture Department

When Dr. Barooah asked what should be the role of Bharat Krishak Samaj in increasing agricultural production, Mr. Singh said that they should work very closely with the extension staff of the Agriculture Department so that the latest technology is brought to the doors of all the farmers and thus increase agricultural production.

Strong Link between the farmers and the Gram Sewak is a must

Mr. Singh also mentioned that Gram Sevak should be made a more effective link between the farmers and the Agriculture Department. He considers this to be a must.

Voluntary Organisations to be Encouraged

In this connection, Sardar Barnala said that he would like to encourage good voluntary organisations in helping the Government in rural development programmes for which the Government has given the highest priority. As such he feels that Bharat Krishak Samaj and such other organisations have a great role to play in the development of rural economy.

Seventh Triennial Convention of Bharatiya Grameen Mahila Sangh

Mrs. Renuka Barkataki inaugurated

Mrs. Renuka Barkataki, Union State Minister for Education and Social Welfare inaugurated the Convention on 1st of September, 1977 at New Delhi. She praised the 20 years service of the G.M. Sangh in the field of rural women which is one of the neglected sectors.

She said—women shoulder the burden of agricultural labour. The committee on the status of women in India has clearly brought out how the processes of development are pushing women further, and further behind. Although women contribute substantially to work on the farm and at home their economics is neither understood nor appreciated in the local or national set up. Thus the major challenges before us is to increase the productivity of women in rural areas by training them in modern techniques, giving them education and training for employment.

We should come forward to release the burden of her work and drudgery so that she could find time for other welfare activities, so she could develop her personality. Secondly our programmes should be very relevant and realistic to the environment of rural women. Programmes like literacy may be resisted by them.

Education undoubtedly is the most powerful and vital of all the instruments that can help people and particularly women in improving their lot. Government and our people should pay immediate attention to the women's education. The problems of developing society cannot be tackled if we do not provide opportunity for the adult women to literate them without school going.

There are economical, social and attitudinal factors that are responsible for lower percentage of girls education at all levels. 'The report of the committee on the status of women, alarms that out of every 100 women in the age group of 15-25, 7 are in educational institutions, 18 are drop outs, and 75 are illiterate. Many organisations like G.M. Sangh are doing good work in non-formal education field of women. If every educated man or woman make one or more persons literate, the quick results can be obtained.

We have to change our attitude towards education. It should not be a passport to a charmed circle or higher status in marriage but it should contribute to economic and all round development of the nation. We need massive movement of continuous adult education for adult women.

2nd October, 1978 will herald in an intensive effort in the sphere of adult education. It will be a wonderful thing if women's organisations could give a lead in this matter. The convention has this important task of outliving the strategy by which

to draw up a massive programme of achieving literacy and adult education for women in the 15-50 age group within the next decade.

Voluntary organisations need to come in, in a massive way, because it is they who can feel the pulse of the people at the local level. It is my concern that we have not yet been able to develop a good *mahila mandal* in every village. The work of educating every adult is possible by setting up local *mahila mandals* so that every woman in the country can be reached in an effort to, using Mahatma Gandhi's words, 'wipe out every tear from every eye.'

Mrs. A. Wahabuddin, Secretary of the B.G.M.S. welcomed the minister and other guests.

Sarojini Varaddapan, Chairman Social Welfare Board read out the keynote address.

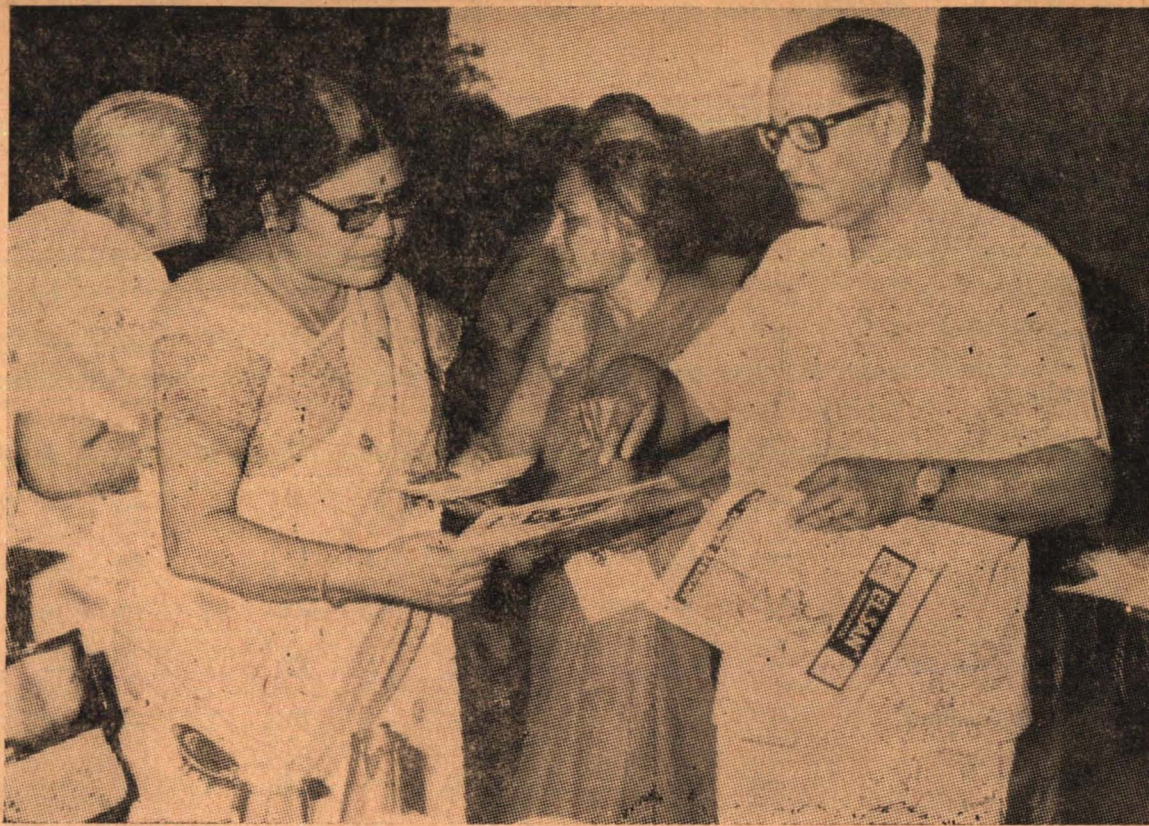
50% of the human resources available for development are women. Thus it is of vital importance to integrate women in the development process if the development we aspire for has to succeed.

The First Five Year Action Programmes (1975-80) recommended by the World Plan of Action of women rightly focus attention on the integration of rural women. This fits in well with the policies of our Government that emphasis rural development and is also well in time with the integrated rural development activity.

In agriculture women have been contributing to subsistence farming. While modern agricultural techniques have thrown out women back to their homes with less participation in farming. The plight of the rural women is not a happy one. Besides full time agriculture work, she is involved in primitive toil, attends to the household works and may even attend to transport and marketing of her produce at the village level.

The rural-women must, therefore, be given the impetus to acquire the capacity and opportunity of organising themselves as vital participants in development. These women must be eased for their traditional tasks. They must be more educated in order to achieve greater dignity and status.

One BGMS Branch Indore under the personal interest taken by Smt. Krishna Agarwal has done tremendous work in this. I have seen their achievements in villages. She had very successfully introduced the non-formal education among the rural women and changed their total outlook and we see a great change in them. They have even brought out a book called "Grameen Jeevan Jyoti". Nearly 10,000 women have benefited from this programme. The other branches of our BGMS in A.P., Punjab, Andhra Pradesh, Tamilnadu, Delhi, West-Bengal & Tripura are also doing good work.



Dr. S.R. Barooah, Chief Editor Krishak Samachar presenting the latest issue to Mrs. Renuka Barkataki, Union State Minister for Education during the session of Grameen Mahila Sangh

It is important that food aid should encourage and help local agriculture, and certainly it should in no sense be a disincentive to the achieving of self sufficiency.

The importance of nutrition to women's health, without which they cannot function as efficient mothers or undertake the many other tasks, required of them, cannot be over emphasised.

It is clear that an educated mother with high cultural standards is better equipped to cope with difficult complex of duties linked with the upbringing of children in contemporary society. The participation of the mother in public production and in Social life expands her outlook raises her occupational competence and civic consciousness and therefore, enhances her prestige in the eyes of the children and helps her supplying comprehensive answers to the thousands of their "Whys".

Free times plays an important role in the all round development of the individual. As the productive forces grow on the basis of scientific and technological, the communal services develop technology to be introduced into homes, the load of household duties to be distributed more evenly and the gap between the free time of women and men should gradually narrowed down.

Resolutions

1. The Govt. of India has to provide a full representation to their organisation in the different Govt. departments and Council working at different levels.
2. The delegates after a detailed discussions felt that there should be an involvement of the organisation at the planning and implementing stages of all the government policies concerning education and social welfare schemes for rural India.
3. The Govt. should provide grants for continuous working of the programmes for rural welfare and substantial finance should be made available, so that, these programmes should be implemented without any financial, or working problems.
4. The rural problems should be earmarked to each organisation and there should be no duplication of work either with the Govt. or with the other social welfare organisation.
5. BGMS with its vast membership and organised branches all over the country, covering different rural areas of India should work in close coordination with the rural policies of Govt. of India.
6. The Bharatiya Grameen Mahila Sangh fully supports the Govt. of India's policy for prohibition in the country and supports all anti-dowry laws.

Bharat Krishak Samaj Life Members:- 1954-1977

S. No.	STATE	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968-69	1969-70	1970-71	1971-72	1972-73	1973-74	1974-75	1975-76	1976-77	Total
1.	Andhra Pradesh	—	2	16	14	21	8	33	24	19	1	27	5	30	5	16	2	1	33	24	19	16	57	3	376
2.	Arunachal Pradesh																								
3.	Assam	—	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	1	1	3	10	—	2	—	—	—	23
4.	Bihar	—	3	3	10	12	22	17	3	5	—	1	3	1	10	6	6	2	3	1	—	2	8	—	118
5.	Chandigarh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
6.	Delhi	1	—	2	4	2	6	2	4	11	4	4	8	4	5	10	1	2	3	6	8	4	4	1	96
7.	Goa	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	26	7	—	2	9	—	—	—	1	47
8.	Gujarat	—	4	9	18	14	8	12	12	—	48	11	136	5	5	18	90	4	13	—	5	—	—	1	413
9.	Haryana	—	2	14	1	20	80	644	71	19	19	2	18	32	10	70	2	7	2	90	—	—	5	14	1122
10.	Himachal Pradesh	—	—	1	3	1	1	33	13	1	—	1	4	2	18	6	2	—	2	6	—	—	9	4	107
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	—	—	—	1	—	—	10	2	—	—	—	—	4	3	2	—	5	2	1	—	—	—	1	31
12.	Karnataka	—	4	20	34	40	6	5	1	8	—	11	3	5	10	12	7	6	31	21	1	13	6	5	249
13.	Kerala	—	6	1	4	1	43	130	4	3	2	2	5	3	5	6	—	1	5	2	3	1	2	—	229
14.	Madhya Pradesh	—	1	18	6	103	120	157	118	97	74	101	81	23	12	51	130	29	65	18	19	28	231	487	1969
15.	Maharashtra	—	14	164	266	191	372	1563	400	259	162	96	383	189	160	318	132	119	159	255	169	175	143	182	5871
16.	Manipur	—	—	—	—	—	1	6	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10
17.	Meghalaya	—	—	—	3	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
18.	Mizoram	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	2
19.	Nagaland	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
20.	Orissa	—	—	9	2	10	26	16	13	10	63	60	36	51	1	86	64	5	103	1	5	2	1	36	600
21.	Pondicherry	—	—	—	1	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	6
22.	Punjab	—	1	114	12	74	48	677	238	33	59	27	15	14	17	63	9	4	9	13	9	12	13	124	1585
23.	Rajasthan	—	—	—	5	8	4	5	1	1	2	4	5	3	29	27	—	—	—	60	3	7	19	37	220
24.	Tamilnadu	—	3	12	33	162	47	30	79	15	25	35	64	27	12	4	52	15	13	32	11	31	17	9	728
25.	Tripura	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	4	4	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	13
26.	Uttar Pradesh	1	12	22	12	15	7	12	5	4	5	7	17	129	11	4	11	165	91	25	4	—	7	183	749
27.	West Bengal	—	1	5	2	1	3	6	3	3	5	3	15	7	1	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	3	—	61
28.	Other Places	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	4
	Total	2	53	412	432	677	806	3361	994	488	470	396	803	533	316	728	517	372	547	568	259	291	526	1088	14639

Award Presentation to Krishi & Udyan Pandits

Secretary Agriculture Shri G.V.K. Rao welcomed the guests and award winners

It is my privilege to extend to you all a cordial welcome to this function. We have assembled here to honour the winners of the All India Crop Competitions and Udyan Pandit Competitions held during 1975-76 and Urban Compost Production Competitions. The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation attaches great importance to these competitions which are now being organised for over two decades as these competitions create a conducive atmosphere amongst the farmer in their bid to adopt the latest scientific techniques in farming with a view to maximising the production of cereal and fruits. As a token of our appreciation of the role played by our progressive farmers in improving Indian agriculture and setting up standards for the multitude of farmers to follow, we honour the winners of these competition every year.

The first six winners of State Level Competition in cereal crops organised by the State Governments during the year are made eligible to compete in the All India Competitions organised by our Ministry in the following year. The active involvement and cooperation of all the State Governments is, therefore, necessary.

During the year 1975-76, the competition at the All India Level were held for Paddy and Wheat crops. Elaborate steps are taken to ensure that the crop cutting and recording of the yields is effected in the direct fair manner. These operations are conducted under supervision of a panel of experts drawn from different Agricultural Departments of States, Central and the Agricultural Universities. In the All India crop competition, the First Prize winner in each crop is awarded the title of Krishi Pandit and a sum of Rs. 3,000/-, Second Prize winner gets a certificate of Merit and cash award of Rs. 1,200/- and the Third Prize winner gets a certificate of Merit and a cash award of Rs. 800/-

In the All India Crop Competition (1975-76) for Paddy 24 farmers participated mainly from the States of Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur and Gujarat. In Wheat Crop Competition, 10 farmers from Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat participated.

In Udyan Pandit Competitions the first and second prize winners of the State Level Competitions are allowed to contest on the All India level. In the All India Udyan Pandit Competition, the first prize winner is awarded a title of Udyan Pandit, a bronze medal and a sum of Rs. 5,000/- and the

second prize winner gets a certificate of merit and a cash award of Rs. 2,000/-. During 1975-76, competitions were conducted in Guava for the award of Udyan Pandit. The competitors were from the States of Punjab, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Bihar, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. We would like the other States also to take effective steps enabling their farmers to participate in the All India Competitions.

The production of cereals, particularly wheat and rice has witnessed appreciable increase. Since 1966-67 to 1975-76 the production of wheat increased from 11 million tonnes to over 28 million tonnes. Similarly, the production of rice has shown a rising trend; during 1975-76 the production was about 49 million tonnes.

I am happy to note that the experiences and specialisation of our best cultivators, who are amongst us now are being utilised to develop agricultural leadership in their respective areas. The Krishi Pandit and Udyan Pandits are being encouraged to take part in the broadcast at the local Radio Stations and are also act as convenors of the Farmers Discussion Groups or *Charcha Mandals* in their Blocks and Districts. We are also trying to see that, whenever possible, their farms, which serve as model for others, are used for training the other farmers. I am sure that the Krishi Pandits, Udyan Pandits and other prize winners assembled here, would dedicate to the course of spreading new agricultural technology amongst the other farmers and inspire them to follow such practices by paying special attention to small and marginal farmers and other weaker sections.

Mr. Surjit Singh Barnala, Union Agriculture and Irrigation Minister Spoke while presenting the awards to Udyan and Krishi Pandits.

It is encouraging to note that these competitions generate and promote a spirit of healthy competition amongst the farmers towards achieving higher levels of production by increasing the per-hectare yields of important cereal and fruit crops in the country. These competitions focus attention on what modern Indian agriculture can achieve with improved technology when effectively organised. The standards of excellence in crop production are rapidly being improved upon and a new entrepreneurial class of farmers is emerging in Indian Agriculture. Their farms have demonstrated the most convincing proof of the production levels that can be achieved in the country and geared to the potential of the other

farmers. Their success in raising the production levels is also a tribute to our research scientists and efforts made by the Extension functionaries. But the credit for this should really belong, in the ultimate analysis, to the Indian farmer for his readiness to accept innovations.

On the production front, our main strategy is now on increasing the productivity per unit of cropped area. Fortunately, this holds tremendous prospects. The very purpose of these competitions among farmers is to demonstrate how one can increase productivity per unit of area. What a single farmer has demonstrated can certainly be repeated by others. Apart from increasing the irrigated area significantly during the remainder of the 5th Plan and accelerating its pace during the 6th Plan, our approach will be to improve and stabilise the production in the dry areas and take up a large soil conservation and land development programmes. On the pattern of the existing competitions organised in wheat and rice, we have decided to initiate action to organise competitions for the award of Krishi Pandits in oilseeds, pulses and cotton. Sorghum, bajra and ragi are important crops in the dry areas for which also we are proposing to organise similar competitions.

There is wide gap between the performance of

the average farmers and some of the progressive farmers in the country. Some of the factors contributing to this gap are attributable to soil conditions, lack of irrigation facilities and the vagaries of nature. But these could be bridged substantially with proper crop management.

In our country gifted as we are with varied climatic and soil conditions, a large variety of fruits can be grown. Fruits play an important role in the nation's agricultural economy and dietary standards. Towards this end, the Udyan Pandit Competitions are organised for the important fruit crops like Guava, Apple, Mango, Mandarin, Sweet Orange, Banana, Pineapple, Grapes and Ber. Experience has shown that these competitions have proved very useful in enthusing the fruit growers to grow fruits on scientific lines and take to new varieties. The results achieved in Guava during 1975-76 have fully demonstrated that our fruit growers do not lag behind in any way.

I would like to take this opportunity to present the prizes to Shri Profulla Chandra, who had won prizes at the recent All India Sugarcane Crop Competitions. Shri Profulla Chandra could not be present when these prizes for Sugarcane growers were presented on 23rd July, 1977.

(24th August, 1977)

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Our farmers should learn from

Award Winner Farmers

These competitions are being held since 1968-69 by the Directorate of Extension, Ministry of Agriculture & Irrigation, Government of India, New Delhi.

The minimum area for this competition is 0.2 hectare. The competition is conducted first at the State level and thereafter at the All India level. Only the first two prize winners of the State Level Competitions become eligible for participation in the All India Competition. The first prize winner is awarded a Certificate of Udyan Pandit, a bronze medal and Rs. 5000/-. The second prize winner gets a Certificate of Merit and Rs. 2000/-.

The All India Competition in Guava was organised by the Directorate of Extension, Ministry of Agriculture & Irrigation during the year 1974-75 and 1975-76. A total of 10 best guava growers from 5 States, viz. Bihar, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Punjab competed in this Competition. Those who have been declared prize winners are as follows :-

Krishi Pandit—Paddy

Shri Anandrao Bapu Patil S/o Shri Bapu Bala Patil of Kande, Taluka Shirala, District Sangli, Maharashtra State has won the First Prize by producing 16,796.247 kg of paddy per hectare in the All India Crop Competition for Paddy during Kharif 1975-76.

He gets a cash award of Rs. 3,000 and a Certificate of Krishi Pandit.

Shri Patil selected a plot of 20 gunthas for this competition. The soil was medium black and well drained. The previous crop taken by him during rabi was wheat.

Five hand hoeings and weedings were done. The crop was thinned once and the distance between plant to plant was maintained at four cm. He sowed the crop on 25.5.75. He applied 160 kg and 320 kg of fertilizer mixture (15:15:15) on 17.7.75 and 5.9.75 respectively. He had also applied urea (160 kg.) after five weeks of sowing on 1.7.75. The seed was treated with salt and mercurial fungicide before sowing. There was not pest and disease as four sprays of Endrine and copper oxychloride were done. Besides this, 10% BHC and 10% Carbaryl were dusted.

During the cropping season a rainfall of 1179.10 mm. was received. Shri Patil gave only four irrigations.

The crop was harvested on 11th November, 1975 and a yield of 16,796.247 kg. (adjusted to 14 per cent moisture content) of paddy per hectare was obtained. He spent about Rs. 3,286 per acre and the value of the total produce was Rs. 9,140.

Second Prize Winner in Paddy

Shri D.R. Prafulla Chandra, S/o Shri Devangi Ramanna Gowda of Hosahalli, District Shimoga, Karnataka State, participated in the All India Crop

Competition for Paddy in Kharif 1975-76 and won the Second Prize by producing 16,102.080 kg of paddy per hectare. He gets on award of Rs. 1,200 and a Certificate of Merit.

He selected a plot having red sandy loam soil which was levelled and well-drained.

The previous crop taken in the field was paddy. He planted Jaya variety which he obtained from the National Seeds Corporation. He raised a nursery in three gunthas and used three kg. each of N, P₂O₅ and K₂O as basal dressing and gave three kg. nitrogen as top dressing after 15 days of sowing in the nursery.

He spent Rs. 3,200 per acre and the produce which he obtained was of the value of Rs. 6,167. The yield which he obtained was 16,102.080 kg. (adjusted to 14 per cent moisture content) of paddy per hectare.

Third Prize Winner in Paddy

Shri Jagatram Sadhu, S/o Shri Saligram Sahu of village Dularpali, District Raipur, Madhya Pradesh, participated in the All India Crop Competition for Paddy in kharif 1975-76 and won the Third Prize by producing 13,762.709 kg of paddy per hectare. He gets an award of Rs. 800 and a Certificate of Merit. Shri Sahu selected a two-hectare plot having clay loam soil. The previous rabi was fallow. He prepared a nursery by giving compost (2.5 quintals/acre), urea (6 kg/acre) and superphosphate (25 kg/acre). He treated his seed with Monoson fungicide before sowing.

He weeded the crop four times. He took adequate measures to control pests and diseases. He got an yield of 13,762.709 kg. (adjusted to 14 per cent moisture content) of paddy per hectare.

He spent Rs. 3,660 per hectare and the value of the produce obtained was Rs. 11,090 per hectare.

Krishi Pandit—Wheat

Shri Mangalbhai Thakkar, S/o Shri Ambalal Thakkar of Hardua, Tehsil and District Panna, Madhya Pradesh, won the First Prize by producing 13,735.670 kg. of wheat per hectare in the All India Crop Competition for wheat during rabi 1975-76. He gets an award of Rs. 3,000 and a Certificate of Krishi Pandit.

Shri Thakkar selected a plot having light sandy loam soil which was well-drained and had a gentle slope.

During the kharif season he grew sunnhemp as a green manure crop applying five quintals of Diammonium phosphate. During the land preparation, 45 cartloads of farmyard manure and a basal dose of 2 quintals of N.P.K. mixture (14:35:14), 75 kg. urea, 50 kg. of potash, 2 quintals of Urvara (mixture of trace elements, etc.) and 50 kg. of Diammonium

phosphate were given in one acre plot. He treated the plot with 15 kg 10% BHC. He sowed wheat variety Moti by broadcasting at 90 kg. per acre. The seeds were treated with 200 gm. of Monoson fungicide and two packets of culture (Azetobactor) were also mixed with the seeds. The seeds were from his own farm.

The crop was harvested on 14th April and a yield of 13,735.670 kg. (adjusted to 10% moisture content) of wheat per hectare was obtained. He spent about Rs. 3,835 on his one acre plot and realised about Rs. 6,232.

Second Prize Winner in Wheat

Shri Bipin Bihari Gupta, S/o Shri Hargovind Gupta, village Piparia-Chouda, P.O. Banda (Belai) District Sagar, Madhya Pradesh, won the Second Prize by producing 12,078.300 kg of wheat per hectare in the All India Crop Competition for wheat during rabi-1975-76. He gets on award of Rs. 1,200 and a Certificate of Merit.

Shri Gupta selected a plot of one acre near Bebas river; the soil was Mund II type and well drained.

He got the soil tested and raised urad giving 30 kg. of D.A.P. as basal dose during the kharif season.

During the land preparation, 40 cartloads of F.Y.M., 2 quintals of mixture 20:28:0, 40 kg. of muriate of potash and 10 kg. of BHC were mixed in the soil.

He sowed 65 kg. of HDM-1593 seed which he purchased from National Seeds Corporation. The seed was treated with 200 gm. of Ceresan and a packet of culture (Azetobactor) was mixed. The seed was cross sown by a power seed drill.

He spent Rs. 2,500 per acre and the cost of produce obtained was Rs. 5,145.

Third Prize Winner in Wheat

Shri Ishwarbhai Becharbhai Patel, S/o Shri Becharbhai Madhobhai, village Anandpura, Tehsil Vijapur, District Mehsana, Gujarat, won the Third Prize by producing 11,137.230 kg of wheat per hectare in the All India Crop Competition for wheat during rabi 1975-76. He gets on award of Rs. 800 and a Certificate of Merit.

He gave seven irrigations and the first irrigation was given after 14 days of sowing.

He top-dressed his crop with 50 kg. urea at the first irrigation and gave Growmore mixture at second irrigation. Top-dressing of 30 kg. and 20 kg. urea was done at the third and seventh irrigation respectively.

Shri Patel did one hand weeding and sprayed 2, 4-D after 35 days of sowing. The crop was harvested after 138 days of sowing and a yield of 11,137.230 kg. (adjusted to 10% moisture content) of wheat per hectare was obtained.

He spent an amount of Rs. 2,500 on his one acre competition plot and realised Rs. 4,735.

Udyan Pandit Guava

The guava orchard of the 62 years old **Shri Gajmal Dalpat Mali** in Mandal village of Shirpur Taluk in Dhule District of Maharashtra was adjudged the first in the country. Shri Mali is a progressive farmer and his main occupation is agriculture. He is affectionately called Bappu Saheb or Guruji by the fellow villagers. Shri Mali in fact is a Guruji to the villagers in more than one sense. He comes from a farming family and has had a stint as a village school teacher for 19 years. He has 15 acres of land under orchard which has fruit trees of mango, sweet oranges, mandarin, sapota, banana, annonas and ber. He has planted guava in 4 acres. On his best orchard, he has grown guava variety 'Lucknow 49' which is also known as "Sardar Peru" in Maharashtra. He follows all the scientific practices and, no doubt, his garden is serving as a model garden. He has own many prizes for his fruits in State Fruit Shows and the All India Fruit Shows.

Shri Hirabhai Ramjibhai Patel belongs to village Shedhavadar in Distt. Bhavnagar of Gujarat State. His Guava garden has been adjudged the second best in the country.

He is 30 years old and has been in the farming occupation since his childhood. He is a small farmer having a two-hectare garden of guava.

He has taken the help of his Gramsevak, Extension Officer and District Agriculture Officer in getting his orchard laid out and is following all the recommended practices. He is augmenting his income by growing vegetables as inter-crops in his guava orchards.

With his limited resources he has been able to produce continuously good crop of guava and is doing all operations including marketing himself. He has enthused his fellow farmers in the neighbouring villages to grow fruit crops and many orchards of guava and pomegranate can be seen around his orchard. He is always ready to help his fellow villagers by giving them tips for better farming and is respected by the village folk. His success in maintaining the garden on scientific lines, has earned him a Certificate of Merit.

KRISHAK SAMACHAR will Publish Popular Articles on Agriculture and Allied Subjects. These should not be more than 2000 words. Send them to the Chief Editor Krishak Samachar A-1 Nizamuddin West, New Delhi-110013

Rajasthan budget favours farmers

Rajasthan State Assembly passed the budget presented by Rajasthan Finance Minister Master Adityendra ji with new 2.5 crore tax proposals. Abolition of lotteries and cess on commercial crops is the major step taken by F.M. Still the budget is facing deficit of Rs. 58.94 crores.

Mr. Adityendra claiming his budget to be rural development and employment-oriented, said the Janata Government had increased Plan provisions for the current financial year from Rs. 168 crore to Rs. 196.53 crore—a 17 per cent increase over the previous figure.

The gross expenditure on social community economic, and general services has been increased from Rs. 608.77 crore to Rs. 649.32 crore and the development expenditure from Rs. 415.36 crore to Rs. 450.96 crore.

Other highlights of the budget are—a 15 per cent subsidy on industrial investments in all the industrially backward districts, Rs. 5.5 crore more rural and urban water supply, 36 per cent increase in outlays for road construction. Small farmers Development Agencies to be started in 10 more districts to cover in all, 80,000 small and marginal farmers with an investment of about Rs. 8 crore.

Mr. Adityendra announced that the Janata Government had a plan to create 536,000 jobs in rural areas during the current year.

(Rs. in crores)

Items	Original	Modified
Receipts	587.55	588.71
Expenditure	608.77	649.82
Net deficit	(-21.22)	(-61.11)
Carri-over deficit		
(1976-77)	(-7.48)	(-7.48)
Overall deficit	(-28.70)	(-68.59)

The Finance Minister announced that to accelerate work on irrigation projects, the existing provisions were being raised by Rs. 7.5 crore. Additional outlays of Rs. 5.5 crore for the Rajasthan Canal, Mahi and Jhakarm projects and Rs. 2 crore for more medium irrigation projects had been provided in the budget.

Under minor irrigation, 4,000 wells will be dug, 1,400 wells deepened, pumping sets installed in 4,000 wells and 1,10,000 meters of channels converted into pucca channels.

About 160,000 poor families would benefit from this scheme during the current year. A new programme of village forest would cover about 2,000 hectares in about 200 villages. Gram panchayats would be encouraged to grow their own village forests for which the Government would supply saplings free of cost. The Tenancy Act was being amended to enable farmers to grow fruit and other useful trees on the border of roads adjoining their fields. The kisan lobby was happy because the cess on commercial crops had been abolished.

Emphasis on Rural Economy in M.P.

Bhopal. The Governor's address to the newly elected Vidhan Sabha of Madhya Pradesh, reflects new approach of the Janta Ministry towards rural economy. It seems that the new Government would formulate rural biased policies and that be reflected in the new plan, which is yet to come.

The Governor mentioned in undoubted terms that the investments in the planning of the state would be such so as to improve the rural economy and remove the unbalances of urban and rural sectors. He also stressed the need of development of rural industries.

Another feature of his address is the promise to marginal farmers and assurance of formulating agricultural policy to help farmers to take two crops in a year.

There can't be two opinions about the intentions of the Government as expressed in the Governor's address. But the question is, how the Government execute the policies to achieve desired results.

The new government requires time and its action shall be judged after it starts implementation. The budget speech of the Finance Minister, Shri Ramhit Gupta was certainly laying stress on the small and medium irrigation projects. An amount of Rs. 2.50 crores was diverted from major irrigation projects to small and medium ones. The Finance Minister has also provided Rs. 50 Lakhs for new small irrigation projects. A laudable step is the declaration of Finance Minister to give 2% grant to the farmers for construction of Tube Well and Rs. 20 lakhs has been allotted for this purpose.

by K.C. Pant

Secretary, M.P. Krishak Samaj

Co-ordination of Farm organisations

Shri Jagadish Kodesia, Secretary, W.A.F. Memorial Farmers Trust convened a meeting of representatives of various farmers organisations of India in New Delhi on 1st August, 1977.

The meeting was attended by the representatives of Bharat Krishak Samaj, National Tonnage Club, Young Farmers Association and Mr. Bhanu Pratap Singh, Farmers Federation of India. Other farm leaders like Shri Nathu Ram Mirdha, former Chairman, National Commission on agriculture, Shri S.N. Mushran, former Finance Minister of M.P. and Shri Ram Niwas Mirdha, Dy. Chairman, Rajya Sabha attended the meeting.

During this meeting it was decided to constitute a coordination committee of these farm organisations. The Committee will collect and screen various problems of farmers and will ventilate them to the Government for suitable action.

Raising Cotton, pulses & seeds output

The Union Government has constituted special inter-ministerial groups on pulses, oilseeds and cotton to suggest specific measures in order to increase their production.

The group has suggested short-term and long-term measures for increasing production of pulses. As a short-term measure, the groups have recommended increase in productivity through adoption of package of practices in cultivation.

Training of extension workers has been considered necessary to educate the farmers about improved package of practices. As a long-term measure, the group suggested a new Central sector scheme for production of quality seeds of improved varieties of all-India importance with increased financial assistance for production of breeder's foundation and certified seeds.

The proposal of the special group has been approved by the Planning Commission and ministry of finance. The state governments have already taken advance action to implement the programme from the current kharif season.

It is expected that follow-up action on these recommendations would help to stabilise fluctuations in the production of these three products and ease their availability in the market.

A suitable long range action on price policy which will ensure adequate incentive to the producers is also being formulated and the announcement of policy for the current season is under consideration.

With a view to stepping up production of pulses, new strategy has been evolved. It aims to increase production by bringing in additional area by resorting to short duration varieties of urad, moong and cowpea through inter and multi-crop and adopting full package of practices in their cultivation. An increase of 2.5 million tonnes is envisaged by 1978-79.

To help state governments increase production, a Centrally sponsored scheme on development of pulses has been taken up. The scheme envisages provision to the state government of financial assistance to lay out the demonstration of pulses to motivate farmers to adopt improved practices, multiply seeds and foundation seeds.

Groundnut, castor, sesamum, niger, rape, mustard, linseed and sunflower are the important oilseed crops of the country and are cultivated annually over approximately 15.5 million hectares. The production target for these oilseeds for the fifth plan has been fixed at 120 lakh tonnes and the target for 1977-78 at 108 lakh tonnes. In order to

supplement the efforts of the state government in achieving the targets, the government has sanctioned an intensive oilseeds development programme where the strategy for increasing oilseeds production comprises of the following scope:

(i) Adoption of package approach in selected districts of important oilseed growing states where the production technology has been well developed and potentialities for rapid growth in production are good. Particular emphasis is laid on the use of improved varieties and ensuring optimum plant population, application of phosphatic fertilisers and control of pests, (ii) Extension of irrigated groundnut area particularly in the command areas of major irrigation projects and in the southern states. (iii) Extending the area under sunflower and soyabean crops by introducing cultivation in current fallows and multiple cropping systems.

Under the Centrally sponsored scheme, financial assistance is given to the states to meet the cost of production of nucleus and foundation seed, minikits, demonstration and subsidy on plant protection equipment, besides extension staff. The total outlay approved for the fifth plan is Rs. 11.2 crore.

The long-term measures suggested by the group are (i) expanding the irrigated area under the groundnut, (ii) of intensification of development work on sesamum and (iii) strengthening of oilseeds research programme with a view to evolving varieties with substantially high oil and yield potential.

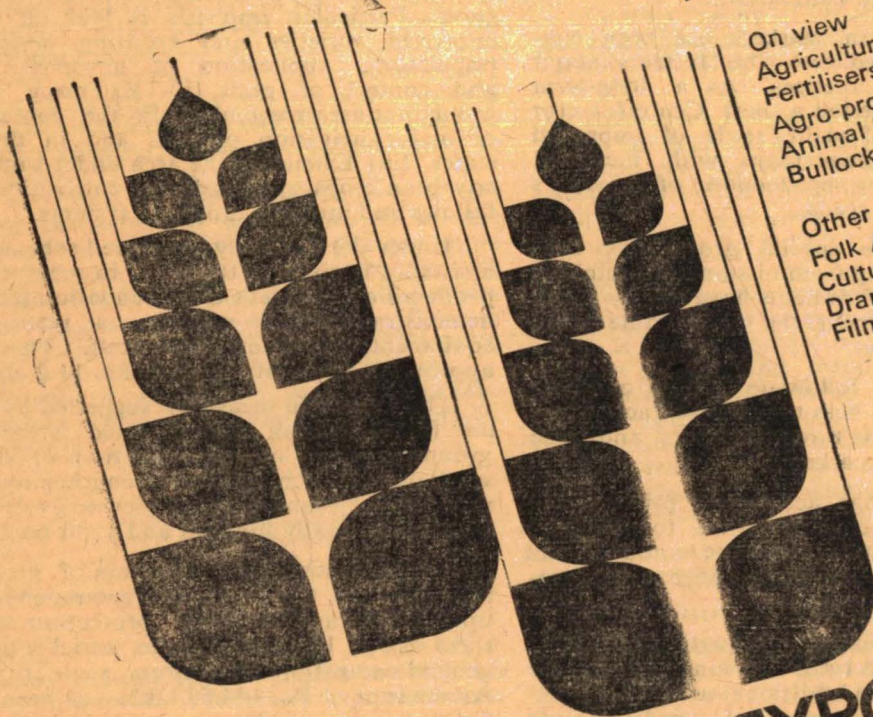
For increasing the production of groundnut and rape-mustard, the group has recommended stepping up of coverage by plant protection measures on these crops by resorting to aerial operations and ground campaigns on a larger scale than hitherto. An amount of Rs. 144.69 lakhs has been sanctioned for this purpose. The amount is intended towards subsidy on aerial spraying operational charges at Rs. 25 per hectare in the case of small and marginal farmers and Rs. 17.50 per hectare for others, and on ground spraying operational charges at Rs. 7.50 per hectare so as to ensure coverage of contiguous large blocks of land and the participation of small and marginal farmers.

In order to control the pest white grub, subsidy will be extended 50 per cent on the cost of chemicals.

For raising indigenous production of cotton, the Centre had set up a special group in April. It has recommended the following measures.

A suitable long-range cotton price policy will ensure adequate incentive to the producers and a buffer stock of raw cotton to the extent of three months' mill consumption will be created. The announcement of the price policy for the current season is already under consideration.

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Split of Fertilizer Corporation

THE process of splitting the Fertiliser Corporation of India and the reorganisation of the entire public sector fertiliser industry into four corporations will be completed within the next three months.

This was stated by the Minister for Petroleum, Chemicals and Fertilisers, Mr H.N. Bahuguna. He told newsmen that the decision to split FCI had been taken in the "public interest" and with the main purpose of bringing about greater delegation of powers to the field units. He emphatically denied that he had been "lead to a garden path" by bureaucrats.

Under the new system, the general managers of various plants would be given more powers and they will be directly accountable to the chief executives of their respective companies.

However, for co-ordinating the marketing operations, a system of product exchange will be evolved among the four companies. Similarly for sharing the expertise, transfers of personnel from one company to another will be allowed.

Under the reorganisation plan, apart from FCI and the National Fertilisers Ltd, two more corporations—West Coast Fertilisers and Bharat Fertilisers Ltd—are to be set up.

West Coast Fertilisers apart from managing Trombay, Trombay Expansion and Cochin plants, will put up two large (1300 tonnes per day of urea) gas-based plants in south Bombay.

Bharat Fertilisers will be entrusted the Haldia plant, under construction, and a new project at Namrup, in addition to the existing plants at Namrup, Barauni and Durgapur.

National Fertilisers, which is currently putting up the fuel-oil-based plants at Bhatinda and Panipat will be given the existing electrolysis-based plant at Nangal and the fuel-oil-based Nangal Expansion, under construction.

FCI will manage the existing plants at Sindri and Gorakhpur, besides Sindri Rationalisation and the coal-based projects at Ramagundam and Talchar. It will also be responsible for Korba.

The reorganisation has been done on the basis of geographical proximity and feedstock, the former being the primary consideration.

Mr Bahuguna said with the reorganisation of the fertiliser industry, capacity utilisation of the plants should improve leading to a reduction in fertiliser prices.



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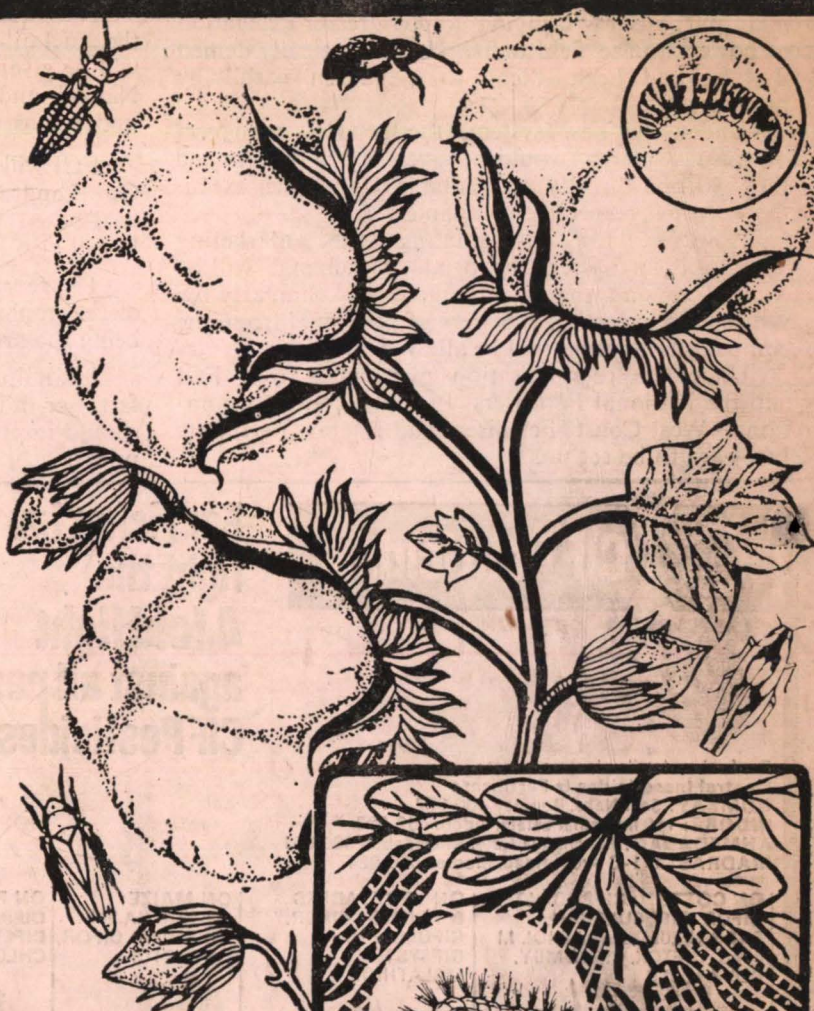
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