

Need to collaborate with premier Agricultural and Scientific institutions for empowerment of farmers with region specific agricultural knowledge-Laid

SHRIMATI DAGGUBATI PURANDESWARI (RAJAHMUNDRI): The vulnerability in the Agriculture sector is immense, as 80% of our farmers are marginal, with less than one hectare of land, and 60% of our cultivation is rainfed, leaving them with poor coping capacities. The challenges are multi-faceted, including erratic rainfall affecting water availability, increased frequency of floods and droughts, and severe heat stress on crops, livestock, and fisheries. The projections are alarming: a significant temperature increase could result in a devastating drop of up to 40% in rice yields and over 50% in wheat yields. While the Union Government supports the agrarian sector through various interventions and missions, the focus has largely remained on developing climate-resilient technologies. However, the need of the hour is to directly empower the farmer with localized, actionable knowledge. Therefore, I urge the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare to urgently collaborate with premier scientific bodies like ICAR, ICRISAT, and the Department of Science and Technology. They must work on a mission mode to divide the country into dynamic micro-agricultural zones based on changing climatic patterns. Based on this scientific zoning, a robust advisory system should be created to guide our farmers on re-orienting their land use, changing cultivation patterns, and adopting suitable crops to effectively secure their livelihoods and our nation's food security.