

Strengthening of Agro-sector will empower economy : Dr Raman Singh

By : Deepak Published On : 26 Dec, 2015 05:00 PM IST



INVC NEWS Raipur, Chief Minister Dr Raman Singh said that the farmers residing in rural areas of state have immense knowledge about agriculture. They have combined traditional methods and experience with modern technology, and have thereby made great achievements. Farmers of our state are actually the greatest agriculture scientists. It is because of their hard work that we have taken a leap from only rice export to the export of fruits and vegetables along with rice. Dr Singh expressed aforementioned views while addressing the inaugural ceremony of three-day National Farmers Fair in village Jora near capital city Raipur today. The fair has been organized by State Government's Agriculture Department, in association with CII. On the occasion, Chief Minister dedicated new species of paddy- 'Chhattisgarh Zinc Rice-1', recently developed by Indira Gandhi Agriculture University Raipur, to farmers. He distributed 1500 minikits of this new species of paddy. Chief Minister also felicitated farmer Mr. Dushyant Singh of Janjgir-Champa district for individually preserving an old species of paddy- 'Ramjeera' for past 50 years. Agriculture and Water Resource Minister Mr. Brijmohan Agrawal presided over the inaugural programme of Farmers Fair. In the programme, Raipur MP Mr. Ramesh Bais, Parliamentary Secretary Mr. Tokhan Sahu, MLA Mr. Devji Bhai Patel, Apex Bank Chairman Mr. Ashok Bajaj and Chairman of Raipur Milk Federation Mr. Rasik Parmar were also present as special guests. As Chief Guest of the occasion, Dr Singh said that this fair is one great opportunity to learn about the progress of Chhattisgarh in agro-sector in last 15 years. He said that with their perseverance and dedication, our farmers have brought a revolution in the field of agriculture. Various schemes run by Agriculture Department in coordination with Indira Gandhi Agriculture University have also accelerated growth of agro-sector. Chief Minister said that agriculture and farmers are the strong pillars of our economy. Development of agriculture sector is empowerment our economy, and also an important source of employment. The credit of three Krishi Karman Awards conferred on Chhattisgarh Government in past also goes to the farmers of state, said Dr Singh. In this fair, all the modern methods of agriculture have been put on display. State Government has organized this fair to educate farmers about advancement in agriculture methods around the world and encourage them to adopt the modern ways. Chief Minister informed that in this fair, farmers will get to know about soil test and modern ways of cultivation. Agriculture seminars will be organized in Agriculture Development Centres outside capital city. They will also be informed about method of cultivation with limited water supply during drought conditions. Dr Singh said that State Government is committed to bring practical experiments of laboratories to the field, in larger interest of farmers. Dr Singh also talked about success in agriculture sector in remote areas of Bastar and Sarguja, and also cited achievements of Kondagaon and Dantewada districts in organic farming. While presiding over the programme, Agriculture Minister Mr. Brijmohan Agrawal said that nearly 50 thousand farmers will visit the fair in three days. It is a great opportunity for farmers to learn and upgrade their ways of cultivation, as per the advancement in global technology. He mentioned that Chhattisgarh Government is the first government to distribute financial aid to drought-affected farmers under RBC. Welcome address was given by Agriculture Production Commissioner. Chairman of CII East Mr. Sanjeev Puri also addressed the inaugural programme.

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