

IIM-Nagpur to give agri-mgmt lessons to farmers, signs MoU with MAGNET

■ Staff Reporter

THE Indian Institute of Management (IIM)-Nagpur and Maharashtra Agribusiness Network Project (MAGNET) Society, on Friday, signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to give agriculture management lessons to farmers.

"Migration has to be stopped, potential entrepreneurs have to be retained to bring about the change. MAGNET Society is a special purpose vehicle to roll out major changes in agriculture sector, said Anoop Kumar, Additional Chief Secretary, Cooperation and Marketing, while speaking during the MoU signing function.

IIM-Nagpur will be collaborating with the Maharashtra Government for MAGNET

project, which is supported by Asian Development Bank (ADB). The MoU was signed by Anoop Kumar, Deepak Shinde, Project Director, MAGNET Project; and Dr Bhimaraya Metri, Director, IIM-Nagpur. IIM-Nagpur will assume the role of a CoE for training and hand-holding for various stakeholders like farmers, Farmer Producer Organisation (FPOs), CBOs, self-help groups, start-ups etc.

Speaking on the occasion, Anoop Kumar shed light on the agrarian crisis in Vidarbha. He pointed out that, lack of focus on developing agriculture production system offering sustainability to farmers had escalated the situation. Farmers in horticulture are not making that kind of money despite having potential because the post-harvest management aspects



(L to R) Dr Bhimaraya Metri, Director, IIM-Nagpur; Anoop Kumar, Additional Chief Secretary, Cooperation and Marketing; and Deepak Shinde, Project Director, MAGNET Project, during MoU signing ceremony at IIM-Nagpur campus on Friday.

have not been addressed in advanced technological manner, he observed.

"Vidarbha farmers have suffered because there has been no technological intervention. While formulating the policy

for MAGNET project, Asian Development Bank and other consultants insisted on focusing on Vidarbha and Marathwada and establishing the missing links of post-harvest management system,"

Anoop Kumar said. 'Agripreneurs' have to be strengthened and steps need to be taken to reduce the profits made by intermediaries. Farmers undergo immense exploitative chain and there is a need to make them participate in value chain. Agriculture is not in crisis, but agriculture management is definitely in crisis, he stressed. In such a scenario, premier institutes like IIM-Nagpur can come out with solutions, he added.

While elaborating on the role of IIM-Nagpur, Dr Metri said, "CoE MAGNET focuses on farmers and FPC/FPO to help and stay in touch with new realities of agro-industry." Maharashtra will show how to convert agriculture produce into agri-business, he added. IIM-Nagpur, under the leadership of MAGNET Society, will

help build up value-change infrastructure. The MoU will help connect the right product to the right market. IIM-Nagpur will help improve agricultural practices, which in turn, will enhance farmers' income. It will focus on preparing farmers in Maharashtra for a fast-paced change in real world.

SUDOKU SOLUTION

2	9	4	3	1	7	5	8	6
1	5	8	9	6	2	3	4	7
7	3	6	4	8	5	1	9	2
3	4	9	2	5	1	6	7	8
6	1	2	8	7	4	9	5	3
5	8	7	6	3	9	2	1	4
8	2	5	7	9	3	4	6	1
4	6	1	5	2	8	7	3	9
9	7	3	1	4	6	8	2	5

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