

Link laboratories to farm lands : Modi

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Addressing the valedictory session of the first ever Vibrant Gujarat Global Agriculture Summit - 2013 at Mahatma Mandir of Gandhinagar, Gujarat chief minister Mr Narendra Modi said, "With the successful completion of this global summit Gujarat has made humble yet historical attempt to link entire country's agriculture sector." Mr. Modi called for different linkages for the larger benefit of the agriculture sector i.e. creating interlinking of river water grid, agro market linkages, agro-tech lab to land linkages and gave the formula of creating agro-credit linkages.

Mr Modi also advocated for focusing on agriculture with three sub-sections and diversification of the risk. This will give a boost to overall development prospects of this sector. These areas could be subdivided into farmers focusing on traditional farming, dairy-animal husbandry-fisheries and poultry, and agro forestry to cultivate trees which have high value in timber markets.

Gujarat chief minister said it is high time that farmers do not waste single inch of land available to them for cultivation. He said, "Portion of land going waste between two farms could be used for agro forestry and this will create an economic return cycle for them." Also sea weed farming could give a major boost to those living on the coastal belt of the nation.

Chief Minister proposed creation of all-round market linkages. He said, "In entire nation, farmer is the only manufacture who does not have right to decide the selling price of his produce. And creation of market linkage using latest technologies will provide major boost to the sector."

Emphasizing the need to link laboratories and farm lands, Mr Modi said, "It will be very fulfilling if agriculture scientists and their research knowledge is able to reach the actual farmland, and in turn bring more benefits to the farmers." He said Gujarat has already taken an initiative to bring so many new things to its farmers by organizing Krushi Mahotsav in the state.

Mr Modi announced that his government will publish all the success stories of the farmers on its website to give their innovation wider reach and encourage more fruitful experiments in the field. Also Mr Modi demanded that central government make necessary attempts to encourage more unique farm researches in the country.

Mr Modi said, "If we increase agricultural produce by two fold, we will be able to feed entire India and if we make it three fold, we will feed entire World. Farmers of India are quite capable of doing it and I have confidence in them."

Other dignitaries who graced the valedictory session include Mr Anders Adamisen, counselor food and agriculture, Bolivia ambassador to India Mr. Jorge Cardenas Robles, representatives of Madagascar Embassy, Gambia High Commission and Malawi ambassador to India Dr. Perks Ligoya, parliamentary secretary of Nagaland Agriculture Board, additional secretary Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture, Mr. Ashish Bahuguna and Dr S Ayappan, members of state ministry, Mr. Varesh Sinha - Chief Secretary and others officials.