



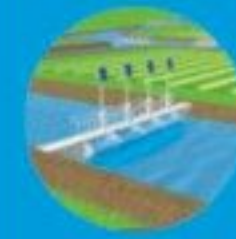
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CROP LOAN



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# Agricultural Production and Market Outlook

The Rising Agriculture....

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Publisher

Agro-Economic Research Centre

Sardar Patel University

Vallabh Vidyanagar 388120

Anand, Gujarat

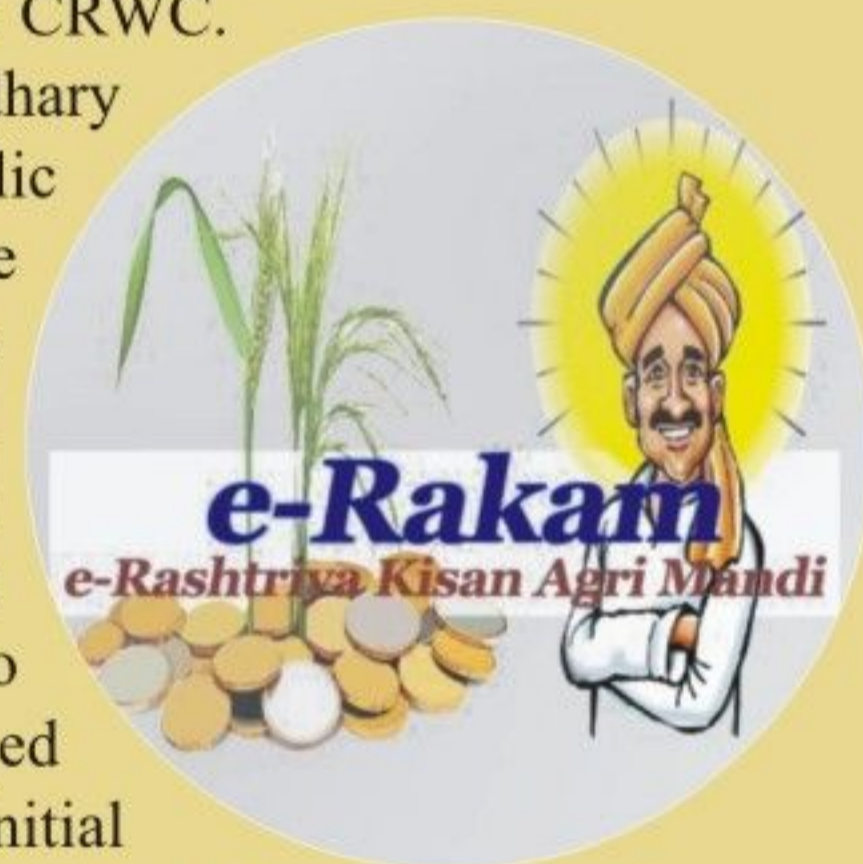
Email: [director.aerc@gmail.com](mailto:director.aerc@gmail.com)

Web: [www.aercspu.ac.in](http://www.aercspu.ac.in)

## Govt launches e-RaKAM portal for selling agri produce

The government launched a portal, e-RaKAM, to provide a platform to sell agricultural produce. The portal is a joint initiative by state-run-auctioneer MSTC and Central Warehousing Corporation arm CRWC.

Launching the portal with Steel Minister Chaudhary Birender Singh, Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution Minister Ram Vilas Paswan said the effort should be to auction 20 lakh tonnes of pulses in the first phase through the platform. He said initial hurdles will be there as most of the farmers are illiterate and are in bad condition. It added that now various crops whose price increases due to rainfall or bad weather conditions, will be managed and get the market. He said even transport will face initial hurdles that will be sorted out over time. Our aim is to strengthen the agriculture-oriented Indian economy and farmers, who play a vital role in national development.



E-RaKAM is a first-of-its-kind initiative that leverages technology to connect farmers of the smallest villages to the biggest markets of the world through internet and e-RaKAM centres. E-RaKAM is developed by MSTC Limited and supported by marketing & logistics partner CRWC Limited. E-RaKAM is a digital initiative bringing together the farmers, FPOs, PSUs, civil supplies and buyers on a single platform to ease the selling and buying process of agricultural products. Under this initiative, e-RaKAM centres are being developed in a phased manner throughout the country to facilitate farmers for online sale of their produce. The statement said farmers would be paid through e-Payment directly into their bank accounts.



## Third Advance Estimates of Area and Production of various Horticulture Crops for the year 2016-17

The Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare has released the Third Advance Estimates of Area and Production of Horticulture Crops for 2016-17 along with Second Advance Estimates for 2016-17 and Final Estimates for 2015-16. These estimates are based on the information received from different State/UTs in the country.

Third Advance Estimates of area and Production of horticulture crops for the year 2016-17 (Area in '000 Ha, Production in '000MT)



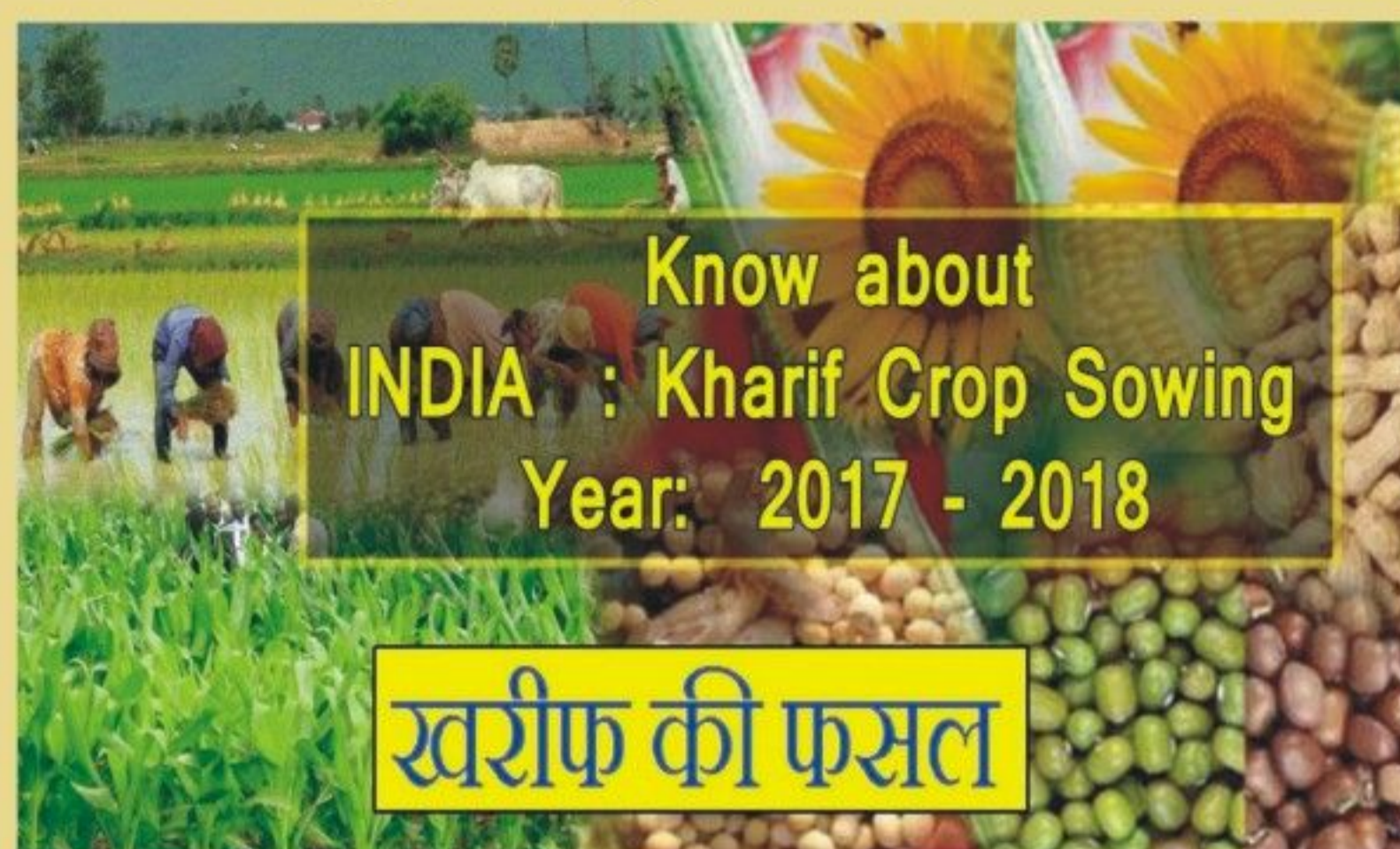
Total Horticulture	2016-17 (Third Advance Estimate)	2016-17 (Second Advance Estimate)	2015-16 (Final)	% change of 2016-17 (Third Adv. Est.) with respect to:	
				2016-17 (Second Adv. Est.)	2015-16 (Final Est.)
Area	25109	24925	24472	0.7	2.6
Production	299853(record)	295164	286188	1.6	4.8

### Highlights

- The record production of horticulture crops in the country during 2016-17 is estimated to be around 300 million tonnes which is 4.8% higher as compared to the previous year's i.e. 2015-16 estimates.
- The area under horticulture crops has increased from 24.5 million ha to 25.1 million ha in 2016-17, recording an increase of 2.6% over previous year.
- Fruit production during the current year is estimated to be record 93.7 million tonnes which is about 3.9% higher than the previous year.
- Production of vegetables is estimated to be record around 176 million tonnes which is 4.2% higher than the previous year.
- With 21.7 million tonnes estimated onion production in the country, there is an increase of 3.8% over the previous year. The major onion producing States are Maharashtra, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Gujarat.
- Record potato production in the country has increased from 43.4 million tonnes to 48.2 million tonnes in the current year which is 11.1% higher than the previous year. Major Potato growing States are Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Bihar, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Punjab.
- During the current year tomato production is estimated to be around 19.5 million tonnes which is 4.3% higher than the previous year. The major tomato growing States are Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Odisha and Gujarat etc.
- Production of flowers is estimated to be around 2.3 million tonnes which is 4.3% higher than the previous year.
- Production of Aromatics & Medicinal Plants is estimated to be around 1.04 million tonnes which is 2% higher than the previous year.
- During the current year the record production of Plantation crops (areca nut, cashewnut, cocoa and coconut) is estimated to be around 18.3 million tonnes which is 10.2% higher than the previous year.
- Record production of spices is estimated to be around 8.2 million tonnes which is 17.4% higher than the previous year.



## Kharif Crop Sowing Crosses 1013 Lakh Hectare Area



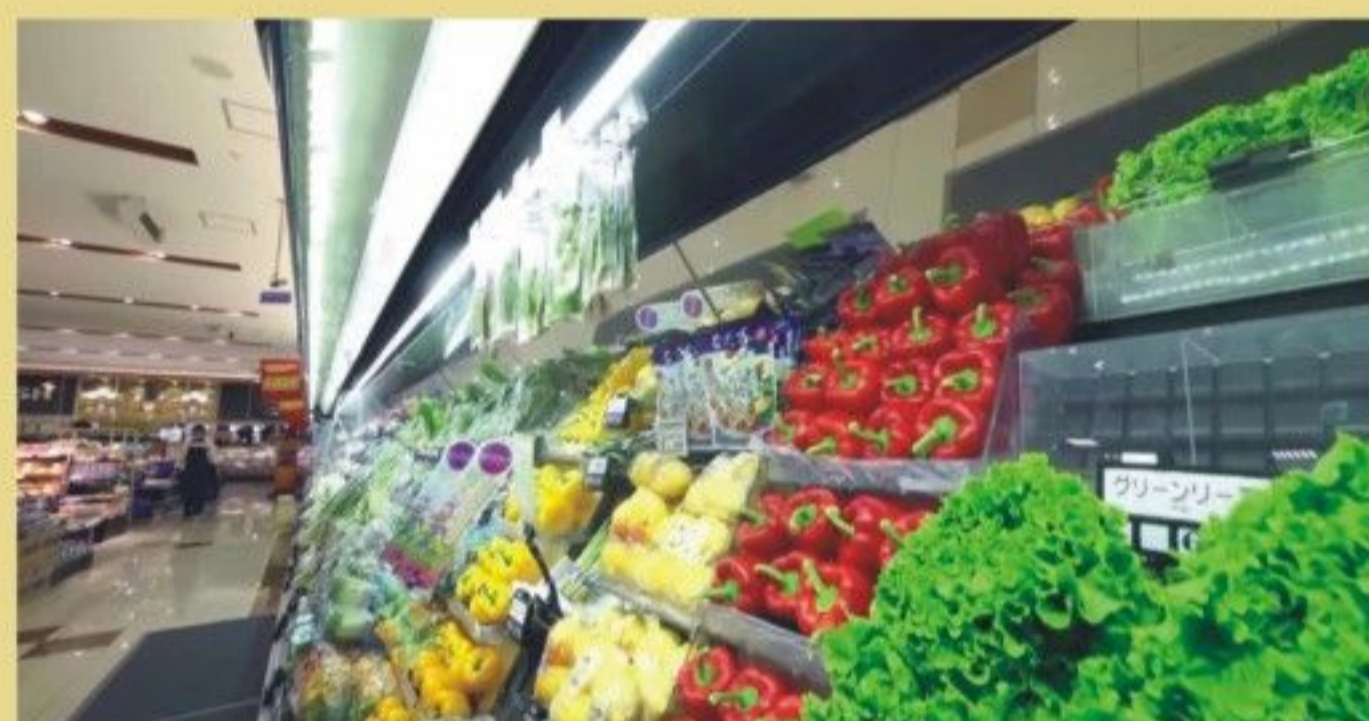
The total sown area as on 25th August 2017, as per reports received from States, stands at 1013.83 lakh hectare as compared to 1019.60 lakh hectare at this time last year. It is reported that rice has been sown/transplanted in 358.28 lakh ha, pulses in 135.96 lakh ha, coarse cereals in 178.85 lakh ha, sugarcane in 49.78 lakh hectare and cotton in 119.67 lakh ha.

The details of the area covered so far and that covered during this time last year are given below:

Crop	Area sown in 2017-18	Area sown in 2016-17
Rice	358.28	361.24 Lakh hectare
Pulses	135.96	141.35
Coarse Cereals	178.85	182.61
Oilseeds	164.24	178.66
Sugarcane	49.78	45.64
Jute & Mesta	7.05	7.56
Cotton	119.67	102.54
Total	1013.83	1019.60

### Development of Cold Chains

Government is implementing Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) for development of horticulture including post harvest management. Under the mission assistance is provided for development of all relevant infrastructure including pack house, pre-cooling units, staging cold room, cold storages, controlled atmosphere (CA) storage, reefer vans, primary/mobile processing units and setting up of ripening chambers etc. to promote logistic integration with the aim to reduce losses across total supply chain and enable farmers to access markets to get remunerative prices for their produce.



The component is demand/ entrepreneur-driven from among entrepreneurs, private companies, cooperatives, farmers groups etc through commercial ventures for which assistance @ 35% of admissible project cost in general areas and @ 50% in hilly and schedule area is available as credit linked and back ended subsidy.

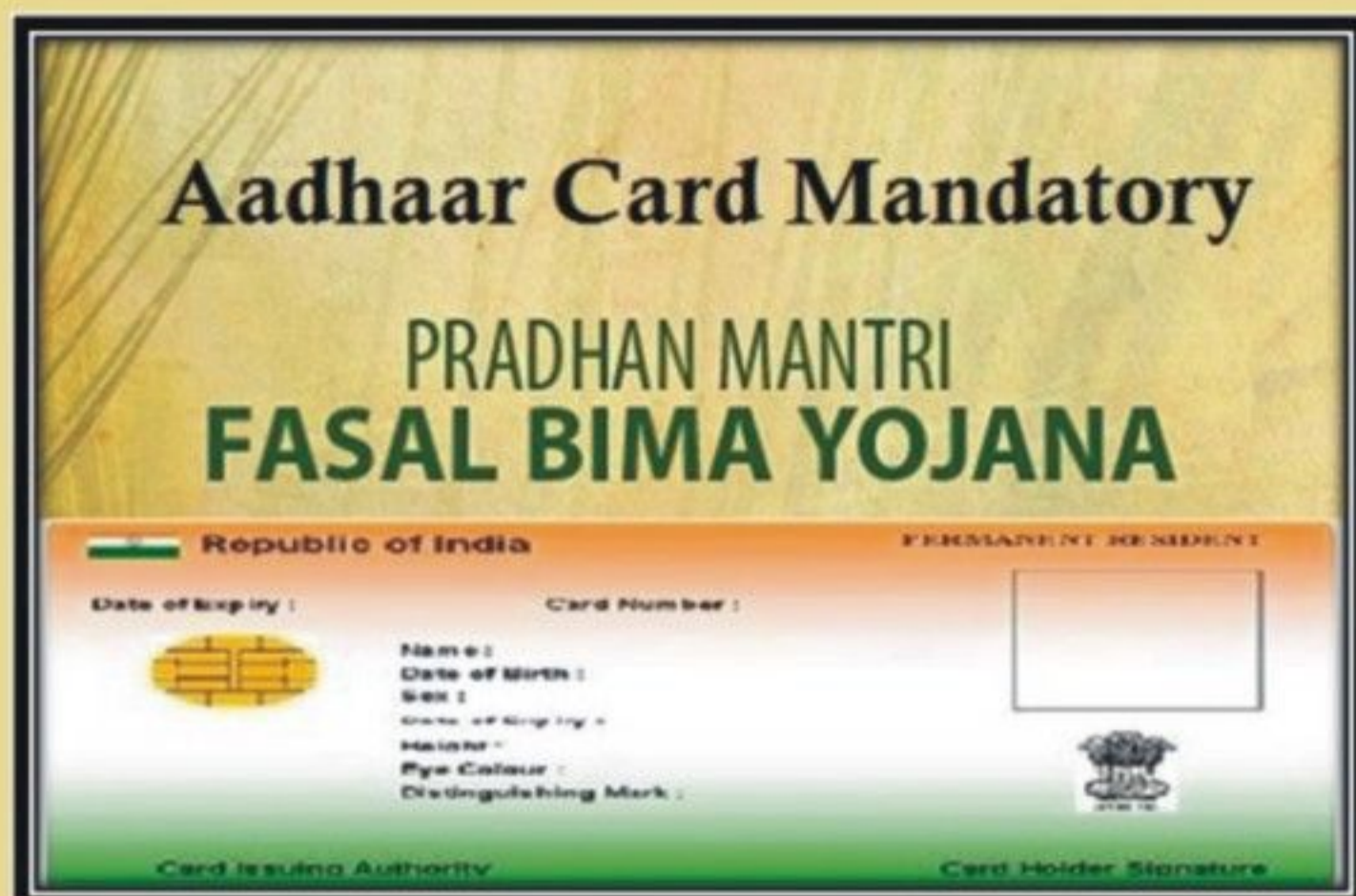
The State wise allocations under MIDH are made on the basis of Annual Action Plan. States have been advised to allocate 35% – 40% of allocations under MIDH for creation of post harvest management including cold chain development. During the current year an amount of Rs. 14829.00 lakh has been allocated to Maharashtra under MIDH which includes Rs. 5135.00 lakh for development of post harvest infrastructure including cold chain.

### Farmers to get crop loans at subsidised interest rate of 7%

In line with the government's policy, the RBI informed that farmers can avail of short-term crop loans of up to Rs 3 lakh at subsidised interest rate of 7 per cent that could go down to 4 per cent on prompt repayment. "To ensure hassle-free benefits to farmers under the Interest Subvention Scheme, the banks are advised to make Aadhaar linkage (mandatory for availing of short-term crop loans in 2017-18," the RBI said in a notification to banks.



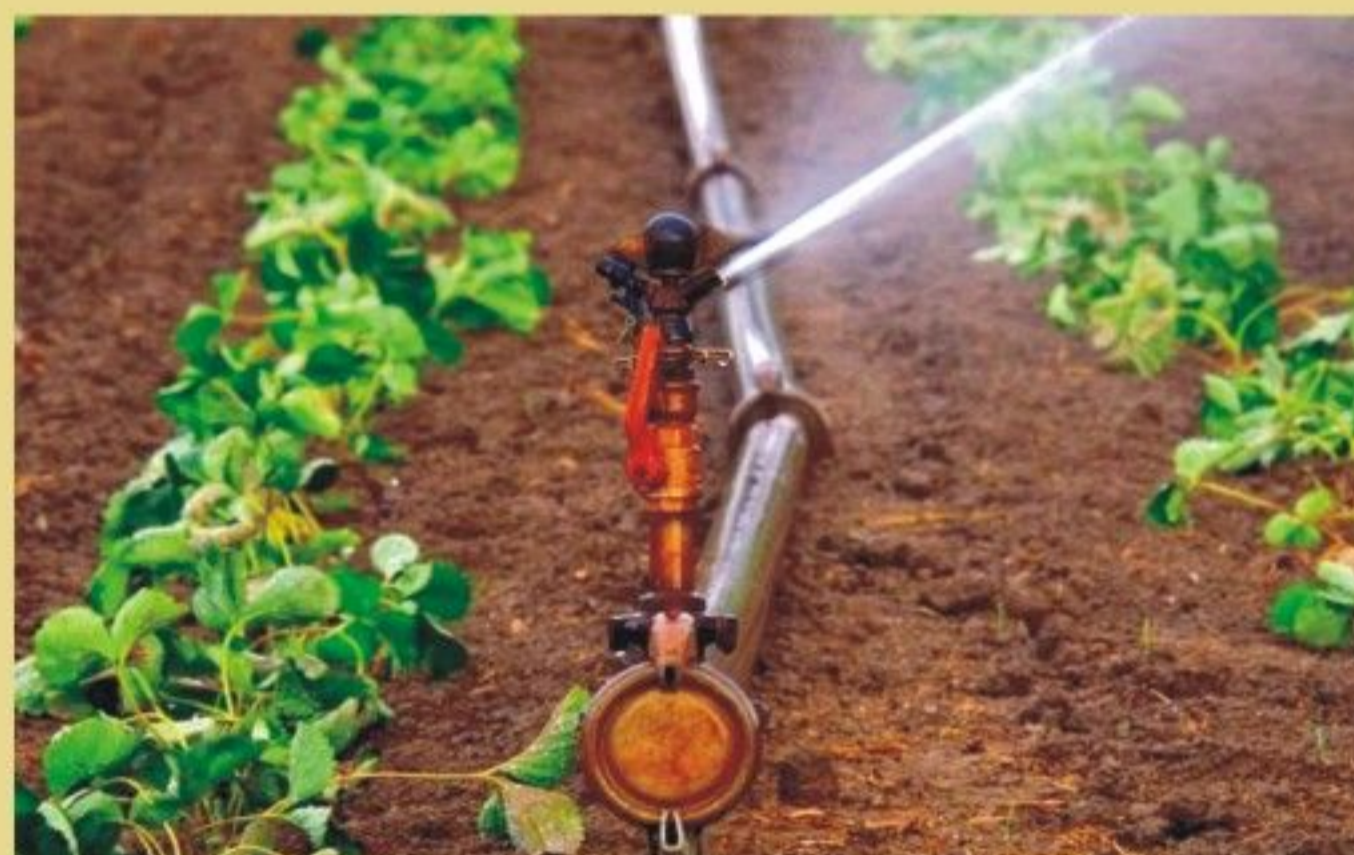
## Agri farmers have to link Aadhaar with bank a/c for crop loans in 2017-18



To ensure hassle-free benefits to farmers under Interest Subvention Scheme, the Reserve Bank of India has advised banks to make Aadhaar linkage mandatory for availing short-term crop loans up to S3 lakh in 2017-18. This move is in line with the government's increasing emphasis on linking Aadhaar to various transactions in the economy including filing Income-Tax returns and getting direct benefit transfer. In order to provide short-term crop loans to farmers at an interest rate of 7 per cent (the same as in the previous year) during the year 2017-18, the RBI said it has been decided to offer interest subvention of 2 per cent to lending institutions - public sector banks, private sector commercial banks (in respect of loans given by their rural and semi-urban branches only) on use of their own resources. This interest subvention of 2 per cent will be calculated on the crop loan amount from the date of its disbursement/ drawal up to the date of actual repayment of the crop loan by the farmer or up to the due date of the loan fixed by the banks whichever is earlier, subject to a maximum period of one year. Further, farmers repaying in time will be

provided an additional interest subvention of 3 per cent. What this means is that farmers paying promptly would get short term crop loans (for a maximum period of one year) at 4 per cent during the year 2017-18.

## Cabinet approves raising Rs 9,020 crore for Long Term Irrigation Fund



The Cabinet gave its approval for raising Extra Budgetary Resources of up to Rs 9,020 crore during the financial year 2017-18. An official statement said that the funds will be raised by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) through the issuance of bonds at 6 per cent per annum as per requirement. These funds will be for the implementation of Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) works of 99 ongoing prioritised irrigation projects along with their command area development (CAD) works under the Prime Minister Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY). An official statement said that a large number of major and medium irrigation projects taken up under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) were languishing mainly due to inadequate provision of funds.

Book Post

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From:

**Agro-Economic Research Centre**

*For the states of Gujarat and Rajasthan*

(Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Govt. of India)

H.M. Patel Institute of Rural Development,

Opp. Nanadalaya Temple, Post Box No. 24,

**Sardar Patel University**

Vallabh Vidyanagar 388120, Anand, Gujarat

Ph.No. +91-2692-230106, 230799, Fax- +91-2692-233106

E-mail : [director.aerc@gmail.com](mailto:director.aerc@gmail.com)

Website: [www.aercspu.ac.in](http://www.aercspu.ac.in)

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