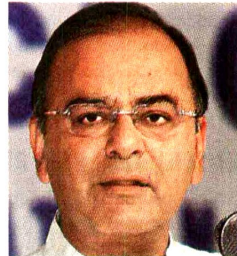


FM for big agri-investment to meet future food needs

NEW DELHI: Finance Minister Arun Jaitley on Friday said there is a need for long term investment in agriculture for meeting future food demands of the country. He asked the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) to continue addressing the inadequacies in rural finance market and “thereby enhance its unique apex development bank status” for development of agriculture and rural sector.

Jaitley was addressing the Board of Directors of NABARD. Emphasising the need



to support rural housing, he appreciated NABARD's efforts in allocating Rs 3,000 crore by way of refinance.

He advised NABARD to continue to provide “leadership” in areas such as financial inclusion.

PTI