

## Odisha's State potato mission from 2015-16

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**

Bhubaneswar, December 28

Hit by potato scarcity, the Odisha government has decided to launch a State potato mission from the next fiscal with the objective of making the State self-sufficient in production of the tuber in the next three years.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik said the mission would be based on a task force report. He asked officials to chart out a comprehensive implementation programme for potato.

The State has set up a task force with a target for expansion of potato cultivation on 60,000 hectares over three years to achieve the targeted production of 11.25 lakh tonnes by 2017-18, Patnaik said. He added that the State would maintain a buffer of four lakh tonnes. Agriculture Secretary Rajesh Verma said the total financial implication would be ₹544.32 crore in three years. He said the State's three-pronged strategy was — incentive to farmers, focus on seed supply and provision of cold storage facilities to cultivators.