

MS Swaminathan calls for demonetisation package for agriculture

Chennai, Dec 4: The concerns over demonetization in the context of agriculture along with suggestions have been made by Prof M S Swaminathan Founder MSSRF. In an article that he has written in a daily today, Prof Swaminathan has said "The timing of demonetization has created difficulties for farmers in getting credit for seeds,

fertilizers, energy for Rabi crops. It is important to take into account potential implications on more than sixty per cent of our population engaged in farming."

Noting that the government has taken steps to help farmers obtain the necessary inputs, he adds,

"Every calamity is also an opportunity for

progress. I therefore suggest that immediately State governments adopt a demonetization, management package for agriculture. The difficulties caused by demonetization could be used for the improvement and streamlining of credit access and delivery mechanism."

He suggests that demonetization could be

an occasion to popularize Kisan Credit Cards, while making it available for not only to men farmers but also to all women farmers. "The credit card should be in a position to help farmers to purchase the needed inputs without much difficulty. Demonetization could then lead to a new era in agriculture."