

Agri science congress from today

The aim is to prepare a plan of action to make Indian agriculture 'climate smart'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT BENGALURU

About 2,000 agricultural scientists from across the country and some from outside will congregate in Bengaluru for four days from Tuesday to prepare a plan of action to make Indian agriculture 'climate smart' and insulate it from the vagaries of weather.

This will be the agenda at the 13th National Agricultural Science Congress being held at the campus of the University of Agricultural Sciences-Bengaluru (UAS-B) at a time when drought and floods are affecting agriculture and food production.

The congress, being held for the first time in Karnataka, is being jointly organised by the UAS-B, National Academy of Agricultural Sciences (NAAS) and Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).

Bengaluru declaration

S. Ayyappan, former chairman of NAAS, told reporters on Monday that the congress will come out with a 'Bengaluru declaration' on ways of making Indian agriculture climate smart. It is

Making farming climate smart

13th National Agricultural Science Congress

- About 2,000 scientists will participate in four-day event
- UAS-B to dedicate ₹2 crore for taking climate smart initiative to farmers
- Exhibition on climate smart agriculture
- UAS-B seeks additional budgetary allocation of ₹12 crore this year for various initiatives

expected to become part of the policy initiatives of the Centre and various State governments, which are keenly looking at measures to ensure that food production is not affected due to the vagaries of weather.

UAS-B Vice-chancellor H. Shivanna said the main theme has been divided into six sub-themes of climate change and variability, adaptations for climate change, mitigating its impact, farmers' innovative methods to mitigate climate change and capacity building for climate resilient agriculture & policy issues.

The idea is also to learn from the best practices in

'Techies expressing interest in farming'

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An average of two to three software engineers from Bengaluru approach agricultural experts expressing a desire to diversify into farming, former Director-General of Indian Council of Agricultural Research S. Ayyappan has said.

"Most software engineers who wish to diversify into farming are either those who have their roots in farming or those who have farm land," he said. "Mostly, they are in the age group of 35 to 40, and cite their intention to connect to their roots as

the reason for their interest."

"Some of them even cite fatigue and feel they are ageing fast," he told The Hindu. But, it does not mean that all of them want to quit their jobs, as they would like to do farming alongside.

Generally, they show interest in hi-tech farming such as cultivation of vegetables or flowers under protected condition which yields remunerative income, Dr. Ayyappan said, while describing this as an indication that agriculture has not lost importance as an occupation.

handling climate change in different parts of the country, he added.

He said there was a dire need to make agriculture climate smart as drastic

changes in climate is threatening food security, especially when the country needed to sharply increase food production to feed the increasing population.