

Weekly Agriculture & Rural development

Study Material

22-30 June 2022



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22-30th June 2022

Dear readers,

Weekly Agriculture and Rural Development (ARD) notes are a collection of important news and events that occurred in the fourth week (22- 30th) of June 2022. This file is important for **regulatory body exams**.

1. TraceX partners with TechnoServe for Araku Valley coffee producers

Note:

- TraceX Technologies has tied up with the TechnoServe to offer end-to-end digital traceability for coffee producers in Araku Valley, Andhra Pradesh.
- Aim: To provide brands Blue Tokai and Humble beans the ability, which helps to track and record every stage of the coffee (from bean to cup).
- As a part of the 'Sustainable Livelihoods for Smallholder Farmers' program, grant-funded by the Walmart Foundation.
- TraceX Technologies is a blockchain-powered traceability platform.
- GI Tag to Coffees: Coorg, Bababudangiri, Chikmagalur, Araku Valley and Wayanad coffees

2. Kirloskar launches round-the-clock power tillers

Note:

- Kirloskar Oil Engines Limited (KOEL) has launched power tiller equipped with K-Cool technology engines.
- The 12 HP and 15 HP power tillers with self-start engines can work round the clock.

Features:

- It provides farmers with a self-start option and reduce their drudgery.
- It also caters to farmers' comfort and safety by providing a seat option as a standard factory fitment.
- Kirloskar Oil Engines Limited:
- Manufacturer of diesel engines, power generating sets, and farm mechanization equipment.

3. Actor Manoj Pahwa appointed as a brand ambassador of nurture.retail

Note:

- nurture.retail is the B2B e-commerce arm of nurture.farm.
- It has been appointed Manoj Pahwa (Bollywood Actor) to promote its app within the agri-retailer community of India.
- This platform allows agriculture input retailers and distributors to buy crop protection products, fertilisers, nutrition and biological products, farming equipment, seeds and cattle feed directly from the manufacturers.
- Doorstep delivery of products at zero cost.

4. Agtech startup Krishify launches SaaS-based tool 'business suite'

Note:

- Krishify (an agritech company) has launched a SaaS tool named Krishify Business Suite.
- Aim: It helps businesses to connect, engage and transact with farmers efficiently.
- Businesses can use this tool to increase their share of voice on the platform and strengthen brand awareness.
- This tool also allows businesses to manage inquiries by farmers.
- This is also provided communication tools such as SMS, WhatsApp, and OBD calls, as well as Krishify Chat.

5. Largest Bacteria: Thiomargarita magnifica Bacteria

Note:

- Scientists have discovered a giant white bacterium named "Thiomargarita magnifica Bacteria".
- Location: Rotting leaves in saline waters of red mangrove swamp (Guadeloupe in Lesser Antilles).
- Volume: 0.4 and 3 μm^3
- Length: 1 cm
- It is only visible with powerful compound microscope
- It is composed of single bacterial cell.
- Previously, the world's biggest bacterium is Thiomargarita namibiensis (Namibia).

6. Siren project to protect Elephant from Odisha

Note:

- The Dhenkanal forest department in Odisha planned to install automatic sirens near NH to protect elephants from accidents.
- The tower will be set up in the elephant prone areas.
- On the arrival of elephant, the siren will ring, and red light will be turned on.
- The pilot project was started by 'Change'.
- 'Change' is a voluntary organization that works for the protection of elephant.
- Initially, the project has been started near Rasasingh and Haldiabahal, along the Dhenkanal-Anugul NH 55.

7. Indian Oil reveals 'Surya Nutan', an indoor solar cooking stove

Note:

- Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) has unveiled a stationary, rechargeable cooking stove named Surya Nutan.
- It is a kitchen connected cooking stove that uses the sun's energy to cook food.
- This was developed by IOC's research and development division at Faridabad.
- It captures solar energy through a PV panel that placed outdoor or on the roof.
- The cost of base model is ₹12,000, while the top model will cost ₹23,000.

8. Project Bandhan launches to tackle pink bollworm in cotton

Note:

- The pink bollworm infestation spreads in cotton plants in North India.
- All the stakeholders are taking up large-scale demonstration of the use of technologies such as mating disruption to tackle the dreaded pest.
- Stakeholders include: the Central Institute of Cotton Research (CICR), State agricultural universities and private players including the South Asia Biotechnology Centre (SABC)

Mating disruption:

- It is an innovative pheromone-based technique.
- It interferes with the reproductive cycle of PBW in such a way that the population is significantly reduced, and crop damage is minimised. The Central Insecticide Board and Registration Committee (CIBRC) had approved the technology in the integrated pest management.

9. Farmers from Arunachal bagged 4 Awards for Cardamom production

Note:

- Farmers from Arunachal Pradesh has bagged four out of the six awards for large cardamom production for the years 2019–20 and 2020–21 at the "International Buyer Seller Meet & Spice Conclave" in Assam.

Winners (Farmers):

- Neelam Jeel (first prize, 2019-20)
- Ngurang Yame (second prize, women category, 2020-21)
- Joram Taemin (second prize, 2021-22)
- Ashati Dele (first prize, 2020-21)

10. HB4 Wheat receives USFDA clearance after evaluation

Note:

- The US Food and Drug Administration (USFDA) has completed its evaluation of Bioceres Crop Solutions Corp's proprietary drought tolerant HB4 Wheat.

- Bioceres is a crop productivity solutions provider.
- It has submitted all of the safety and regulatory information documents.
- It has no further concerns about the safety of HB4 Wheat.
- The United States is the fifth largest wheat producer as well as the third-largest exporter.
- HB4 Wheat is commercially authorized for production and consumption.
- Argentina became the first country to grant this permission in October 2020.
- HB4, drought-tolerance technology has been shown to increase wheat yields by an average of 20% in water-limited conditions.

11. NITI Aayog & World Food Program Launches Report - 'Take Home Ration: Good Practices across the State/Union Territories'

Note:

- The report presents a set of good and innovative practices adopted in the implementation of the Take Home Ration value chain by the States and UTs.
- Government provides Take Home Ration under the Supplementary Nutrition component of the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS).
- Aim: To fill the gap in nutrition among children as well as pregnant and lactating women (PLW).
- The document on good practices compiles and collates innovations in Take Home Ration (THR) programmes in various States and UTs.
- It will help State Governments/UTs to adopt good practices in their THR programmes.

12. Cabinet Approves Computerization of Primary Agriculture Credit Societies (PACS)

Note:

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) chaired by PM Narendra Modi has approved the computerisation of Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS).
- Aim: Increasing efficiency of PACS, bringing transparency and accountability in their operations.
- This project proposes computerization of about 63,000 functional PACS over a period of five years.
- Total budget outlay of Rs 2,516 crore (central government's share of Rs 1,528 crore).
- The Primary Agricultural Cooperative credit societies (PACS) constitute the lowest tier of the three-tier short-term cooperative credit (STCC) in India comprising of nearly 13 crore farmers as its members.

13. UP government to Hold Special Campaign to Provide Crop Insurance to Farmers

Note:

- Uttar Pradesh government has conducted a special drive-in order to give insurance coverage to farmers against probable crop damages.
- The PM Crop Insurance Scheme (PM CIS) from the Center's agriculture department is proposing to carry out the drive between July 1 and July 7 on those development blocks with lesser farm insurance coverage.
- A compensation of Rs 3,074.6 crore has reportedly been transferred into the accounts of 27.5 lakh farmers in UP.
- Few development blocks in each of the eight aspirational districts: Bahraich (Risia block), Shravasti (Sirsia), Balrampur (Utraula), Siddharthnagar (Latan), Fatehpur (Bijaipur), Chitrakoot (Ramnagar), and Chandauli, according to a directive from additional chief secretary for agriculture, Devesh (Niyamtabad).

14. IISR-ICAR joins hands with Russian Enterprise to Commercialize Bio-Capsule

Note:

- The Indian Institute of Spices Research (IISR) of the Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Lysterra LLC (Russian company).
- Aim: Commercialization of biocapsule, an encapsulation technology for bio-fertilization.
- The unique microbial encapsulation method of IISR is utilized to encapsulate all agriculturally significant microorganisms for the intelligent distribution of helpful microorganisms as bio-fertilizers to crops.

15. Tomar inaugurated Honey Testing Lab in Nagaland

Note:

- Narendra Singh Tomar (Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare) has inaugurated Honey Testing Lab in Dimapur, Nagaland.
- Aim: To assist beekeepers and processors in testing the honey produced.
- He also paid a visit to the Bamboo Museum and the Organic AC Market.

16. Egypt agrees to Purchase 180,000 Tonnes of Wheat from India

Note:

- Egypt has contracted to buy 180,000 tonnes of wheat from India, less than previously agreed.
- Egypt is one of the world's biggest wheat importers.
- Egypt government is looking for alternatives to Black Sea grain exports which face disruptions caused by Russia's invasion of Ukraine.
- Russia and Ukraine have been Egypt's main wheat suppliers.
- The Ukraine crisis has also raised import costs for Egypt.
- India banned wheat exports in May because of lower domestic production but made allowances for countries like Egypt with food security needs.

17. Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya Introduces 'Vision 2027' on His Visit to Madras Fertilizers Ltd.

Note:

- Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya (Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare and Chemicals and Fertilizers) has visited to Madras Fertilizers Limited (MFL) in Chennai.
- He reviewed the Company's progress, comprehended the challenges, elaborated on the opportunities, and directed the Company to work towards meeting the needs of our farmers.
- MFL has successfully supplied more than 32% of the state of Tamil Nadu's neem coated urea requirement of 4.5 LMT in Kharif 2022.
- While producing and supplying nearly 82% of Puducherry's Kharif requirement of 7300 MT.

18. Haryana Govt providing Rs 25K Subsidy on Indigenous cow for natural farming

Note:

- Haryana CM, Manohar Lal Khattar has said that his government will provide a subsidy of Rs 25,000.
- Why: To buy an indigenous cow for organic farming.
- Farmers will get four drums free of charge to use in Jeevamrut solution preparation.
- The Agricultural Technology Management Agency (AATMA) scheme would fix the poisonous food grains being produced in the fields due to the careless use of chemical fertilizers.
- Govt is also working with assistant technical managers (ATMs), block technical managers (BTMs), and farmers associated with the Agricultural Technology Management Agency (AATMA) of the Union government.

19. Maharashtra Government's Scheme will benefit Cotton & Soyabean Farmers

Note:

- The Maharashtra government has sanctioned Rs 1,000 crore to boost cotton and soybean production in the state.
- 100 acres of farmers are covered, and ten groups are formed, each with a farmer producer company.
- The government aims covered 300–400 farmer producer companies.
- The government have decided to provide Rs 450 crore for cotton and soyabean and Rs 100 crore for other oilseeds.
- The soybean and cotton make up over 60% of the crops farmed in Maharashtra.

20. Coca-Cola Beverages collaborates with Namibia Polymer Recyclers to Set up PET Flaking Plant

Note:

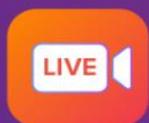
- In order to establish a plastic recycling facility in Namibia, Coca-Cola Beverages Africa (CCBA) and Namibia Polymer Recyclers (NPR) have signed an investment agreement.
- Post-consumer bottles must be sorted, cleaned, and crushed into PET flakes before being shipped back to South Africa for further processing into recycled PET goods or R-PET material.
- In line with the Coca-Cola Company's World Without Waste initiative, this investment will broaden CCBA's partnerships in Namibia that are centered on the collection of plastic waste.
- The Coca-Cola Company and all of its bottling partners are setting the standard for the industry by encouraging people to recycle and save one bottle or can for each one they sell by 2030.

- The only mechanical recycler in Namibia currently recycling up to 200 tonnes of LD plastics per month is NPR, a division of Plastic Packaging.
- Through this partnership, NPR will increase plastic recycling to more than 400 tonnes monthly, ensuring that Namibia develops a circular economy for plastics.

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