

Farmers got 15.23 lakh agri machinery under Central scheme since 2014-15

Our Bureau
Mangaluru

The Centre has provided 15.23 lakh agricultural machinery and equipment to farmers under the Centrally-sponsored scheme "Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanisation" (SMAM), according to Narendra Singh Tomar, Union Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Minister.

Replying to a query in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday, he said SMAM is being implemented through State governments since 2014-15 for promoting agricultural mechanisation in the country.

BOOST YIELD, INCOME

Under the scheme, 15,23,650 agricultural machinery and equipment have been provided to the farmers.

He said 43,954 custom hir-

ing centres/hi-tech hubs/farm machinery banks have been established.

Stating that agricultural mechanisation and crop productivity have a direct correlation, he said agricultural mechanisation saves time and labour, increases utilisation efficiencies of various costly inputs, reduces drudgery, reduces post-harvest losses, and boosts crop output and farm income.

"It has been found that agricultural mechanisation in India leads to saving in seed (15-20 per cent), saving in fertilizer (15-20 per cent), saving in time (20-30 per cent), reduction in weed (20-40 per cent), reduction in labour (20-30 per cent), improvement in germination rate (7-25 per cent), increase in cropping intensity (5-20 per cent), and increase in crop yield (13-23 per cent)," he said.