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Launch Of Agri Dist Program: Transformative Step

The establishment of the Makhana Board in Bihar is an important step toward recognizing and scaling up the production, processing, and global market potential of this high-value crop.

FinTech BizNews Service

Mumbai, February 1, 2025: Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, Smt Nirmala Sitharaman presented the union budget for the FY2025-26 in the Parliament today, with a significant portion devoted to the agri sector and allied activities.

Dr. Malini Saba, Businesswoman with more than three decades of experience in Agriculture, Real Estate, Healthcare & Pharma, Women Empowerment, and Education, as well as Founder & Ex-Chairman, Saba Group, and the Founder & Chairman of Ananke Foundation, said: "The Union Budget 2025-2026



Dr. Malini Saba

demonstrates the government's strong commitment to strengthening India's agricultural sector, which remains the backbone of our economy and rural livelihoods. The launch of the Agricultural District Programme under the Prime Minister Krishi Yojana is a transformative step. By targeting 100 districts with low productivity and enhancing crop diversification, sustainable farming, post-harvest storage at the Panchayat and block levels, and irrigation facilities, this initiative has the potential to benefit 1.7 crore farmers and significantly boost agricultural resilience.

The government's six-year mission for self-reliance in pulses, with a special focus on tur and masoor, is another progressive move aimed at reducing import dependence and ensuring food security. The role of NAFED and NCCF in procurement will provide stability and financial assurance to farmers. A well-structured implementation strategy and active farmer participation will be crucial in maximizing the impact of this initiative over the next four years.

The increasing demand for nutritious food, fruits, and vegetables is a positive shift, and the budget's emphasis on improving accessibility, affordability, and supply chains in this sector is commendable. Expanding cold storage infrastructure and market linkages will ensure that increased production translates into better availability for consumers, promoting a healthier society.

The extension of Kisan Credit Cards (KCC) to 7.7 crore farmers, fishermen, and dairy farmers, along with an increase in the loan limit from Rs 3,000 to Rs5,000 under the modified interest subvention scheme, is a significant boost for the agricultural economy. This financial support will empower farmers with better access to resources, improving productivity and long-term sustainability.

Additionally, the establishment of the Makhana Board in Bihar is an important step toward recognizing and scaling up the production, processing, and global market potential of this high-value crop. Such targeted initiatives are essential for unlocking India's diverse agricultural potential.