



# IRRIGATION ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

Newsletter November 2024

Edition Volume IAI/26/19





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## IAI Maharashtra Chairman Highlights Micro-Irrigation Advancements in Meeting with Shri Nitin Gadkari, Hon'ble Minister for Road Transport & Highways, Government of India



Mr. Zumbarlal Hiralal Bhandari, Chairman of the IAI Maharashtra State Chapter recently met Shri Nitin Gadkari, Hon'ble Minister for Road Transport & Highways, Government of India, to discuss the transformative impact of micro-irrigation on Indian agriculture. During the meeting, the Chairman highlighted how micro-irrigation technologies are revolutionizing the agricultural landscape by enhancing water-use efficiency, improving crop yields, and boosting farmers' incomes. Shri Gadkari was apprised of the critical role these innovations play in addressing water scarcity and promoting sustainable farming practices. The discussion also underscored the potential for scaling these solutions to support the nation's goal of doubling farmers' income while conserving precious natural resources.

## Irrigation Association of India met Shri Manoj Kumar Singh, Chief Secretary, Govt. of Uttar Pradesh

Shri Rajesh Kumar, Director, Irrigation Association of India (IAI), Dr. Sangita Ladha Chairman- Training and Education Committee, along with members of the Uttar Pradesh Chapter, had the honour of meeting with Shri Manoj Kumar Singh, Chief Secretary, Govt. of Uttar Pradesh (GoUP). The discussions revolved around capacity-building initiatives, and the need to establish a robust ecosystem to promote the widespread adoption of micro-irrigation technologies in the state, enhancing agricultural productivity and water-use efficiency.

Shri Rajesh Kumar Director IAI, presented the third edition of the IAI Member Directory to the Hon'ble Chief Secretary. The comprehensive directory serves as a valuable reference for professionals in the micro-irrigation sector. Shri Manoj Kumar Singh graciously accepted the directory, commending the association for its





dedicated efforts in developing this valuable resource. He praised the directory for its thorough compilation of detailed information on manufacturers and service providers within India's irrigation sector. IAI and Department of Horticulture, Government of Uttar Pradesh, Jointly Organize Micro Irrigation Technician Training Program.

## **Shri Kaushal Jaiswal, President of the Irrigation Association of India (IAI), Meets Dr. Mote, Director of Horticulture in Pune, Maharashtra**



In a significant step towards boosting micro-irrigation adoption under the PDMC scheme, Shri Kaushal Jaiswal held an insightful meeting with Dr. Mote to discuss progress and future strategies. Dr. Mote shared encouraging updates, stating that the state has met all criteria and is on track to receive the 3rd instalment of funds soon. However, a critical funding gap remains—the state requires INR 400-500 crores from the Central Government, while the remaining allocation is only INR 200 crores. Recognizing the urgency, Dr. Mote sought IAI's support in advocating for the additional funding at the central level.



# IAI and the Department of Horticulture, Government of Uttar Pradesh will be jointly organizing the Micro Irrigation Technician Training Program across 6 districts of Uttar Pradesh

The Irrigation Association of India (IAI) and the Department of Horticulture, Government of Uttar Pradesh, are jointly organizing the Micro Irrigation Technician Training Program across six districts of the state. The program will be conducted in Agra, Saharanpur, Chitrakoot, Banda, Jaloun, and Mahoba, focusing on building technical expertise in the installation, operation, and maintenance of micro-irrigation systems, ensuring widespread adoption and effective utilization of this technology.

This program aims to create opportunities for participants to establish themselves as entrepreneurs or service providers in the field of micro-irrigation. By equipping individuals with practical skills and knowledge, this initiative seeks to contribute to rural employment generation and strengthen the local service ecosystem in irrigation.



## BUILDING SKILLS IN MICRO IRRIGATION

# TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR MICRO IRRIGATION TECHNICIANS



Irrigation Association of India is undertaking a comprehensive training programme for Micro Irrigation Technicians on the “**Installation, Operation and Maintenance of Micro Irrigation Technologies**” in collaboration with the Department of Horticulture & Food Processing, Govt. of Uttar Pradesh. The programme is designed to equip aspiring irrigation professionals with fundamental knowledge and skill-sets necessary to install, operate, maintain, repair and service basic micro-irrigation systems.

Under this programme, individuals – particularly rural youth and agricultural labourer – will be fully trained to pursue careers in the irrigation industry. Our “**Micro Irrigation (MI) Technicians**” will provide technical support to micro-irrigation companies, authorized dealers, agribusinesses, agri-start-ups, FPO’s, SHG, NGO’s, extension agencies and farmers associated with the Per Drop More Crop (PDMC) Scheme. The MI Technicians will take full responsibility for installation, maintenance, and repair of micro-irrigation systems including drip and sprinklers.

### KEY TAKEAWAYS FOR A MICRO IRRIGATION TECHNICIAN



#### Understanding Basic Micro Irrigation Technologies

Exposure to the basic components of a micro irrigation system including an understanding of how each part contributes to the effective delivery of water and overall efficient operation of the system



#### Know-How to Installation & System Maintenance

Comprehensive support in the installation and maintenance of a basic micro-irrigation system, including guided demonstrations, hands-on sessions and field visits.



#### Become an Irrigation Professional

Micro Irrigation Technicians will be fully responsible for delivering comprehensive technical support at the grassroots level. This includes independent installation, operation, and maintenance services.

### MICRO IRRIGATION TECHNICIANS WILL LEARN

- 1 Benefits of Micro Irrigation Technologies
- 2 Understanding the Components of a Basic Micro Irrigation System
- 3 Components of an Irrigation supply and distribution network
- 4 Fertigation Scheduling
- 5 Basic Maintenance of a Micro Irrigation System

### DATE

### UPCOMING TRAININGS 2024-2025

16- 19 December 2024	Agra
09- 12 January 2025	Saharanpur
20-23 January 2025	Chitrakoot
03-06 February 2025	Banda
24-27 February 2025	Jalaun
03-06 March 2025	Mahoba

## Department of Horticulture, Govt of Uttar Pradesh invites Micro-Irrigation companies to register under the Per Drop More Crop Scheme (PDMC) Scheme



The Department of Horticulture & Food Processing, Govt. of Uttar Pradesh has invited Micro Irrigation Companies to register under the Per Drop More Crop (PDMC) Scheme in the state of Uttar Pradesh. Under the Request for Proposal (RFP), Micro-Irrigation interested in supplying and installing drip and sprinkler irrigation systems in the state may apply. The registration is for a period of 5 years (2024-2025 to 2028-2029). The Department of Horticulture & Food Processing is the dedicated state nodal agency for implementation of the centrally supported Per Drop More Crop (PDMC) Scheme - a Scheme dedicated to improving water use efficiency through Micro Irrigation viz. Drip and Sprinkler irrigation systems in the state. Interested companies may apply at [www.etender.up.nic.in](http://www.etender.up.nic.in)

(Source: [www.etender.up.nic.in](http://www.etender.up.nic.in))

## Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Govt. of India issues Operational Guidelines 2024 under the Per Drop More Crop (PDMC) Scheme

The Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Govt. of India has issued "Operational Guidelines for the Per Drop More Crop Scheme 2024" to all State Nodal Agencies implementing the Per Drop More Crop (PDMC) Scheme. Per Drop More Crop (PDMC) is a centrally supported Scheme with a focus on enhancing water use efficiency at farm level through Micro Irrigation viz. Drip and Sprinkler irrigation systems.



### Key additions to the Operational Guidelines 2024 include: -

- Implementing Agencies must complete the timely inspection or physical inspection of Micro Irrigation systems within 60 days of installation
- Inclusion of HDPE Pipes manufactured under Bureau of Indian Standard IS: 17425:2020
- Ministry of Jal Shakti (MoJS) and Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (MoA&FW) to pilot innovative projects in canal commands under the PDMC Scheme. Innovative projects such as Pressurized Piped Irrigation Command (PPIC) upto 500 Ha may include additional components like Solar Powered energy and water efficient Micro Irrigation technologies
- Dovetailing of Per Drop More Crop Scheme with Dharti AabaJanjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs'

Source: <https://agriwelfare.gov.in/en/Guiderainfedfarmingsystem>

## A two-day National Seminar on “Precision Farming Technologies for Improving Production and Productivity of horticultural and forestry crops” organized by the Precision Farming Development Centre (PFDC) under National Committee on Precision Agriculture and Horticulture (NCPAH), MoA&FW

A two-day National Seminar on “Precision Farming Technologies for Improving Production and Productivity of Horticultural and Forestry crops” was organized by the Department of Soil Science and Water Management, a Precisions Farming Development Centre (PFDC) under NCPAH, in collaboration with the Indian Society of Tree Scientists (ISTS). The two-day Summit, held on 22nd – 23rd October 2024 at the Directorate of Extension Education, Dr. YS Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry, Himachal Pradesh aimed to introduce farmers, scientists, researchers, and experts to environmentally friendly methods of farming with the potential to improve production, productivity and maximize farmer’s returns on investments.



The Summit was inaugurated by Shri C. Paulrasu, Secretary of Horticulture, Himachal Pradesh; Prof. Rajeshwar Singh Chandel, Vice Chancellor of UHF; and Prof. P.K. Khosla, President of ISTS and featured opening addresses and plenary sessions showcasing the latest advancements in horticultural techniques, precision farming technologies, micro-irrigation systems, and protected cultivation. Emphasizing key initiatives and programs in the state, the Summit underscored the importance of aligning institutional goals with current challenges and emerging technologies in the horticultural sector. It called for the

integration of advanced precision farming methods, particularly micro-irrigation and protected cultivation, into both development programs and skill enhancement initiatives.

(Source: <https://himachaltonite.com/himachal/precision-farming-technologies-seminar-gets-under-way-at-nauni/>)

## Fyllo's innovative Soil Moisture Sensors receive national recognition at the Krishi Mela organized by Gandhi Krishi Vigyan Kendra, University of Agricultural Sciences Bangalore (UAS-B)



“Nero,” an innovative soil moisture sensor developed by Fyllo, a precision farming company based in Bengaluru, garnered significant media attention at the Krishi Mela hosted by the Gandhi Krishi Vigyan Kendra (GKVK) of the University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore (UAS-B). As part of Fyllo’s extensive portfolio of data-driven precision farming technologies, Nero innovative soil moisture sensor offers real-time monitoring of soil moisture, temperature, and other environmental

factors, empowering farmers with vital, up-to-date information. This advanced technology enables farmers to make more informed decisions about when and how much to irrigate, enhancing the precision of their farming practices.

In addition to irrigation alerts, Nero’s soil moisture sensor can also be connected to cloud-based platforms, offering fertigation schedules specific to different crops and growth stages. The sensors are especially beneficial for maintaining crops like pomegranates, grapes, papayas and carnations. The Krishi Mela, organized around the theme “Climate SMART Digital Farming Solutions,” showcased over 700 stalls featuring cutting-edge technologies and advanced agricultural tools, including AI-powered sprinklers, app-controlled solar equipment, and multispectral drones for yield monitoring.

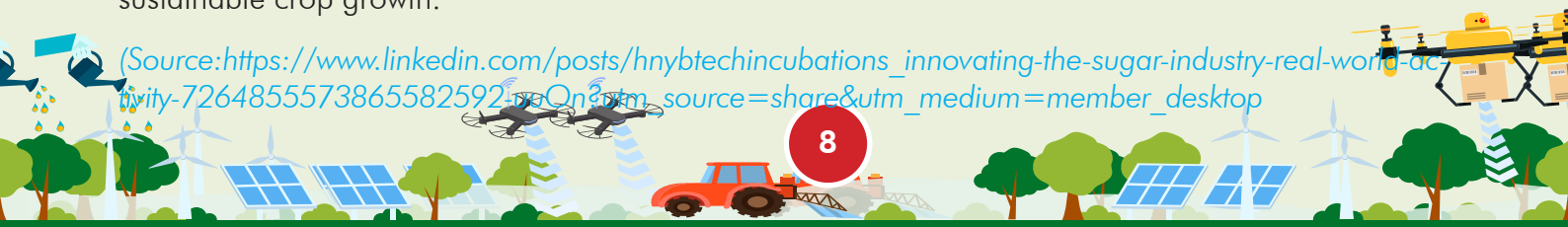
(Source: [https://www.linkedin.com/posts/fyllo\\_precisionagriculture-krishimela-gkvk-activity-7263060348964937729-ewMb?utm\\_source=share&utm\\_medium=member\\_desktop](https://www.linkedin.com/posts/fyllo_precisionagriculture-krishimela-gkvk-activity-7263060348964937729-ewMb?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop))

## Innovating the Sugar Industry: Demonstrating the use advanced Precision Farming technologies

The sugar industry in India is embracing a new era of innovation, leveraging advanced technologies to improve efficiency, reduce resource consumption, and maximize value across the supply chain. Groundbreaking solutions are transforming the cultivation, processing, and utilization of sugarcane, tackling key challenges and fuelling growth. Advanced precision farming techniques are revolutionizing crop yields with tools like GPS and GIS enabling accurate field mapping and strategic resource allocation. Drones equipped with multispectral cameras provide real-time insights into crop health, guiding farmers to optimize water and nutrient usage. Additionally, AI-powered irrigation systems analyze soil moisture and weather patterns to deliver precise water quantities to crops, ensuring sustainable crop growth.



(Source: [https://www.linkedin.com/posts/hnybtechincubations\\_innovating-the-sugar-industry-real-world-activity-7264855573865582592-nsQn?utm\\_source=share&utm\\_medium=member\\_desktop](https://www.linkedin.com/posts/hnybtechincubations_innovating-the-sugar-industry-real-world-activity-7264855573865582592-nsQn?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop))





## Haryana Renewable Energy Development Agency (HAREDA) awards contracts for 17,458 Solar Water Pumps Under PM KUSUM



The Haryana Renewable Energy Development Agency (HAREDA) has awarded contracts for the supply, installation, and commissioning of 17,458 solar water pumping systems under Component B of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Uttam Mahabhiyan (PM KUSUM) program. Companies that received contracts include Shakti Pumps, AVI Appliances, Oswal Pumps, Ethos Power, Rotomag Motors and Controls, Ecozen Solutions, and Apex Solar Power.

PM KUSUM Component B aims to install 2 million standalone solar

water pumps to irrigate agricultural land. The initiative is designed to benefit individual farmers, water user associations, farmer producer organizations, primary agricultural credit societies, and community-based irrigation systems. HAREDA offers subsidies of up to 75% for solar water pumps with capacities ranging from 3 HP to 10 HP. For solar pumps between 3 HP and 7.5 HP, farmers contribute 25% of the cost, with the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) covering the remaining expenses. In Haryana, however, financial assistance is extended to solar pumps of up to 10 HP. The introduction of additional financial assistance will serve to benefit

(Source: [https://www.linkedin.com/posts/shaktipumps\\_haryana-awards-contracts-for-17458-solar-activity-7260970240228945920-afS9?utm\\_source=share&utm\\_medium=member\\_desktop](https://www.linkedin.com/posts/shaktipumps_haryana-awards-contracts-for-17458-solar-activity-7260970240228945920-afS9?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop))



[www.dhanukaindia.com](http://www.dhanukaindia.com)



## Soil degradation on 30 pc of India's land poses threat to agriculture: Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Agri Minister



Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan, the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, expressed deep concern over the growing issue of soil degradation, with 30 percent of India's land facing stress and urgently requiring sustainable soil management practices to address declining soil quality. Speaking at the "Global Conference on Soil," the Minister highlighted the critical role of soil health in achieving key Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including zero hunger, climate action, and life on land. Chouhan pointed out that around 30 percent of India's agricultural land is degraded, primarily due to exces-

sive fertilizer use, imbalanced application of fertilizers, over-exploitation of natural resources, and improper soil management practices. The Minister also showcased various government initiatives aimed at promoting sustainable soil management, such as the distribution of over 220 million soil health cards. In his address, he urged farmers to adopt sustainable practices, including micro-irrigation and organic farming, to safeguard soil health for future generations.

(Source: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/agriculture/soil-degradation-on-30-pc-of-indias-land-poses-threat-to-agriculture-agri-minister/articleshow/115443589.cms>)

## Samunnati ties up with Northern Farmers Mega FPO to boost sustainable agriculture

Agri-value chain enabler Samunnati has announced a strategic partnership with Northern Farmers Mega FPO to advance sustainable farming practices and improve market access for farmers across northern India. This collaboration will link over 50 FPOs with improved access to essential inputs, cutting-edge technology services, financial support, and investment opportunities. A key focus of the initiative is converting paddy straw waste into clean energy solutions, such as compressed biogas and biomass pellets, helping to combat the region's ongoing stubble-burning pollution. The partnership seeks to establish a model where farmer-owned companies collaborate with market leaders to drive agricultural prosperity.



(Source: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/agriculture/samunnati-ties-up-with-northern-farmers-mega-fpo-to-boost-sustainable-agriculture/articleshow/115407782.cms>)

## Australia keen to explore opportunities in India's Agri-tech space: Govt of India

H.E. Philip Green, Australia's High Commissioner to India, held a meeting with Mr. Devesh Chaturvedi, Agriculture Secretary at the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (MoA&FW), Government of India.







to explore potential collaborations in agriculture and related sectors. Emphasizing agriculture's central role in Australia's strategic priorities, Mr. Green expressed a strong interest in expanding opportunities within the agri-tech sector. Both parties underscored the importance of deepening cooperation across a range of areas, including agri-tech, horticulture, digital agriculture, and agricultural machinery.

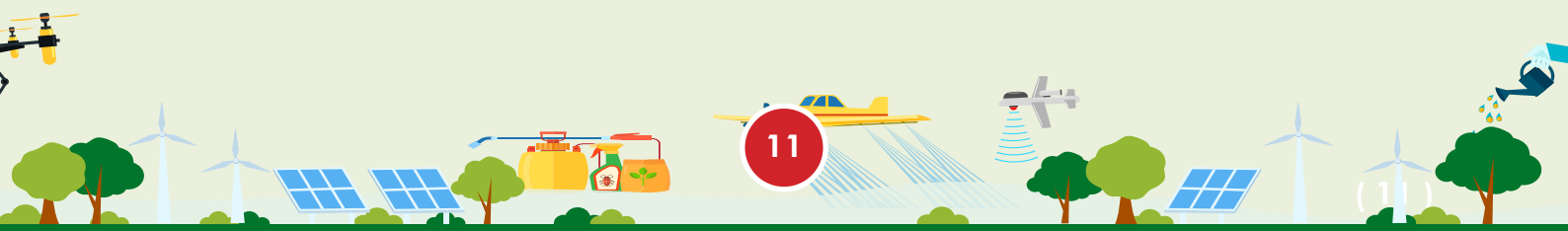
(Source: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/agriculture/australia-keen-to-explore-opportunities-in-indias-agri-tech-space-govt/articleshow/115334560.cms>)

## India re-elected as President of International Solar Alliance till 2026

India has been re-elected as President of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) for the term 2024–2026, with France serving as Vice-President. This announcement was made at the 7th ISA General Assembly, where eight Vice Presidents were also elected, alongside Ashish Khanna, the new Director General. India's re-election to the presidency is a testament to India's significant contributions to the advancement of solar energy. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India has played a key role in advancing solar energy adoption worldwide, driving investment in crucial projects such as mini-grids and health-care solutions.



(Source: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/renewables/india-re-elected-as-president-of-international-solar-alliance-till-2026/articleshow/114940436.cms>)



## HMJS launches “Bhu-Neer” Portal for ground water withdrawal permits



Shri C.R. Paatil, the Hon'ble Minister of Jal Shakti, digitally launched the newly developed Bhu-Neer portal during the concluding ceremony of India Water Week 2024. Developed by the Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) under the Ministry of Jal Shakti, in collaboration with the National Informatics Centre (NIC), Bhu-Neer is an advanced platform designed to enhance groundwater regulation across the country. This portal will serve as a comprehensive, one-stop solution for managing and regulating groundwater resources, ensuring greater transparency, efficiency, and sustainability in their usage. “Bhu-Neer” is equipped with a centralized database that provides users with detailed information on the legal framework governing groundwater extraction, regulations at the state and national levels. It will also offer essential insights into groundwater compliance, policies, and sustainable practices, further promoting responsible water management.

(Source: <https://pib.gov.in/newsite/pmreleases.aspx?mincode=1336> )



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## MIT GEAR Lab Develops Affordable Smart Irrigation Controller for Smallholder Farmers



MIT's GEAR Lab has introduced a groundbreaking smart irrigation controller that is both affordable and farmer-friendly. Tailored for smallholder farmers, the system uses real-time local weather data and crop-specific requirements to deliver water with precision, ensuring optimal efficiency and minimal waste. This innovative solution not only simplifies irrigation but also addresses critical challenges in water conservation and sustainable farming practices. By improving productivity and reducing water usage, it empowers farmers to achieve better yields while protecting natural resources. The controller's focus on affordability and usability makes advanced irrigation technology accessible to farmers worldwide, fostering resilience in the face of climate change. With this innovation, the GEAR Lab is paving the way for a smarter, more sustainable future in agriculture.

Source: <https://news.mit.edu/2023/gear-lab-creates-affordable-user-driven-smart-irrigation-controller-1025#:~:text=GEAR%20Lab%20has%20created%20several,local%20weather%20conditions%20and%20crop>

## UNU-IAS Highlights Micro-Irrigation as a Key to Sustainable Farming in South Asia



The United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS) has highlighted the transformative potential of micro-irrigation systems in South Asia. These systems are designed to efficiently deliver water directly to crop roots, reducing wastage and improving yields, particularly in water-scarce regions. The initiative aims to empower smallholder farmers by promoting resource-efficient practices that enhance productivity and resilience to climate change. By reducing water usage and energy costs, micro-irrigation supports sustainable development goals while addressing the challenges of food security in the region. With this focus on innovative solutions, UNU-IAS is driving the adoption of sustainable farming practices across South Asia.

Source: <https://unu.edu/ias/news/microirrigation-sustainable-agriculture-south-asia>



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## About Irrigation Association of India

Irrigation Association of India (IAI) is an apex industry body established in 1999, representing Micro Irrigation System (MIS) manufacturing companies in India. It is a not-for-profit organization and is working towards the successful implementation of Micro Irrigation in India for the benefit of farmers.

IAI has a registered office at Pune, Maharashtra, India and corporate office at New Delhi. IAI is closely working with the central Government of India and the State Governments. The association has a strong presence in states through IAI State Chapters at Karnataka, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Jharkhand, West Bengal, and North Eastern Region.

### What we do

- Policy Advocacy
- Knowledge Dissemination
- Capacity Building
- Convene meeting with Central/State govt. departments to apprise the industry issues
- Sectoral Conference/Workshop to promote Micro Irrigation



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