

IRRIGATION ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

Newsletter MAY 2024

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IAI Presidium Met with Shri Faiz Ahmed Kidwai, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmer's Welfare, Govt. of India

Shri Kaushal Jaiswal, President of IAI, along with Shri Saurabh Sangla, Senior Vice President of IAI, and Shri Primal Oswal, Past President of IAI, met with the Additional Secretary. During the meeting, IAI highlighted that despite the dedicated efforts of the micro-irrigation (MI) industry and the substantial support from the Department, the execution of the PDMC Scheme encountered numerous challenges over the past year.

Key Challenges Presented by the IAI Delegation

- Delays in scheme confirmation and methodologies hinder farmer adaptation, causing them to miss the crucial sowing season from April to June.
- Financial and legal challenges faced by MI companies due to prolonged delayed payments.
- Difficulty in achieving the envisaged targets due to the complex processes of RKVY

The Additional Secretary acknowledged that PDMC is a crucial scheme for the Government of India and assured the IAI delegation that the Department will take appropriate action on the issues presented.

Introducing India's 1st Polymeric Sand Media Filter

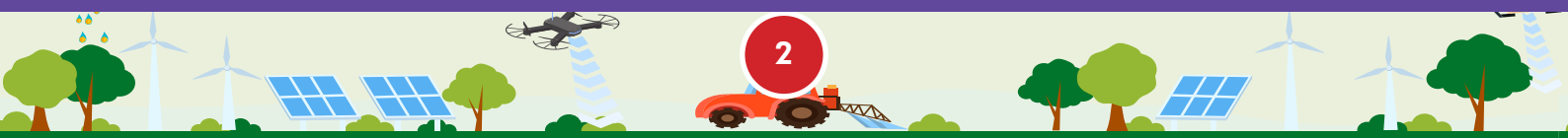
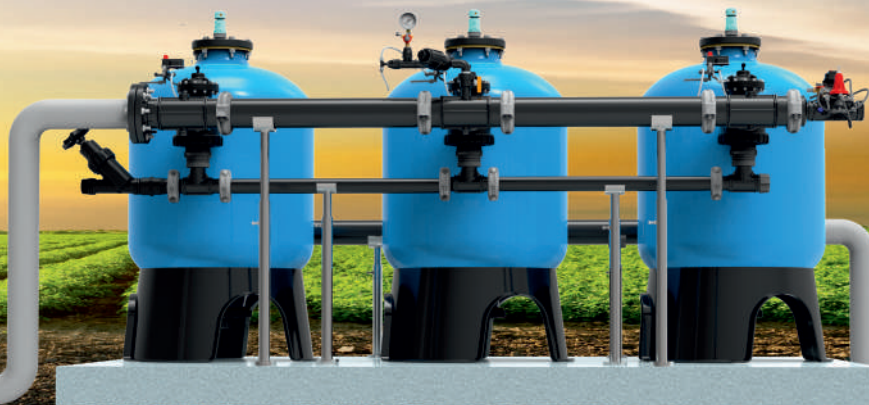


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Shri Kaushal Jaiswal chairs IAI 1st Executive Committee Meeting 2024-2025

Shri Kaushal Jaiswal, President- IAI chaired the Irrigation Association of India 1st Executive Committee Meeting of 2024-2025 along with Shri Saurabh Sangla Sr. Vice President & Chair Finance Committee, Shri Rajesh Kumar Director IAI, and other members of the Executive Committee.



Key Highlights of the IAI Executive Committee

- IAI Executive Committee approved IAI Action Plan 2024-2025
- IAI secretariat will schedule meetings with Principal Secretaries of Govt. of Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and Karnataka to apprise the persisting bottlenecks hampering the adoption of MI adoption.
- IAI Secretariat to collate the suggestions from EC members and State chairs and prepare representation for upcoming meeting with Secretary, Gol.
- IAI secretariat will facilitate a meeting with PMU officials with IAI state chapter during their visit to states.

Meeting with Central Marks Department, Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)

The Irrigation Association of India had the privilege of representing the micro-irrigation industry in an interactive discussion with officials from the Central Marks Department, Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS). The meeting was chaired by Shri Pinaki Gupta, Director of BIS, along with senior BIS representatives. The Irrigation Association of India was represented by Shri Jayant Jain, Chairman of the IAI Technical Committee, Rajesh Kumar, Director, Irrigation Association of India and other members of BIS and Technical committee.

Key concerns addressed included standards and testing procedures for micro-irrigation systems, focusing on sampling procedures under IS: 13488 and IS: 13487, field evaluation standards IS: 10799:1999, and blockage prevention standards IS: 14791. The Farm Irrigation and Drainage Systems Sectional Committee (FAD 17) and the Central Marks Department of the Bureau of Indian





Standards are responsible for developing and enforcing these irrigation equipment standards. Therefore, Shri Pinaki Gupta, Director of BIS, suggested a joint meeting with FAD 17 in the coming weeks to discuss and resolve the issues raised by IAI regarding sample collection for testing

IAI Odisha Chapter Met with Senior Officials of Govt. of Odisha

IAI members, led by Shri Dil Bahadur, Chairman of the IAI Odisha Chapter, participated in a series of discussions with senior officials from the Government of Odisha, including Dr. Arabinda Kumar Padhee, IAS, Principal Secretary, and Shri Rohit Kumar Lenka, IFS, Director of Horticulture.

During the meeting, IAI addressed key industry concerns, including the continuation and fund releases under the RKVY-PDMC Scheme, work orders and targets for the first quarter of 2024-2025, and the operationalization of a dedicated online portal along with DBT/Escrow models for fund transfers. Representing the industry's interests in the state, IAI has been advocating for the broader application of information technology to enhance the performance and efficiency of the PDMC Scheme. The dedicated state portal managed by the Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (DoA&FW) allows farmers to register, departments to issue work orders, and release pending payments to micro-irrigation companies.

Irrigation Association of India partners with the Department of Horticulture & Food Processing Govt. of Uttar Pradesh to organize 2nd Training Programme for MI Technicians & Job Fair in Jhansi district, Uttar Pradesh



Partnering with the Department of Horticulture & Food Processing Govt. of Uttar Pradesh, the Irrigation Association of India concluded the 2nd Training Programme for Micro-Irrigation Technicians on "Installation, Operation, and Maintenance of Micro Irrigation" on 14th – 17th May 2024 at Rani Laxmi Bai Central Agricultural University, Jhansi Uttar Pradesh. In an inspiring show of collaboration and innovation, 51 men and women farmers received hands-on training, gaining not just knowledge but practical expertise that promises to revolutionize their agricultural practices.

The event was further elevated by the participation of 12 leading MI companies, who not only shared their insights but also actively engaged in the job fair, offering 21 job opportunities to newly skilled technicians.

IAI Announces a Training Program on Micro Irrigation Automation at Bengaluru

The Irrigation Association of India is organizing a 2-day training program on Micro Irrigation Automation on June 28-29, 2024, in Bengaluru. This program aims to develop technical knowledge and expertise in automation technologies and SMART farming solutions. Automation in irrigation allows agricultural systems to operate efficiently, while SMART farming involves remote monitoring and data-driven processes using sensors, AI, IoT, and other advanced technologies.



The training is open to CEOs, managers, senior engineers, researchers, policymakers, and professionals from automation companies, MI companies, startups, Ag-Tech companies, consulting firms, and state departments involved in manufacturing and promoting automation and SMART farming solutions in India.

Key Training Content

- Basics of Irrigation Automation
- Selection Criteria for Automation Type & Product Features
- Automation of Fertigation
- IoT-based Automation Systems
- Artificial Intelligence in Micro-Irrigation

For more details you may write at director @iaiindia.org



Bureau of Indian Standards issues Guidelines for implementation of Revised IS 12786:2024 (Irrigation Equipment — Polyethylene Pipes for Irrigation Laterals)

The Bureau of Indian Standards' Central Mark Department has released guidelines for the implementation of the revised BIS Standard IS 12786:2024 (Irrigation Equipment — Polyethylene Pipes for Irrigation Laterals). All manufacturing companies are required to ensure that their products adhere to the updated standards by September 15, 2024. Key revisions include the introduction of laser printing on laterals and the authorization to use alternative surface-active reagents in environmental stress cracking resistance (ESCR). Manufacturers holding licenses must formally acknowledge their compliance with the updated standard to the BIS Branch Office; however, no evidence of conformity needs to be submitted. For further inquiries or concerns regarding this notice, companies may contact the IAI Secretariat.

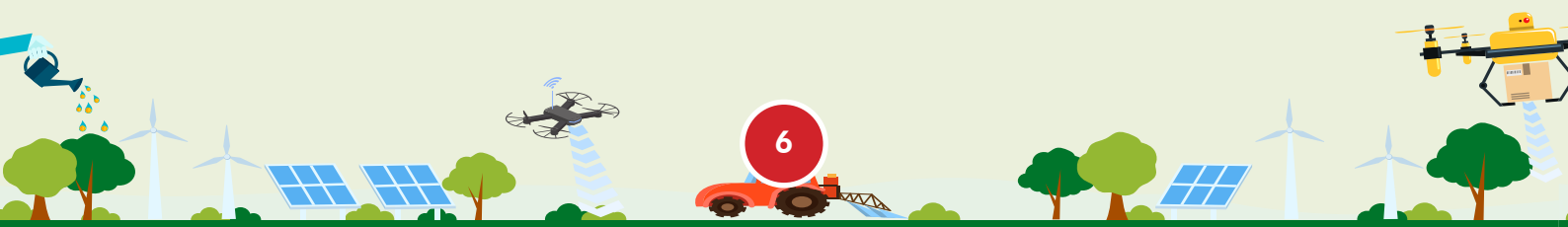
Source: https://www.services.bis.gov.in/tmp/Circular_IY9S_2024-04-23.pdf

Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, GOI onboard PDMC Scheme onto Krishi Mapper



The Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (DoA&FW) has onboarded the Per Drop More Crop (PDMC) Scheme on Krishi Mapper, a revolutionary geospatial mobile and web application platform designed to transform the agricultural sector in India. The Mapper aims to consolidate comprehensive information about farmers' agricultural activities across agricultural schemes and land databases for effective monitoring and policy-making. It enables the collection of land-based Scheme data including geo-tagging and geo-fencing and provides users with a single point of access to a wide range of spatial and non-spatial databases. With the PDMC Scheme onboarded onto Krishi Mapper, the DoA&FW has included another geospatial tool to a list being utilized to plan and monitor agricultural interventions supported by the Govt. of India.

(Source: <https://krishimapper.dac.gov.in/>)



DiCRA: UNDP & NABARD pioneer Open Data Innovations in agriculture



The Data in Climate Resilient Agriculture (DiCRA) is a collaborative digital public good that provides open access to key geospatial datasets pertinent to climate resilient agriculture. Developed by UNDP India and NABARD, the platform provides access to multiple spatial databases like the Normalized Differential Vegetation Index (NDVI), the Normalized Difference Water Index (NDWI), the Leaf Area Index (LAI), and the Land Use Land Cover. These basic vegetation and water indices will help in analyzing the agricultural trends over time to inform decisions about future investments in various areas like watershed management, micro-irrigation, warehouse optimization, and climate-related initiatives.

(Source: <https://dicra.undp.org.in/>)

APMIP Develops App for Non-Subsidy Payments under PDMC Scheme



The Andhra Pradesh Micro Irrigation Project (APMIP), a special-purpose vehicle created to promote Micro-Irrigation Technologies in Andhra Pradesh has developed an online application to enable Farmers to transfer Farmers Contribution/Non-Subsidy component of the PDMC Scheme. Under the Central Sector Scheme PDMC, financial assistance is provided to farmers for the adoption of Micro Irrigation Technologies – 55% for small and marginal farmers and 45% for other farmers. However, in Andhra Pradesh, the state government is providing financial assistance up to 90% of the cost of the MI System. For farmers with land holdings between 5-12.5 Acres only 50%-70% financial assistance is available. Now Beneficiaries can use the Payment App to ease payment of Farmer's Contributions/Non-Subsidy Payments and introduce transparency in financial transactions.

(Source: <https://horticulturedept.ap.gov.in/horticulture/NonSubsidyPayment.aspx>)

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APEDA Collaborated with Odisha's Directorate of Horticulture to Tap Global Markets for FPOs



APEDA and Odisha's Directorate of Horticulture has successfully integrated Odisha's FPOs into global markets, marking a milestone with the first commercial shipment of fresh produce to Dubai & Italy. This strategic alliance aims to facilitate the seamless integration of Odisha's premium mango & fresh vegetable produce into international markets. Under the initiative, clusters were identified to source fresh produce, and sustainable market linkage of the FPO with remunerative markets was developed.

(Source: <https://krishijagran.com/news/apeda-collaborated-with-odishas-directorate-of-horticulture-to-tap-global-markets-for-fpos/>)

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Godrej and PAU to Partner for Sustainable Cotton Farming and Farmers' Welfare

Godrej Industries and Punjab Agricultural University have agreed to partner on a Sustainable Cotton Farming and Farmers' Welfare initiative. An extension of Godrej Industries' initiatives to promote sustainable farming in India, the partnership will explore the adoption of sustainable agricultural practices by cotton farmers especially High-Density Planting Systems (HDPS) in cotton, technology transfers, field trials, farmers training and capacity building.



(Source: <https://krishijagran.com/news/godrej-and-pau-to-partner-for-sustainable-cotton-farming-and-farmers-welfare/>)

Heatwave Alert: Now is the Optimal Time to Go for Smart Agri Practices!



The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has predicted severe heatwave conditions in several northern states, including Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, and the national capital region.

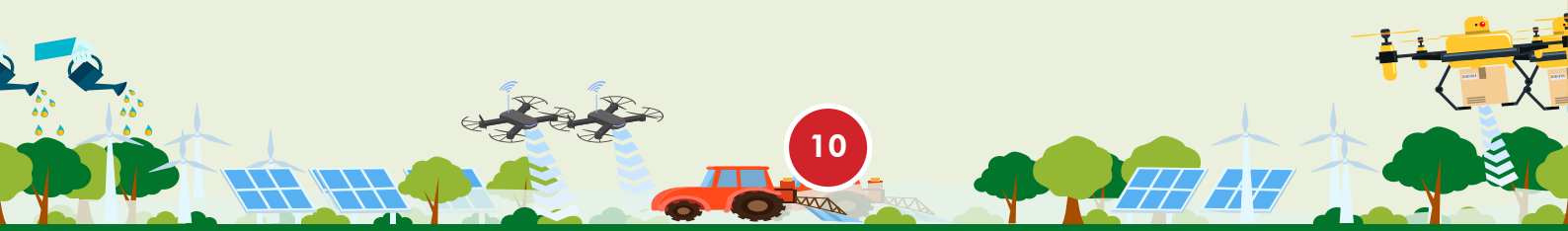
of Delhi. The heatwave will significantly impact agricultural activities across the country too. High temperatures and prolonged heat strains are already causing adverse effects on crops, soil moisture, and overall agricultural productivity. Such long-term exposure will result in causing heat stress on crops, reduced photosynthesis, wilting, and even crop failure.

(Source:<https://krishijagran.com/blog/heatwave-alert-now-is-the-optimal-time-to-go-for-smart-agri-practices/>)

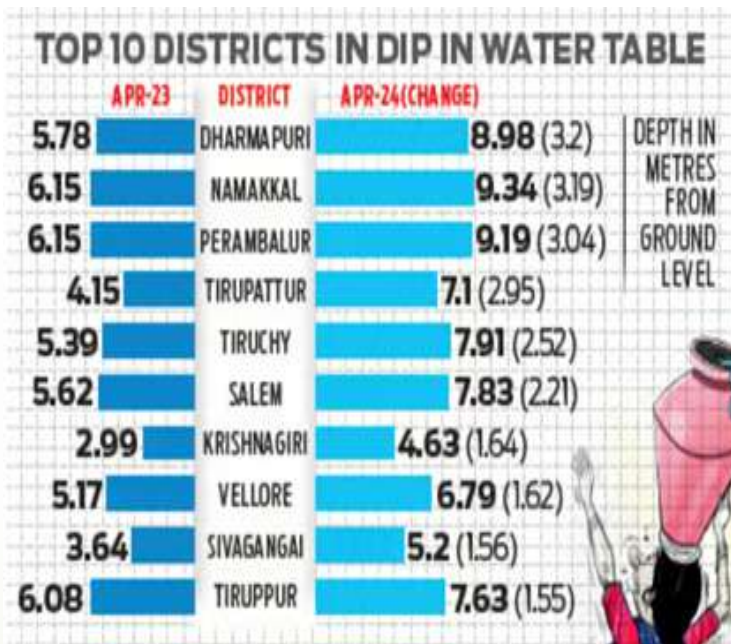
Can Climate-smart agriculture secure our planet's future?

Smart farming has the potential to gain widespread popularity and significantly contribute to climate conservation, while also enhancing the resilience and sustainability of agriculture, says Ashish Dobhal, CEO, of UPL SAS. The discussion sheds light on the importance of education, awareness, and collaboration in promoting sustainable development and addressing climate change in agriculture through climate-smart farming. Climate-smart practices that reduce methane emissions and enhance soil moisture retention, thus holding the key to a resilient and sustainable agricultural future.

(Source:<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/multimedia/audio/can-climate-smart-agriculture-secure-our-planets-future/article68186145.ece>)



Groundwater level dips in 26 districts, west TN worst hit



The groundwater levels in 26 districts of Tamil Nadu have witnessed a significant drop compared to April last year, exacerbating the water shortage across the state. The decline in groundwater levels is a cause of concern in the state with farmers forced to change cropping patterns. Scarcity in the release of water in canals is also worrying farmers engaged in farming in the states. State Departments have issued advisories to farmers emphasizing on the need to adopt water conservation practices including groundwater recharge.)

(Source: <https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/tamil-nadu/2024/May/09/groundwater-level-dips-in-26-districts-west-tn-worst-hit>)

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10th World Water Forum 18th – 25th May 2024



The 10th World Water Forum was held on 18th – 25th May 2024 in Bali Indonesia. The World Water Forum is the largest international gathering in the water sector involving various stakeholders, which has been co-hosted by the World Water Council and a host city. Under the theme “Water for Shared Prosperity”, the 10th World Water Forum in Bali aims to serve as a global platform dedicated to exploring inclusive and innovative solutions for critical water-related issues, particularly in accelerating the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals 2030. Key outcomes from the Forum will shape future global, regional, and national initiatives to ensure the sustainable development of water resources for the well-being of all – communities, agricultural practices, food security, sustainable living, economic growth, and upliftment of rural communities. The Forum showcased emerging technologies including SMART Technologies in addressing emerging challenges of water security.

(Source: <https://worldwaterforum.org/>)

‘Drip by drip’: Engel Louwes’s innovative approach to sustainable potato farming with drip irrigation



In the dynamic realm of agriculture, the urgency for adopting sustainable and effective farming methods has reached unprecedented levels. During this era of profound change, Engel Louwes, a seasoned consultant in the potato industry with nearly four decades of remarkable experience, is spearheading a transformation in potato farming by introducing drip irrigation systems. His extensive contributions, notably in Poland and now expanding into India, provide a roadmap for the global future of potato cultivation.

Source: <https://www.potatonewstoday.com/2024/03/24/drip-by-drip-engel-louwess-innovative-approach-to-sustainable-potato-farming-with-drip-irrigation/>

Ministry of Municipality, Doha (Qatar) provides drip irrigation system to 400 farms



The Ministry of Municipality is supplying drip irrigation systems, recognized as the most efficient method for delivering water and nutrients to crops, to 400 local agricultural farms. This system ensures precise delivery of water and nutrients directly to the root zone of plants, optimizing growth by providing the right amount at the right time. This initiative aligns with the Ministry's strategic plan to boost fresh food production, thereby enhancing food security through the adoption of advanced technology and efficient resource management practices.

Source : <https://thepeninsulaqatar.com/article/17/10/2023/ministry-of-municipality-provides-drip-irrigation-system-to-400-farms>



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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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