



IRRIGATION ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

Newsletter October 2025

Edition Volume IAI/25/08



IAI UPDATES



The Irrigation Association of India held a strategic meeting in New Delhi to discuss and chart out future plans and initiatives."



The Irrigation Association of India (IAI) hosted a meeting followed by consultation with Ernst & Young (E&Y) on 14th October 2025 at India International Centre, New Delhi.

The meetings were chaired by Saurabh Sangla, President, IAI, in the presence of Abhijit Page, Sr. Vice President; Shrikant Goenka, Shri Primal Oswal, and Randhir Chauhan, Past Presidents, Rajesh Kumar, Director and E&Y team.

Discussions focused on strengthening the micro irrigation ecosystem wherein below mentioned key points deliberated.

- Round the year scheme operations and simplified fund flow mechanisms
- Evaluation of e-Rupee and financing against work orders
- State Revolving Funds for timely payments
- Development of a real-time monitoring dashboard
- Propose Incentive-linked framework for high-performing States
- National farmer awareness campaigns
- Dedicated support for SC/ST and marginal farmers
- Institutionalization of an Annual PDMC–Industry Consultations

These deliberations aim to enhance efficiency, transparency, and industry participation for achieving national micro irrigation adoption goals.

IAI leadership Meets Joint Secretary, RFS, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, GOI

The leadership team of the Irrigation Association of India (IAI), led by Mr. Saurabh Sangla, President, IAI, met Mr. Franklin Khobung, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (MoAFW), Government of India, on 14th October 2025 at Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.



During the meeting, the IAI President highlighted the challenges related to payment disbursement from States to beneficiaries, which have affected operations and cash flow for implementing agencies. He requested the Ministry to convene a review meeting with major States to assess the issues and explore timely resolutions.

Mr. Sangla also urged for expedited release of the second instalment of funds to States that have already completed the required documentation and demand generation. In response, Mr. Khobung assured that the process will be fast-tracked.

IAI Urges TGMIP, Govt. of Telangana for Release of Payments

The Irrigation Association of India (IAI) has written to the Telangana Micro Irrigation Project (TGMIP), requesting the expeditious release of pending payments to micro irrigation companies.

In its communication, IAI emphasized that timely disbursement of funds is crucial to ensure uninterrupted project implementation, maintain industry confidence, and support the broader goal of expanding micro irrigation coverage across the state.

IAI has also reaffirmed its commitment to work collaboratively with TGMIP and the State Government to strengthen the micro irrigation ecosystem in Telangana.

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INDUSTRY UPDATES



Indian growers call use of polyhouse structures a "game-changer"



Protected cultivation of high-value crops using low-cost polyhouse structures is emerging as a game-changer for farmers in Arunachal Pradesh's hill regions. In a significant step, ICAR–Vivekananda Parvatiya Krishi Anusandhan Sansthan (ICAR-VPKAS), Almora (Uttarakhand), under the North Eastern Hill (NEH) programme, in collaboration with Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Tawang, has distributed 30 VL Portable Polyhouses to progressive farmers from villages adjoining Tawang town.

A team of scientists from ICAR-VPKAS and KVK Tawang recently visited Khinmey and Gyangkhar villages (27–28 August 2025) to monitor the performance of these structures and interact with farmers. Farmers

confirmed the advantages, sharing that chillies grown under polyhouses were of higher quality and yield compared to open fields, especially in low temperatures.

(Source: <https://www.hortidaily.com/article/9761118/indian-growers-call-use-of-polyhouse-structures-a-game-changer/>)

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Banana farming with drip irrigation in Panavally: A masterclass on using government subsidies

Anoop Pillai of Panavally, Alappuzha's experiment with the novel idea of cultivating banana using modern and innovative drip irrigation technologies met with a resounding success. The young entrepreneur's venture into banana farming began with a long dormant passion for farming, a desire to develop his family's fallow land and an exposure visit to the Karappuram-Kazhakkal Agricultural Fair in Cherthala, Kerala.

Introduced to micro-irrigation technologies at the Cherthala Fair, Pillai successfully installed a drip irrigation system with 12mm laterals daily irrigating approx 1000 banana plants such as Kullam Robusta, Njalipoovan, Chengadali, and Karpooravalli. Since the introduction of the drip irrigation system, the entrepreneur has significantly benefitted with advantages including reduced labour costs, water usage and the greenery a respite from the pressures of his business.



(Source: <https://www.onmanorama.com/news/kerala/2025/06/08/organic-banana-farming-water-conservation.html>)

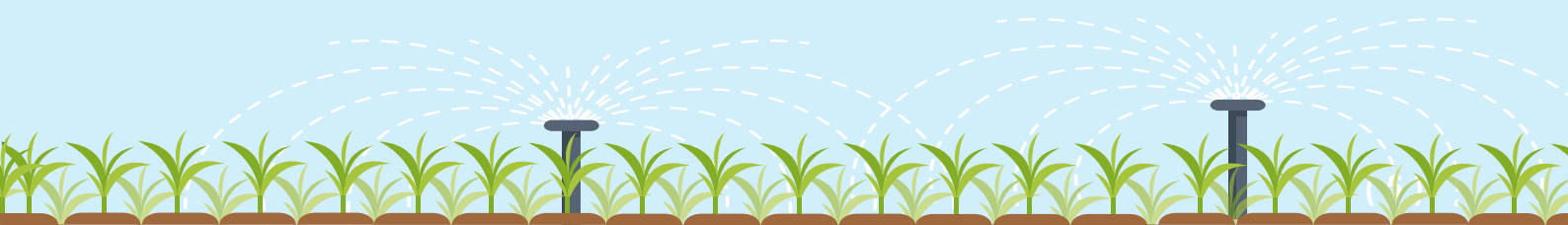
Kerala launches ₹100 Crore cluster- Micro- Irrigation Initiatives



The Kerala Agriculture Department has announced ₹100 crore micro irrigation projects to address irrigation challenges faced by farmers during summer. Despite good rainfall, Kerala's per capita water availability remains low, and officials believe micro-irrigation and water conservation methods can significantly ease this crisis.

The project will be implemented on a cluster basis covering crops like coconut, banana, cashew, and medicinal plants, and aims to benefit around 6,000 farmers. With infrastructure like ponds and tanks, and plans to integrate drip irrigation, the initiative is expected to reduce water loss by up to 70%, making agriculture more sustainable and profitable in the state.

Source: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/thiruvananthapuram/agriculture-department-plans-micro-irrigation-projects-worth-rs-100-cr/articleshow/124166494.cms>



NATIONAL NEWS



Union Agriculture Ministry revises Per Drop More Crop (PDMC) schemes Guidelines to boost micro-irrigation



The Union Agriculture Ministry has revised the central Guidelines of the Per Drop More Crop (PDMC) scheme, expanding the component on "other inventions". Under "Other Components", states and union territories have been encouraged to undertake micro-level water storage and conservation projects such as construction and water harvesting systems.

Earlier, funds for such activities were limited to 20 per cent of the total allocation for each state/UT. However, now states/UTs have been given greater flexibility to exceed these limits as per their specific requirements. The 'Per Drop More Crop' scheme was launched in 2015 as a key component of the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) and aims to help farmers adopt micro-irrigation improve water-use efficiency and ultimately increase productivity and income.

(Source: https://www.business-standard.com/industry/agriculture/govt-revises-per-drop-more-crop-scheme-guidelines-to-boost-micro-irrigation-125101601083_1.html)

Department of Personal and Training (DoP&T) Govt. of India approves the appointment of Central Nodal Officers under the Prime Minister Dhan Dhaanya Krishi Yojna (PMDDKKY)

The Department of Personal and Training (DoP&T), Govt. of India has approved the appointment of Central Nodal Officers for reviewing and monitoring work in 100 Aspirational Agricultural District identified under the Prime Minister Dhan Dhaanya Krishi Yojna (PMDDKKY). The Prime Minister Dhan Dhaanya Krishi Yojna (PMDDKKY) is a visionary initiative aimed at transforming



the agricultural landscape of under-performing regions in the country - enhancing agricultural productivity, increasing crop diversification and sustainable agricultural practices, augmentation of post-harvest storage, improvement in irrigation facilities and facilitating the availability of long-term and short-term credit. Through convergence with existing schemes, specialized measures and comprehensive timelines, the scheme will help in revitalizing agriculture, improving farmers' incomes; ensuring long-term sustainability and food security.

(Source: <https://shorturl.at/dbPPn>)

Maharashtra Awards Rs 958 Crore Contract For Major Irrigation Pipeline Project In Satara



Maharashtra Krishna Valley Development Corporation (MKVDC) has awarded a Rs 958.33 crore contract to Patel Engineering Ltd (PEL) and its joint venture partner for constructing a major irrigation pipeline network in Satara district. The project involves building a Pipe Distribution Network from KM 87 to KM 135 of the Nira Deoghar Right Bank Main Canal, including associated distributaries and minor canals between KM 65 and KM 135. The project is part of Maharashtra's broader push to expand and modernise its irrigation networks, aiming to deliver reliable water access to its farming communities.


(Source: <https://swarajyamag.com/news-brief/maharashtra-awards-rs-958-crore-contract-for-major-irrigation-pipeline-project-in-satara>)



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Pop-up rain gun sprinkler irrigation system inaugurated at Sikkim Cricket Ground

The Sikkim Cricket Ground at Rangpo now boasts of a state-of-the-art Automatic Pop-Up Rain Gun Sprinkler Irrigation System. The new irrigation system was officially inaugurated by Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang-Golay in the esteemed presence of Chief Justice Biswanath Somadder, cabinet ministers, MLAs, senior government officials and members of Sikkim Cricket Association (SICA). The Automatic Pop-Up Rain Gun Sprinkler Irrigation Systems are advanced sprinklers that are permanently embedded underground and connected to a water supply system.



A total of 16 pop-up sprinklers have been installed, allowing for effective irrigation without affecting the playing surface. Once activated, the sprinkler system waters designated areas and retract back into the ground, leaving no visible obstacles on the field. The system includes six small sprinklers positioned around the pitch area and ten large sprinklers installed along the outer perimeter of the ground. Two control stations manage the system automatically, ensuring complete coverage of both high-use zones near the pitch and larger outfield areas.

(Source: <https://sikkimexpress.com/news-details/pop-up-rain-gun-sprinkler-irrigation-system-inaugurated-at-sikkim-cricket-ground>)



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INTERNATIONAL NEWS



Northeastern University awards Khushi Shah with Women Who Empower's Innovator Fellow Award 2025 for her Smart Irrigation Start-Up Drizzl

Khushi Shah a young under-graduate in computer science and business administration has been awarded with the prestigious Women Who Empower Innovator Fellow Award 2025 for her innovative smart irrigation start-up "Drizzl". The start-ups mobile application leverages the power of digital communication combining weather data, soil sensors and predictive technology to control a sprinkler irrigation system. The application turns irrigation zones on and off automatically, thereby optimizing water usage and minimizing wastage. Recognizing the young undergraduate as a bold and creative change maker within the University's entrepreneurial ecosystem, the Innovator Fellow Award 2025 will help provide Shah with the necessary support to accelerate her professional career and includes a mentorship, opportunities to build global connections and transform the start-up into a business venture.



(Source: <https://news.northeastern.edu/2025/10/02/women-who-empower-feature-khushi-shah-smart-irrigation/>)

Aiper's IrriSense smart sprinkler system covers up to 4,800 square feet with a 39-foot reach at a \$500 low



Aiper IrriSense system is an advanced means to bring smarter irrigation to your lawn and gardening, complete with a long-reaching functionality and even pinpoint accuracy. Connect the sprinkler system to a hose, and pair it to a smartphone to gain coverage of up to 4,800 square feet. The system has an in-built spray range of 39-feet that simulates natural rainfall. Further, with the in-app controls, you will be able to focus its spraying onto specific areas or plants that need extra hydration. The system also comes with built-in sensors to adjust any watering schedules you've set based around your region's climate, helping you to conserve water and save money, while also keeping your grass/plants from drowning.

(<https://9to5toys.com/2025/10/14/aiper-irrisense-smart-sprinkler-system-500-low/>)



Vietnam: Turning a love for melons into a thriving greenhouse



What began as a simple craving for sweet melon from the supermarket has become an impressive agricultural journey for Tran Thi Ut, Director of the Ngoc Thanh Melon Cooperative in Can Tho City. Over eight years, her passion blossomed into a high-tech farming model combining cultivation, processing, and agritourism. She manages her cantaloupe farm spread across a sprawling 13,000m², carefully examined each melon bed, adjusting and activating the drip irrigation system. With the local government encouraging farmers to shift towards high-value crops and providing the technical guidance as well, farmers like Ut decided to seize the opportunity. Currently Ut has 2 net houses covering about 13,000m² with her melons earning a VietGAP certification and a 3-star OCOP rating.

(Source: <https://www.hortidaily.com/article/9776812/vietnam-turning-a-love-for-melons-into-a-thriving-greenhouse/>)

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Ghana: Shielding greenhouse growers from climate shocks

Farm.io's modular greenhouses are designed to withstand Ghana's diverse climate conditions. Built from recycled yet durable materials, she says the structures last over 15 years and protect crops from heat stress, erratic rainfall, and pests. In open farming, yields are highly vulnerable to erratic rainfall, pests, and heat stress. However, with greenhouses, farmers can grow year-round in controlled environments, optimise water use, reduce pest pressure, and increase productivity up to five times compared to open fields. Greenhouses come with drip irrigation for efficient water use, ventilation controls for temperature and humidity management, and protective mesh to minimise pest entry. Newer models include digital sensors connected to Farm.io's USSD platform, allowing farmers to monitor conditions and receive tailored advice. The company has completed more than 100 projects, with most users reporting steady yields throughout the year.

(Source: <https://www.hortidaily.com/article/9776804/ghana-shielding-greenhouse-growers-from-climate-shocks/>)

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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
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- Sectoral Conference/Workshop to promote Micro Irrigation



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