

Digital crop survey in 10 states this kharif season

HARIKISHAN SHARMA

NEW DELHI, JANUARY 22

THE CENTRE plans to launch a digital crop survey from the kharif-2023 season across 10 states, *The Indian Express* has learnt.

In the survey, information on different types of crops sown by farmers in their fields will be collected through an automated process by using "Geo-Referenced maps" of the farmland plots and remote sensing images.

The digital crop survey will be rolled out initially as a pilot project in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Kerala and Gujarat, according to sources. Later, it will be gradually rolled out across the country. Once it becomes fully operational, it will improve the age-old crop area statistics collection system, which is known as "patwari agency", that is currently in use in most of the states.

In the patwari agency, a complete enumeration of all fields (survey numbers) called girdawari is made of a village during each crop season to compile land use, irrigation and crop area statistics.

According to the sources, the proposed survey will use "the latest technological advancements such as visual and ad-

vanced analytics, GIS-GPS Technologies and AI/ML" to provide "near real-time" information about the crops sown by the farmers.

"As part of the digital agriculture initiatives, the Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, plans to develop a reference application for the crop-sown survey," said a source. "States to take up Geo-referencing of the village maps in their respective states."

Satellite data from National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC), which comes under the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), has already been made available to states, the source said.

The source said, "A crop registry, with a list of all the crops sown in India, is being developed. The crop registry will act as a single source of truth for collecting the data in a standardized manner, during the digital crop survey."

The crop registry will have ability to capture single or multiple crop IDs for the same farmland plot for the same season, along with respective area of sowing and type of crops, such as intercrop, mixed crops, single crop, the source said, adding linkage to GPS and Geo-referenced Cadastral maps would enable users to reach the right farm and collect the right data.

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com