

# Rescue package sought for tobacco farmers

## Crop worth ₹2,700 crore lying unsold

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**

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The Federation of All India Farmer Associations (FAIFA) has appealed to the Union Government to save the livelihood of tobacco farmers as the demand for the crop has weakened due to declining volumes of cigarettes and other tobacco products due to the lockdown.

It said nearly 130 million kg of Flue Cured Tobacco worth over ₹1,700 crore is stuck as the tobacco auctions are moving at a snail's pace. In Gujarat, farmers,

whose tobacco produce is used in the making of beedis and other tobacco products, are also struggling for livelihood, FAIFA said. "More than 330 million kg of tobacco worth ₹2,700 crore is lying in open fields as the traders are not ready to pick up the produce because government has banned tobacco products," it said.

Rains are expected in the coming days and if the government does not start the sale of tobacco products, both traders and farmers will go bankrupt, it added.