

# Andhra Pradesh: Boost for chilli farmers as crop listed under ODOFP

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**AMARAVATI:** In what could be a big boon to chilli cultivators from Guntur and Prakasam districts, the Centre has listed the crop under One-District-One-Focus-Product (ODOFP). The Centre has also listed turmeric under ODOFP from Guntur district giving big boost to the growers. The Centre would promote these crops under various schemes and programmes to help farmers get additional income by creating demand in market.

## PADDY NOT ON THE LIST

> Union agriculture ministry has selected **11 crops** from 13 districts under ODOFP scheme following recommendations of state government

> Paddy, which occupies first place in production from AP, has not found place on the ODOFP list



Crops from AP on ODOFP	
Crop/Focus products	Area(s)
Mango	Krishna, Vizianagaram
Groundnut	Anathapuram
Tomato	Chittoor
Banana	Kadapa
Onion	Kurnool
Coconut	East Godavari
Cashew	Srikakulam
Sugarcane	Visakhapatnam
Citrus Fruits	Nellore
Aquaculture	West Godavari

Guntur district and parts of Prakasam are known as chilli capital of the country as the varieties produced in the district are very popular in international markets. The chilli varieties of Teja, Byadigi and Guntur sannam are fetching high returns to the growers.

However, the poor farm practices adopted by majority of the farmers such as use of high quantities of pesticides and drying of stocks in open fields are often giving low prices. A few agro-exporters including ITC are providing assistance and training to the farmer in producing the quality stock to get premium price in the global market.

“Chilli is cultivated in about 3 lakh acres in Guntur district and another two lakh acres in Prakasam district. The farmers are producing nearly 7 lakh metric tonnes of stock every year. However, only 10 percent of the stock is getting high price while other farmers were selling the stocks at average or below remunerative prices. Switching to the good farm practices will help the farmers gain more,” said L Kranti Sekhar, an exporter.

Chilli exporters are of the view that the Centre’s decision to include chilli into ODOFP list would be a big boon to the cultivators as they would get support through different central sponsored schemes. Farmers would be given drying and picking machines, tarpaulins at highly subsidised prices while special training sessions would be organised on switching to organic farming mode to cut down use of pesticides.

“Several foreign countries, particularly the EU nations, are rejecting stocks due to high pesticide residues in the stocks. Our stocks will fetch exceptional prices in the international market if farmers could produce clean and pesticide free stocks,” said a senior official of agriculture marketing department.

Similar is the case of turmeric farmers in Guntur. Turmeric is cultivated in about 12,000 hectares from which farmers are producing about 5 lakh metric tonnes of stock. Duggirala near Tenali is one of the biggest turmeric market places in India where several exporters come to pick up stocks. “We will extend full support to the turmeric and chilli farmers under ODOFP scheme,” said BJP MP and chairman of chilli task force, GVL Narasimha Rao.

**Source:** <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/amaravati/boost-for-chilli-farmers-as-crop-listed-under-odofp/articleshowprint/81261782.cms>