

Agricultural decision support system launched to manage crops better

Our Bureau

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The Centre has launched a web portal named 'Krishi-DSS' (Agricultural Decision Support System) aimed at helping farmers with critical data for crop management and productivity enhancement. It will help policy makers with accurate information from the ground without human intervention.

Minister of State for Agriculture Bhagirath Choudhary, who unveiled Krishi-DSS on Friday in New Delhi, said the geospatial platform will offer real-time information on crop conditions, weather patterns, reservoir storage, groundwater levels and soil health conditions.

"This platform will be a milestone for farmers, amid growing concerns over climate challenges," Choud-

hary said. Krishi-DSS has been developed using technology similar to the flagship Gati Shakti initiative to deliver early warnings about potential disasters, such as pest attacks and extreme weather events.

SLEW OF DATA

The system will aid in crop mapping, monitoring and promoting crop rotation and diversification, the Agriculture Ministry said in a statement.

It will provide data on crop patterns across regions and track crop conditions throughout various growth stages, the ministry said.

"With crop mapping and monitoring, we will be able to understand cropping patterns by analysing parcel-level crop maps over different years. This information helps in understanding crop rotation practices and promotes sustainable agricul-

ture by encouraging the cultivation of diverse crops," an official said.

Ministry officials said the portal will help in better monitoring of drought as information will be near real-time on various indicators like soil moisture, water storage, crop condition, dry spells and the Met Department's forecast.

As data from the soil health card scheme is available, its integration with the Krishi-DSS portal when analysed with other information will be helpful to advise farmers on crop suitability and land capability for implementing soil water conservation measures, the official said.

Agriculture Secretary Devesh Chaturvedi emphasised the benefits of space technology in agriculture and urged expanded use of remote sensing across crop varieties.