

## Government to Launch an 'Agri Fund for Startups & Rural Enterprises' to Promote Innovations in Agriculture



(Pic Courtesy – Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare)

In order to support start-ups & agripreneurs through investments in sector-specific, sector-agnostic & debt Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs), as well as direct equity support to start-ups working in the agriculture & allied sectors, the Government will soon launch an 'Agri Fund for Start-Ups & Rural Enterprises' (AgriSURE).

The announcement was made at the Pre-Launch Stakeholder meet held at NABARD's Mumbai Headquarters, attended by key stakeholders, including investors, financial institutions, AIF managers and agri-startups. Eminent guests included Mr. Ajeet Kumar Sahu, Joint Secretary, DA&FW; Mr. Shaji K.V., Chairman, NABARD; Mr. Govardhan Singh Rawat, DMD, NABARD; and Dr. Ajay Kumar Sood, DMD, NABARD.

The initiative is aimed at fostering innovation & sustainability in India's agricultural sector by setting up a Rs 750 crore Category-II Alternative Investment Fund (AIF) that would provide both equity & debt support, specifically targeting high-risk, high- impact activities in the agri value chain.

Talking to media, Mr. Ajeet Kumar Sahu underlined the potential of the fund to create an ecosystem that will improve financing for the agriculture sector via innovative approaches, benefiting small & marginal farmers.

On the other hand, Mr. Shaji K.V. underscored the need for public & private sector partnership to drive the next level of growth in agriculture sector through technological innovations.

Talking about the features of the fund, CEO, NABVENTURES said that the fund will be set up with an initial corpus of Rs. 750 Crore with Rs. 250 crores each from NABARD & Agriculture Ministry and Rs. 250 crores from other institutions. He added that the fund will be utilized for bringing innovation in agriculture, improving the farm produce value chain, creating rural infrastructure, generating jobs and supporting Farmers Producer Organizations (FPOs).

It is worth mention that NABVENTURES, a wholly-owned subsidiary of NABARD, would be the Fund manager of AgriSURE.