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Agro export centre should be near airport: Vijay Rupani

Agrovision inaugurated at Reshimbagh ground



Gujarat chief minister Vijay Rupani speaking at the inauguration of Agrovision at the Reshimbagh ground on Saturday. Union minister for road transport and highways & shipping Nitin Gadkari, Union minister of state for micro and small industries Giriraj Singh and others are seated on the dais.

LT Photo by Rajesh Tickley

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There should be an agricultural export centre near the airport to export the agro produce to the world market, said Gujarat chief minister Vijay Rupani after inaugurating the Agrovision being held at the Reshimbagh ground. He was the chief guest at the programme organised by the national agricultural exhibition.

Speaking further, he said that technology should be used in large scale to promote agriculture and deliver the agricultural inputs at the farm itself, the Gujarat chief minister said.

Union minister for road transport and highways & shipping Nitin Gadkari presided over the programme while Union minister of state for micro and small industries

Giriraj Singh was the guest of honour.

Nitin Gadkari said the objective of holding the expo year after year is to stem farmers' suicide in Vidarbha and increase their income by taking latest technology to the doorstep of farmers. He said Agrovision office would be started on a permanent basis in Nagpur. The office would function all round the year and provide expert guidance to the ryots of the region. He also appealed to the State government to provide maximum benefit of drip irrigation to the farmers and take efforts for ushering in milk revolution in Vidarbha and Marathwada - like that in Gujarat. The need for increasing productivity of the land by minimising production cost was stressed. Due to low productivity and high cost of production, the remunera-

tive prices for agricultural produce can not become profitable.

To improve productivity, about 50,000 acre land is being brought under organic cultivation, he further said. The concept of Zero Budgeting is taking roots in Maharashtra which has resulted into low production cost and high production.

Farming should be done in a scientific manner he said and added that experimentation would increase area under agriculture. In Vidarbha and Marathwada solar energy would be utilised for operating agricultural pumps even as more power is being supplied to agricultural pump sets. Coupled with this, creation of 1 lakh wells and farm ponds and the projects like Jalyukta Shivar would increase the underground water table.

Among others who were present on the dais includ-

ed agriculture minister of Haryana, Omprakash Dhankar, agricultural minister of Assam, Atul Bora, finance minister Sudhir Mungantiwar, guardian minister Chandrashekhar Bawankule, agricultural minister of Maharashtra, Pandurang Fundkar, animal husbandry and dairy development minister, Mahadeo Jankar, MP Ajay Sancheti, MP Dr Vikas Mahatme, MP Kripal Tumane, mayor Pravin Datke, zilla parishad chairperson Nisha Sawarkar, COO of ITC Limited, Sanjay Puri, CEO of Mahindra Rise, Harish Chavan and Girish Gandhi.

Earlier, chairman of the Agrovision Advisory Committee, Dr C D Mayee and convener of Agrovision, Ravi Boratkar welcomed the dignitaries. Renuka Deshkar conducted the proceedings while Ramesh Mankar proposed a vote of thanks.