

Farmers should pay attention to processing and marketing

Mattia Galetti, country programme manager of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), based in Rome, Italy, has said that keeping the future in mind, while giving priority to food security, farmers should aim for profitable agriculture, paying attention to the processing of agricultural produce and the marketing of the same.

While inaugurating a two-day workshop for six districts of Vidarbha, under the auspices of the CAIM programme run by Sir Ratan Tata Trust and IFAD, Mr Galetti said that IFAD is running the project to improve the situation in rural areas by augmenting agricultural production using the services of the poor, women and farmers with small land holdings, and to create livelihood opportunities for the said sections of society.

To make the programme a success, capability enhancement, stability, involvement (partnerships), a balanced approach and commitment are necessary, he added. At this juncture, the additional commissioner Naveen Sona said that the spate of farmer suicides in the six districts of Vidarbha were a result of despondency. Various programmes are being run to create irrigation facilities and employment opportunities allied to agriculture and thereby increase agricultural production.

The workshop was attended by district collector Richa Bagla, Muthukrishnan Shankaranarayan, Uday Rathod, Dr Ramaswami N, Sanjay Deshmukh, Omprakash Bakoriya (CEO), NABARD officials, representatives of IFAD and the Trust, officials of the Agriculture Marketing Board, representatives of self-help groups and members of the district project administration team. The proposed additional director Sudam Pawar, marketing officer Santosh Patil, Tata Trusts representatives Amisanshu Chaudhury and Sudha Kothari were also present.