

# Centers of Excellence established under Indo-Israel Agriculture project

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## In news

Recently, three Centres of Excellence were inaugurated in Karnataka under the Indo-Israel Agricultural Project.

## About centres of Excellence

- Centers of Excellence (CoE) are advanced/intensive agriculture farms for knowledge transfer of Israeli Agro-Technology tailored to the local conditions.
- CoE aims to benefit farmers with a focus on selected key crops.
- Each CoE will comprise Nursery management, Best practices Cultivation techniques, Irrigation & fertigation.
- The CoE acts as a meeting point and working environment for Academy, Government and farmers to cooperate towards fruitful achievements.
- Under Government to Government cooperation 29 Centers of Excellence are to be set up in 12 states in India. Out of these, three Centers were launched virtually in Karnataka.

## Key features of three centres of Excellence

- The Centres of Excellence in Kolar, Bagalkote and Dharwad in Karnataka will implement advanced Israeli Agro-Technology tailored to local conditions.
- Kolar will work on Mango, Bagalkote on Pomegranate and Dharwad center on vegetables.
- The work will be towards demonstrating best practices

and training farmers in Precision Agriculture through satellite imaging, advanced fertigation and beneficial demonstration of super Bhagwa canopy management techniques.

### **Villages of Excellence**

- Under the Indo-Israel Agricultural project, Villages of Excellence will also be set in eight states across India.
- Karnataka will get 10 such villages linked to Bagalkote and Kolar Centres of Excellence.
- Indo-Israel Villages of Excellence will focus on establishing modern agriculture infrastructure, support farmers with capacity building activities and enhance market linkages to optimise profitability of the farmers.

### **About Indo-Israel Agriculture Project (IIAP)**

- India and Israel have a strategic cooperation on the G2G level in the field of agriculture.
- This partnership evolved into the INDO-ISRAEL Agricultural Project, based on a MOU signed in 2006.
- The project is aiming at introducing crop diversity, increasing productivity & optimizing water use efficiency.
- IIAP implemented via establishment of Centers of Excellence (CoE), in which Israeli Ag-Technologies and knowledge disseminated and tailored to local Indian conditions.
- Applied Research, Transfer of knowledge and Sustainability are **three pillars of IIAP**.