

Farm data set to get space tech boost

Aim is to avoid inaccuracies that tend to muddle growth estimates for economy

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The quality of India's agriculture sector statistics could soon improve with the government tapping satellite imagery technologies to upgrade the yield estimation and acreage measurement exercise.

India's farm output forecasts tend to see wide variations between preliminary reports and the final estimates, which typically are released well over a year after sowing. Inaccurate farm data not only ends up distorting market prices for food items but also muddle growth estimates for the overall economy.

"If we can combine traditional technology of acreage,



TCA Anant

yield estimation with satellite imagery through a small hand-held device, in which – when acreage is recorded and crop cutting experiments are done – it will be possible for you to not only get the traditional estimates but also the geospatial coordinates on which this experi-

ment was done," said TCA Anant, Chief Statistician of India. He said work was underway on implementing this as the requisite technology-backed applications were in place.

'Nudge to adoption'

"It is (now) a question of working with all the state officials and the huge administrative machinery in the districts to adopt it. That work is going on," he said, speaking at a conference on geospatial technologies hosted by Assocham.

The statistics and programme implementation ministry is also working with the National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) to deploy geospatial technology for sam-

ple surveys, beginning with urban areas.

The Urban Frame Survey will soon be completed and provide up-to-date maps of urban areas, which, the Chief Statistician said, could be used for sampling purposes with necessary location indicators.

"... To modernise our system of developing urban sample frames, we would be combining the satellite image of urban areas with ground-mapping of the satellite image to permit you to develop an urban frame," said Mr. Anant.

"The advantage of this is that it is updated much more frequently than any physical ground survey system could have done," he added.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

The Centre is working on a combination of traditional & modern technology like satellite imagery for crop acreage and yield estimation to build up a much more sophisticated analysis.



— TCA ANANT, CHIEF STATISTICIAN

B-school placements plunge

New Delhi: Business schools are struggling hard for placements with only 20% students landing job offers, making this placement year the most challenging in recent times, says Assocham.

The chamber observed that job opportunities for business school (b-school) students are drying on account of factors like demonetisation, lacklustre business sentiment and stalling of new projects.

"Grim placement scenario is reflected in b-school campus hiring this year which

has gone down severely than last year which was 30%."

"The salary packages which are offered at b-schools and engineering colleges are also being curtailed by 40-45% as compared to last year," Assocham said.

The Assocham Education Council (AEC) said many parents and students are rethinking on investing three-four years and several lakhs in a course.

More than 400 institutions have become defunct as they are not getting enough students to be viable, said the

chamber.

As per its findings, a large number of b-schools and engineering colleges are not able to attract students. More than 250 b-schools have already closed down since 2015 in major cities including Delhi-NCR, Mumbai, Bangalore, Ahmedabad, Kolkata, Lucknow, Dehradun etc. Another 99 are struggling for their survival, reveals the report.

The biggest reason for the gap is the rapid mushrooming of tier-2 and tier-3 management educational institutes that have unfortunately not been matched by the uplift in the quality of management education, said the chamber.

The root cause of the problem is that institutes only focus on filling up seats and do not consider the quality of students at the time of intake, it said.

Assocham has suggested improving the infrastructure, train their faculty, work on industry linkages, and spend money on research and knowledge creation and making students employable rather than employed. —PTI



THINKSTOCK



CORPORATION BANK DV Subramanya Varma, General Manager, Corporation Bank receiving "Best SME Lending -2017" award instituted by The Associated Chambers of Commerce & Industry of India (ASSOCHAM), from Udit Raj, MP.



PROGRAMME (SCOPE)

Standing Conference of Public Enterprises (SCOPE) organized two day programme in Ranchi on RTI for creating awareness among CPSEs. Dr. U.D. Choubey, Director General, SCOPE gives the welcome address.

GM OF CORPORATION BANK RECEIVES 'BEST SME LENDING' AWARD 2017



General Manager of Corporation Bank, DV Subramanya Varma, receiving 'Best SME Lending -2017' award instituted by The Associated Chambers of Commerce & Industry of India (ASSOCHAM), from Udit Raj, Member of Parliament at an event held in New Delhi on Wednesday.