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## IFFCO plans to procure 2,500 agri-drones

New Delhi, July 4: To promote use of nano fertilizers across the country, leading cooperative IFFCO will procure 2,500 agri-drones and train 5,000-odd rural entrepreneurs as part of its national campaign launched on Tuesday.

Already, IFFCO has signed an agreement for procurement of the drones -- to be used for spraying of its products nano urea and nano diammonium phosphate (DAP) -- in a phased manner.

Along with drones, the



cooperative will also procure 2,500 electric three-wheelers (loader types) to carry drones to farmers' fields, IFFCO said in a statement.

"The technical specifications of agri-drones being procured by IFFCO for spray of nano fertilizers

are in accordance with the industry standards," IFFCO said.

It is expected that one agri-drone would be able to cover 20 acres per day for spraying IFFCO nano fertilizers and bio-stimulants like Sagarika, Agrochemicals etc with backup, it said.

It will also procure 2,500 electric three-wheelers (loader type) to carry the drone to farmers' fields along with nano fertilizers and associated utilities.

These EV 3-wheelers are environment friendly, the

cooperative said, adding this will also support recently launched scheme PM-PRANAM that aims to reduce chemical fertilizers and promote alternative fertilizers.

IFFCO has initiated a nationwide campaign under which 5,000 rural entrepreneurs will be trained for spraying nano fertilizers using drones.

It had also ordered tractor-mounted boom sprayers. Nano fertilizers are applied on various crops through foliar application sprayers and drones, it added. —PTI



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# IFFCO's 2,500 drones to spray nano fertilisers



**SANDIP DAS**  
New Delhi, July 4

**TO PROMOTE USAGE** of nano urea and di-ammonium phosphate (DAP), fertiliser cooperative IFFCO on Tuesday announced procurement of 2,500 drones to spray nano soil nutrients.

The cooperative sources said it has already placed an order for about 1,700 drones to be delivered by March 31, 2024. Drones manufacturers like Garuda Aerospace, Paras Aerospace and IoTech-World Aviation have confirmed to have received a major chunk of the orders from the cooperative.

The cooperative also stated that it would train 5,000 rural entrepreneurs for

the purpose. The cooperative has signed an agreement for procurement of drones for spraying nano fertiliser in the field. The cooperative also announced procurement of 2,500 electric three wheelers to carry drones to farmers' fields. Sources said IFFCO had identified the Drone Federation of India after an evaluation for supply of these drones. The drones would be given free of cost to rural entrepreneurs.

The entrepreneurs would be given training and guidance to handle the drones, by IFFCO. According to a statement, one drone would be able to cover 20 acres of land per day spraying nano fertilisers and other water-soluble fertilisers.



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Sanjeeb Mukherjee

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# Bird's eye view on farming: IFFCO to buy 2,500 drones

**SANJEEB MUKHERJEE**

New Delhi, 4 July

At a time when climate change poses significant challenges and the need for sustainable and efficient farming practices has never been more critical, unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) allow farmers to gain a bird's-eye view of their crops from ground level. Drones have become a new force in precision agriculture, helping increase productivity while prioritising sustainability and resilience. Fertiliser major IFFCO is exploring this very transformative power of technology in agriculture.

In what is perhaps one of the biggest agricultural drone purchases by a fertiliser company for nano use, IFFCO will purchase 2,500 drones through a dedicated network of over 5,000 entrepreneurs in rural India.

These UAVs will spray nano urea and nano diammonium phosphate (DAP), along with other chemicals, thereby improving efficiency and supporting environmental sustainability.

"To access the technical capabilities, manufacturing capacity, man-

**This will be one of the biggest agri drone purchases by a fertiliser company for nano use. These UAVs will be given free of cost to over 5,000 rural entrepreneurs**



ufacturing process, quality processes, training curriculum, and infrastructure, IFFCO hired the Drone Federation of India, which then evaluated the specifications and mentioned that the technical specifications of agricultural drones being procured by IFFCO for the spray of nano fertilisers are in accordance with industry standards," read an official statement. Turn to Page 6 ▶



## IFFCO...

Sources said IFFCO had sought details from five vendors and chose the Drone Federation of India after a thorough evaluation. The drones would be given free of cost to over 5,000 ruralpreneurs (rural entrepreneurs). The entrepreneurs then would be given proper training and guidance to handle the drones, with all expenses borne by IFFCO. Sources said the training and certification of drone fliers would be done at DGCA-approved remote pilot training organisation centres.

According to the plan, each drone will cover 3 acres of land for spraying nano urea on a single charge of battery in about half an hour. However, the battery offers a flying time of 18-22 minutes. After every three sorties of 20 minutes, the battery has to be replaced.

It is expected that one drone would be able to cover 20 acres of land per day, spraying nano fertilisers, water-soluble fertilisers, and nano DAP.

IFFCO has also procured 2,500 electric three-wheelers (of the loader type) under Category L5 (a three-wheeled motor vehicle with maximum speed exceeding 25 kilometres per hour or motor power exceeding 0.25 kilowatt) to carry the drones to the fields, along with nano fertilisers and associated utilities.

The nano fertilisers are applied on various crops through the foliar application using agricultural sprayers and drones. The drones and sprayers can be used for any kind of spray application.

"We are witnessing a surge in demand for agricultural drones from agrochemical players, including fertiliser and pesticide companies. With substantial benefit to farmers, we are also witnessing a surge in demand from rural entrepreneurs and large-farm holders," said Deepak Bhardwaj and Anoop Upadhyay, co-founders, IoTechWorld Avigation, one of India's leading agricultural drone manufacturers, in a statement.



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## FLY IN THE MILK

### Amul in fresh row over AP dairy project



**Hyderabad:** Amul is caught in a controversy afresh. Trouble is brewing around its investment of ₹385 crore to revive Chittoor Co-operative Dairy. But this is being seen as a political ploy to target Heritage, a leading dairy player in the State, promoted by TDP leader Chandrababu Naidu's family. **p10**

# Amul in fresh row over AP dairy project

**TRADING BARBS.** State revives dairy in Chittoor, hands it over to Amul; Opposition flays YSRCP Govt

**KV Kurmanath**  
Hyderabad

Co-operative giant Amul is trapped in a fresh controversy. This time, trouble is brewing around its new dairy project in Andhra Pradesh. The dairy major, owned by Gujarat Milk Marketing Federation, is investing ₹385 crore to revive the Chittoor Co-operative Dairy.

While it is geographically a strategic investment for Amul as it is close to the lucrative Tamil Nadu and Bengaluru markets, it is being seen as a political move by the YS Jagan Mohan Reddy Government. The Opposition says it is a ploy to target Heritage, a leading dairy player promoted by Telugu Desam Party leader Chandrababu Naidu's family. What started as the State's first milk chilling unit in 1969 with just 6,000 litres a day, Chittoor Co-

operative Dairy had seen ups and downs, reaching a processing capacity of two lakh litres a day at the time of its closure in 2002. It was referred for liquidation in 2003, the process for which was never completed.

## CHARGES LEVELLED

In its bid to revive the dairy, the State Government agreed to pay dues to the tune of ₹180 crore.

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy broke the ground on Tuesday for the revival of the dairy. Amul has agreed to revive it with an investment of ₹385 crore. In the first phase, it would invest ₹150 crore and would process 1 lakh litres of milk a day over the next few months. Addressing a gathering later, he alleged that the then Telugu Desam Government had conspired against the Chittoor dairy as it came in the way of Heritage Foods' growth.



**UP IN ARMS.** TDP workers led by former MLA M Sugunamma protest against the handing over of Chittoor Dairy to Amul in Tirupati on Tuesday

"Naidu was the main reason for pushing the dairy into losses. It was very obvious that the Heritage group started making profits and the Chittoor dairy went into losses around the same time," he said.

The YSRCP Government signed a memorandum of understanding with Amul in 2020 as part of

Jagananna Pala Velluva (milk flood) to revive the dairy sector in the State. In the last two years, Amul procured 8.78 crore litres of milk in different parts of the State.

## OPPOSITION'S STAND

He said the prices of cow milk went up to ₹89.76 a litre from ₹32 when the

scheme was launched. The Opposition, however, flayed the government for depending on a Gujarat dairy in the guise of reviving the co-operative sector. The CPM has asked the government not to hand over the lands belonging to Chittoor dairy to Amul. They objected to handing over 28 acres of land to Amul on a 99-year-old lease. Citing the examples of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, CPM State Secretary V Srinivasa Rao asked the State government to strengthen the co-operative sector without the support of outsiders.

Jana Sena Party leader Nadendla Manohar, however, hoped that the move won't end up just as a lip service. "There is no second opinion that the co-operative dairy sector needs to be strengthened. We need to wait and see whether it will really help the dairy farmers and consumers," he told *businessline*.



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## IFFCO to buy 2,500 drones to popularise use of nano fertilizer

**Prabhudatta Mishra**  
New Delhi

IFFCO on Tuesday announced it would procure 2,500 drones as spray solutions for using on its first-of-its-kind nano urea and nano DAP. IFFCO is believed to have placed an order for about 1,700 drones already to be delivered by March 31, 2024.

While Garuda Aerospace and Paras Aerospace have confirmed to have received 400 orders, each, other orders could not be confirmed.

The decision to buy these drones will lead to development of 5,000 rural entrepreneurs who were identified by IFFCO to be trained for drone spraying, a statement by the fertiliser cooperative said. "It is a huge step for upliftment of rural economy and a step towards sustainable agriculture and holistic co-operative development," IFFCO said.

Garuda Aerospace also issued a statement saying it has secured an order of 400 Agri Kisan Drones from IFFCO. Mumbai-based Paras Defence & Space Technologies, a listed firm, on Monday confirmed that its subsidiary Paras Aerospace has received the contract for procurement of 400 units of Agri-Drones for IFFCO Nano Fertilisers. The contract, totalling ₹42.4 crore, also includes two years AMC and training to pilots, Paras said.

### **SURGE IN DEMAND**

Gurugram-based IoTechWorld Aviation has secured the maximum orders from IFFCO, industry sources said. Deepak Bhardwaj, co-founder of IoTechWorld, and said, "We are witnessing a surge in demand for agri drones from agro-chemical players including fertilizer,



One drone is expected to cover 20 acres per day

pesticide companies. With substantial benefit to farmers, we are also witnessing a surge in demand from rural entrepreneurs and large farmholders." He did not confirm the order, though.

IFFCO sources said the co-operative is targeting to deploy maximum drones in the current kharif season itself since there is a need to popularise nano fertiliser among farmers. During the kharif conference, Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar had wondered why the chemical fertilizer use was growing despite launch of nano-urea and increased area under natural and organic farming.

It is expected that one drone would be able to cover 20 acres per day for spraying IFFCO's nano fertilizer, other water soluble fertilizers (WSF), bio-stimulants and agro-chemicals with backup.

### **ELECTRIC 3-WHEELERS**

IFFCO will also be procuring 2,500 electric 3-Wheelers (loader type) under L-5 category to carry the drones to the farmers' field along with the nano fertilizers and associated utilities. This will also support newly announced PM-PRANAM scheme to reduce chemical fertilizer doses and to enable States for more assistance under this scheme, IFFCO said.

## कृषि में नई क्रांति, युवाओं को ड्रोन पायलट बनाने की तैयारी

अरविंद शर्मा • नई दिल्ली

बोतलबंद तरल नैनो यूरिया एवं डीएपी का खेतों में छिड़काव के लिए सहकारी संस्था इंडियन फार्मर्स फर्टिलाइजर को-ऑपरेटिव लिमिटेड (इफको) ढाई हजार ड्रोन की खरीदारी करेगी। इसे चलाने के लिए पांच हजार युवाओं को प्रशिक्षित किया जाएगा। साथ ही ड्रोन को खेतों तक ले जाने के लिए तिपहिया वाहनों की भी खरीदारी की जाएगी।

केंद्र सरकार का दानेदार उर्वरकों को पूरी तरह से तरल वर्जन में बदलने का लक्ष्य है। इसके लिए बड़ी संख्या में ड्रोन के साथ प्रशिक्षित पायलट की भी जरूरत होगी। अभी तक पांच करोड़ बोतल तरल उर्वरक का उत्पादन हो चुका है। देश में अभी खेती में प्रयोग होने वाले सिर्फ 1200 ड्रोन हैं। स्पष्ट है कि तरल उर्वरकों का प्रयोग जब बढ़ेगा तो ड्रोन की

- इफको देगा गांवों में युवाओं को प्रशिक्षण के बाद निशुल्क 'कृषि ड्रोन'
- खेतों में नैनो यूरिया के छिड़काव के लिए खरीदे जाएंगे ढाई हजार ड्रोन



### ड्रोन को खेतों तक पहुंचाने की भी व्यवस्था

इफको के प्रबंध निदेशक यूएस अवस्थी ने कहा कि इफको न सिर्फ किसानों के लिए ड्रोन खरीद रहा है, बल्कि खेतों तक ले जाने के लिए एल-5 श्रेणी के 2500 इलेक्ट्रिक तिपहिया (लोडर) की खरीदारी भी की जाएगी। ये वाहन पर्यावरण हितैषी हैं, जो रासायनिक उर्वरकों का उपयोग कम करने के साथ

संख्या भी बढ़ानी पड़ेगी। जरूरत को देखते हुए इफको ने ड्रोन निर्माता कंपनियों से पहले ही करार कर लिया है। इफको ने नैनो खाद, कृषि-ड्रोन के प्रचार, किसानों एवं खेतों को डिजिटल रूप से सक्षम बनाने के

पीएम प्रणाम योजना का भी समर्थन करेगा। इफको द्वारा नैनो उर्वरकों के छिड़काव के लिए कई तरह के स्प्रेयर की भी खरीदारी की जा रही है। आयोटेक वर्ल्ड एविगेशन के दीपक भारद्वाज का कहना है कि कृषि ड्रोन की मांग लगातार बढ़ रही है। कई कंपनियां सामने आ रही हैं।

लिए अग्रणी कंपनियों में निवेश भी किया है। इफको का उद्देश्य कृषि को ब्रांड के रूप में विकसित करना है। तकनीकी जरूरतों, निर्माण प्रक्रिया, गुणवत्ता एवं प्रशिक्षण के लिए मैसर्स ड्रोन फेडरेशन आफ इंडिया

की सेवाएं ली जा रही हैं। संस्था ने मूल्यांकन के बाद बताया है कि इफको द्वारा खरीदे जा रहे कृषि ड्रोन मानकों के अनुरूप हैं। एक ड्रोन प्रति दिन लगभग 20 एकड़ क्षेत्र में नैनो उर्वरकों का छिड़काव कर सकता है।

दसवीं पास बन सकते हैं ड्रोन पायलट: सारी सुविधाएं बेरोजगार युवाओं को प्रशिक्षण के बाद निशुल्क उपलब्ध कराई जाएंगी। हालांकि पहले उन्हें चयन प्रक्रिया से गुजरना होगा। पात्रता दसवीं पास होगी। आनलाइन परीक्षा के बाद उन्हें ड्रोन उड़ाने का प्रशिक्षण दिया जाएगा। उसके बाद इफको उनके साथ करार करेगा और खेतों में कम से कम दर में स्प्रे करने के लिए कहा जाएगा। प्रत्येक ड्रोन की कीमत करीब 10 लाख रुपये होगी। तरल उर्वरक की शुरुआत भारत ने की है। आधा लीटर बोतल वाला उर्वरक 45 किलो के बोरे के बराबर काम करता है।



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# इफको ढाई हजार किसान ड्रोन खरीदेगा

नई दिल्ली। इफको केंद्र सरकार के सहकार से समृद्धि के तहत नैनो यूरिया और नैनो डीएपी के आसान छिड़काव के लिए 2500 किसान ड्रोन खरीदने की तैयारी कर रहा है। इससे पांच हजार ग्रामीण उद्यमियों का विकास होगा। इफको ड्रोन से छिड़काव करने के लिए बड़ी संख्या में प्रशिक्षित अभियान भी चलाएगा।



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## ढाई हजार कृषि ड्रोन खरीदेगी इफको

नई दिल्ली (भाषा)। देशभर में नैनो उर्वरकों के इस्तेमाल को बढ़ावा देने के लिए अपने राष्ट्रीय अभियान के तहत अग्रणी सहकारी संस्था इफको 2,500 कृषि-ड्रोन खरीदेगी और 5,000 ग्रामीण उद्यमियों को इसका प्रशिक्षण देगी। इफको का यह राष्ट्रीय अभियान मंगलवार से शुरू हुआ है। इफको पहले ही अपने उत्पादों नैनो यूरिया और नैनो डी-अमोनियम फास्फेट (डीएपी) के चरणबद्ध तरीके से छिड़काव को ड्रोन की खरीद के लिए समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर कर चुकी है। इफको ने बयान में कहा, ड्रोन के साथ-साथ सहकारी समिति किसानों के खेतों तक इसे ले जाने के लिए 2,500 इलेक्ट्रिक तिपहिया

**5000**  
**ग्रामीण उद्यमियों**  
**को देगी प्रशिक्षण**

(लोडर टाइप) भी खरीदेगी। इफको ने कहा, 'नैनो उर्वरकों के छिड़काव के लिए उसके द्वारा खरीदे जा रहे कृषि-ड्रोन की तकनीकी विशिष्टताएं उद्योग मानकों के अनुरूप हैं।'

ऐसा अनुमान है कि एक कृषि ड्रोन प्रतिदिन 20 एकड़ क्षेत्र में इफको नैनो उर्वरक और अन्य कृषि रसायनों का छिड़काव करने में सक्षम होगा।

प्रमुख कृषि ड्रोन विनिर्माताओं में आयोटेकवर्ल्ड एविएशन, दक्ष अनमैन्ड सिस्टम, जनरल एयरोनॉटिक्स और पारस एयरोस्पेस शामिल हैं। इफको नैनो उर्वरकों और अन्य सुविधाओं को किसानों के खेतों तक पहुंचाने के लिए 2,500 इलेक्ट्रिक तिपहिया भी खरीदेगी।



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15.92

## इफको 2,500 कृषि ड्रोन खरीदेगी, 5,000 ग्रामीण उद्यमियों को प्रशिक्षण देगी

नई दिल्ली। देशभर में नैनो उर्वरकों के इस्तेमाल को बढ़ावा देने के लिए अपने राष्ट्रीय अभियान के तहत अग्रणी सहकारी संस्था इफको 2,500 कृषि-ड्रोन खरीदेगी और 5,000 ग्रामीण उद्यमियों को इसका प्रशिक्षण देगी। इफको का यह राष्ट्रीय अभियान मंगलवार से शुरू हुआ है। इफको पहले ही अपने उत्पादों... नैनो यूरिया और नैनो डी-अमोनियम फॉस्फेट (डीएपी) के चरणबद्ध तरीके से छिड़काव को ड्रोन की खरीद के लिए समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर कर चुकी है। इफको ने बयान में कहा, ड्रोन के साथ-साथ सहकारी समिति किसानों के खेतों तक इसे ले जाने के लिए 2,500 इलेक्ट्रिक तिपहिया (लोडर टाइप) भी खरीदेगी। इफको ने कहा, "नैनो उर्वरकों के छिड़काव के लिए उसके द्वारा खरीदे जा रहे कृषि-ड्रोन की तकनीकी विशिष्टताएं उद्योग मानकों के अनुरूप हैं।" ऐसा अनुमान है कि एक कृषि ड्रोन प्रतिदिन 20 एकड़ क्षेत्र में इफको नैनो उर्वरक और अन्य कृषि रसायनों का छिड़काव करने में सक्षम होगा। देश की प्रमुख कृषि ड्रोन विनिर्माताओं में आयोटेकवर्ल्ड एविएशन, दक्ष अनमैन्ड सिस्टम, जनरल एयरोनॉटिक्स और पारस एयरोस्पेस शामिल हैं। इफको नैनो उर्वरकों और अन्य सुविधाओं को किसानों के खेतों तक पहुंचाने के लिए 2,500 इलेक्ट्रिक तिपहिया भी खरीदेगी। सहकारी समिति ने कहा कि ये इलेक्ट्रिक तिपहिया वाहन पर्यावरण के अनुकूल हैं। इससे हाल ही में शुरू की गई 'पीएम-प्रणाम' योजना को भी समर्थन मिलेगा।

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