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Page :- 14

The Bengal Chamber organized its annual agriculture conclave “Rural Connect-2020” on 27th February , 2020 at Vivanta Kolkata EM Bypass

West Bengal sees rise in number of SHGs

Expected to become 2 lakhs by the end of the current fiscal year

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

KOLKATA, 27 FEBRUARY

The total number of self-help groups in the state under the community mobilisation project of the state Panchayat and Rural Development (P&RD) has shot up to 8,39,868 in 19-20 as compared to 3,24,444 in the year 2013-14.

According to Ms Choten D Lama, secretary of the P&RD, the figures for the present year are expected to go higher in the next few weeks before the end of the current fiscal.

“There has been a growth in the number of SHGs with a credit-linkage of Rs 3 lakhs or more,” informed Ms Lama, during the annual agriculture conclave “Rural Connect-2020, organised by The



Bengal Chamber of Commerce.

“Similarly, while the number of such SHGs in 2014-15 was 5030, in 2019-20, it has shot up to 1,39,588. The number

is expected to touch the mark of 2 lakhs by end of the ongoing financial year,” she added.

As informed by the CEO of the West Bengal State Rural

Livelihoods Mission (WBSRLM), this year, a total amount of rupees 7,639 crores has already disbursed to the members of the self-help groups in the state, while there is a total outstanding of rupees 8,752 crores for 6,76,081 SHGs at present.

With similar assertion, Mr Pradip Kumar Mazumdar, adviser to the chief minister for Agriculture and Allied Sector, said, “In West Bengal more than 1.20 crore eggs had to be brought in for daily consumption. However, the egg production has taken a leap with the state producing more than 2 crore eggs.

“Similarly, before 2011, only 3 lakh tonnes of maize was produced in the state. Now the number has gone up to 18 lakh tonnes in the year 2018-19 which is around six times more.”



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Date:- 27th February 2020

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Story Source :- PTI

Rural Connect 2020 program organized by The Bengal Chamber at Vivanta on 27th February, 2020.

Agri Insurance Co for comprehensive policy, seeks IRDA nod

Press Trust of India | Kolkata Last Updated at February 27, 2020 19:06 IST

State-owned Agriculture Insurance Company of India Ltd currently licensed for crop insurance in the country, sought the regulator's approval to diversify into more agricultural and rural insurance products, a top company official said on Thursday.

The single product insurance company said it aims at offering "comprehensive" insurance solution for the rural population rather than restricting itself to crop insurance.

"We want to launch a comprehensive insurance policy and already applied with the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority for their permission," AICIL chairman and managing director Malay Kumar Poddar said.

He was talking to reporters on the sidelines of The Bengal Chamber organised Rural Connect 2020.

Poddar said he expects the IRDA approval in the near future for rural comprehensive insurance product that will cover all areas related to agriculture, aquaculture, animal husbandry and farm equipment.



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He also expects to bring down the cost of crop insurance with the comprehensive policy by covering all risks of a farmer's livelihood.

AICIL offers crop insurance to West Bengal's tailored product after the state did not roll out the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMBFY).

West Bengal agriculture chief advisor to the chief minister Pradip Kr Mazumdar said the state offers crop insurance free of cost to all farmers.

In PMFBY, a farmer has to bear the cost of 2 per cent of the sum assured while the rest is borne by the Center and respective state governments.

AICIL said during last Kharif crop in Bengal it had covered 35 lakh farmers in 15 districts.

(This story has not been edited by Business Standard staff and is auto-generated from a syndicated feed.)



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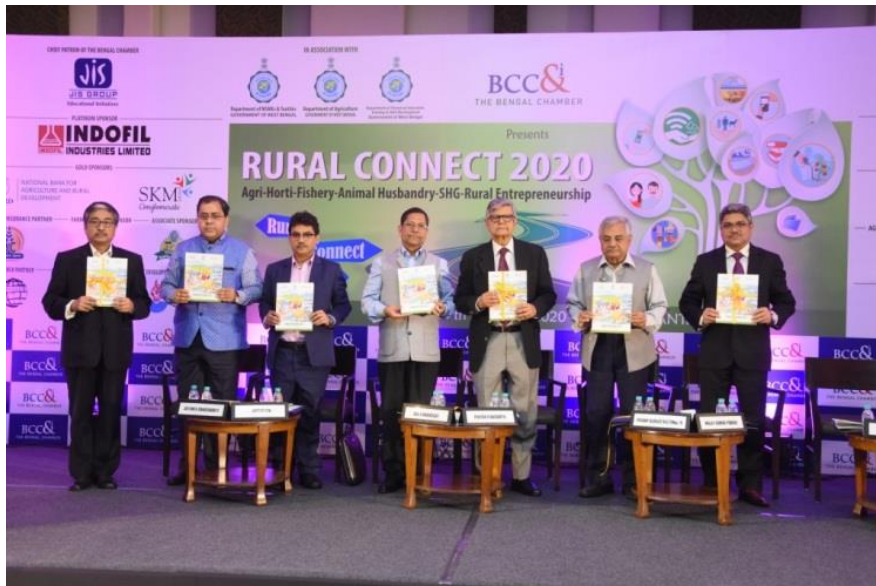
PRESS CLIP

Publication:- Indiablooms.com (<https://indiablooms.com/finance-details/11442/the-bengal-chamber-of-commerce-organises-rural-connect-2020.html>)

Date:- 27th February 2020

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Rural Connect 2020 program organized by The Bengal Chamber at Vivanta on 27th February, 2020.



The Bengal Chamber of Commerce organises Rural Connect 2020

India Blooms News Service | @indiablooms | 27 Feb 2020, 07:03 pm

[#TheBengalChamberOfCommerce](#), [#RuralConnect2020](#), [#AnnualRuralConclave](#)

Kolkata/IBNS: The Bengal Chamber of Commerce organised its annual rural conclave “Rural Connect 2020” here on Thursday.

Deb A Mukherjee, President Designate , The Bengal Chamber, said, "The Conclave focuses on the agriculture and rural development achieved by the State and the challenges ahead. The Conclave was addressed by the leaders of the agriculture and rural sector. The conclave hopes to highlight the successful models of rural development to continue in path of sustainability and also



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explore opportunities in research, entrepreneurship and education.

Such forums also aims to bring on a common platform all stakeholders of the state's rural economy together. Agri cultivators also should not just look to be agri producers but focus on developing themselves as agri entrepreneurs. When farmer's value in the value chain increases, there will be true progress in agri sector and economy. Also self reliance of women in this sector should be a very important focus."

Satyabrata Mukherjee, Chairperson, Agriculture & Rural Development Committee, The Bengal Chamber, stated, "The Conclave had the participation of farmers, agriculture-entrepreneurs, fishery owners and exporters, cooperative panchayat representatives and all others related to agriculture and rural development. The program will be attended by various Government departments, World Bank and other banks and insurance companies.



During the Conclave, the Chamber felicitates successful FPOs, SHGs, cooperatives, rural cooperative Banks, cooperative farmers, agriculture- entrepreneurs and others in its "Rural Connect Conclave-2020" to inspire the people at large who are working in these sectors relentlessly for inclusive growth.

Several theme based sessions like Future of Rural Bengal-Agriculture and allied sectors, Flying High:Krishi, Krishak & Bangla, For a Better Rural Life: Swarojgar & Swanirbhar Bangla", Future Rural Industries-Poultry, fisheries and animal husbandry have been designed along with B2B sessions for leading agriculture players, agro related industries, bankers, and product oriented companies potential progressive farmers and users."

According to Pradip Kumar Mazumdar, Adviser to Chief Minister for Agriculture and Allied Sector, Government of West Bengal, one should look beyond increasing food production and instead focus on increasing the income of farmers and find ways and means to speed up that.

Malay Kumar Poddar, CMD, Agriculture Insurance Company of India Limited, said, "Insurance in agriculture is on the rise with 45 lakh farmers in 22 districts under insurance in Kharif 19. Also 35 lakhs farmers of 15 districts are under AIC (Agriculture Insurance Company of India). We are also trying to bring down premium rate to lessen burden on Government.

We are trying to cover insurance in all sectors in Rural economy asides from agriculture like animal husbandry, poultry, fisheries, farm machineries under a comprehensive insurance cover. Talks are on with IRDA. This insurance will benefit all connected with rural livelihood."

“The West Bengal government has taken several measures towards development of Rural economy. There are several schemes that have been floated towards farmers benefit which are running with success. West Bengal government is engaging in further study and research to bring more and more schemes towards the farmer’s growth and development.

But more needs to be done to spread government policies among the rural sector to help further the rural economy .On the occasion we are releasing a research paper called Connecting Rural Dots-Touching lives," stated Ambarish Dasgupta, Former President, the Bengal Chamber and Founder and Senior Partner-Intueri Consulting LLP.



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PRESS CLIP

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Publication:- Theweek.in (<https://www.theweek.in/wire-updates/business/2020/02/27/ccm7-biz-aicil-irda.html>)

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Page:- Online

Story Source :- PTI

Rural Connect 2020 program organized by The Bengal Chamber at Vivanta on 27th February, 2020.

Agri Insurance Co for comprehensive policy seeks IRDA nod

PTI February 27, 2020 19:10 IST

Kolkata, Feb 27 (PTI) State-owned Agriculture Insurance Company of India Ltd currently licensed for crop insurance in the country, sought the regulator's approval to diversify into more agricultural and rural insurance products, a top company official said on Thursday.

The single product insurance company said it aims at offering "comprehensive" insurance solution for the rural population rather than restricting itself to crop insurance.

"We want to launch a comprehensive insurance policy and already applied with the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority for their permission," AICIL chairman and managing director Malay Kumar Poddar said.

He was talking to reporters on the sidelines of The Bengal Chamber organised Rural Connect 2020.

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He also expects to bring down the cost of crop insurance with the comprehensive policy by covering all risks of a farmer's livelihood.

AICIL offers crop insurance to West Bengal's tailored product after the state did not roll out the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMBFY).

West Bengal agriculture chief advisor to the chief minister Pradip Kr Mazumdar said the state offers crop insurance free of cost to all farmers.

In PMFBY, a farmer has to bear the cost of 2 per cent of the sum assured while the rest is borne by the Center and respective state governments.

AICIL said during last Kharif crop in Bengal it had covered 35 lakh farmers in 15 districts. PTI BSM
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(This story has not been edited by THE WEEK and is auto-generated from PTI)

Publication: - Aajkal

Date: - 28th February, 2020

Page :- 12

**The Bengal Chamber organized its annual agriculture conclave “Rural Connect-2020”
on 27th February , 2020 at Vivanta Kolkata EM Bypass**

কৃষকদের আয় আরও বাড়ানোই লক্ষ্য: প্রদীপ

আজকালের প্রতিবেদন

উৎপাদন বাড়ানোর পাশাপাশি কৃষকদের আয় যাতে আরও বাড়তে পারে সেদিকে লক্ষ্য রাখতে হবে। দেখতে হবে কৃষকরা যাতে ফসল বিক্রি করে আরও বেশি উপার্জন করতে পারেন। বৃহস্পতিবার কলকাতায় এ কথা বলেছেন মুখ্যমন্ত্রী মমতা ব্যানার্জির কৃষি উপদেষ্টা প্রদীপ মজুমদার। এদিন বণিকসভা দ্য বেঙ্গল চেম্বার অফ কমার্স ‘রুরাল কানেক্ট ২০২০’-র আয়োজন করেছিল। ওই অনুষ্ঠানে তিনি বলেন, ‘রাজ্যে বিশেষ ধরনের ভুট্টার চাষ করা হচ্ছে। যা কম জলে চাষ করা যায়। কৃষকদের খরচও কম হয়। ডিম-উৎপাদন আরও বাড়তে স্বনির্ভর গোষ্ঠীগুলিকে সাহায্য করছে।’ ছিলেন পঞ্চগয়েত ও গ্রামোন্নয়ন দপ্তরের সচিব চোটেন লামা, নাবার্ডের ডেপুটি জেনারেল ম্যানেজার গৌতম সেন, বণিকসভার মনোনীত সভাপতি দেব এ মুখার্জি, এগ্রিকালচার ইনসুরেন্স কোম্পানি অফ ইন্ডিয়াস সিএমডি মলয়কুমার পোদ্দার, বণিকসভার প্রাক্তন সভাপতি অক্ষরীশ দাশগুপ্ত, সতরত মুখার্জি প্রমুখ।

Publication: - Millennium Post

Date: - 28th February, 2020

Page :- 4

The Bengal Chamber organized its annual agriculture conclave “Rural Connect-2020” on 27th February , 2020 at Vivanta Kolkata EM Bypass

Number of Self-Help Groups up by over 1 lakh in Bengal

OUR CORRESPONDENT

KOLKATA: The number of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) has increased by more than one lakh during the last one year, as the state government has taken up a comprehensive scheme to increase job opportunities.

“As per the statistics, there were 7,29,533 SHGs in the year 2018-19 (February). This number has shot up to 8,39,686 in the year 2019-20 (February),” said Choten Lama, CEO of West Bengal National Rural Livelihood Mission (WBSRLM) and secretary of state Panchayats and Rural Development department, while giving a presentation during the annual rural conclave ‘Rural Connect 2020’, held at a city hotel on Thursday.

Pradip Majumdar, Agriculture advisor to Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and Malay Kumar Poddar, CMD, Agri-



culture Insurance Company of India Limited, were also present on the occasion.

It might be mentioned that the state’s performance of credit linkage of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) in the Cooperative Sector is the highest in India.

The state government is committed to empower and make the poor women folk self-reliant both in the urban and rural areas. The loan amount that was Rs 553 crore in 2010-11, went up to Rs 7,000 crore in 2018-19. The state government

is also providing a subsidy so that the SHGs have to pay only 2 percent of their bank loan.

The number of SHGs, which was 4.72 lakh in 2010-11, has gone up more than two-fold with an emphasis from the Mamata Banerjee government.



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Publication:- Outlookindia.com (<https://www.outlookindia.com/newsscroll/agri-insurance-co-for-comprehensive-policy-seeks-irda-nod/1746215>)

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Story Source :- PTI

Rural Connect 2020 program organized by The Bengal Chamber at Vivanta on 27th February, 2020.

27 FEBRUARY 2020 Last Updated at 7:04 PM | SOURCE: PTI

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PTI BSM NN NN

Disclaimer :- This story has not been edited by Outlook staff and is auto-generated from news agency feeds. Source: PTI

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Page :- 04

The Bengal Chamber organized its annual agriculture conclave "Rural Connect-2020" on 27th February , 2020 at Vivanta Kolkata EM Bypass

कृषि बीमा कंपनी ने मांगी बीमा उत्पाद की अनुमति

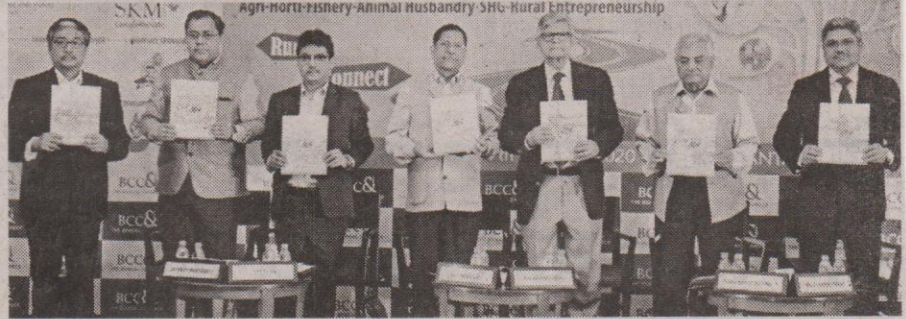
किसानों के आजीविका संबंधित जोखिम को बीमा के दायरे में लाने की पहल

पत्रिका न्यूज़ नेटवर्क
rajasthanpatrika.com

कोलकाता. किसानों के फसलों की बीमा करने के लिए लाइसेंस प्राप्त देश की इकलौती सरकारी कृषि बीमा कंपनी कृषि और ग्रामीण बीमा उत्पादों में विविधता लाने के लिए नियामकों की मंजूरी मांग रही है।

भारतीय कृषि बीमा कंपनी लिमिटेड (एआइसीआइएल) के अध्यक्ष और प्रबंध निदेशक मलय कुमार पोद्दार ने बताया कि कंपनी को केवल फसल बीमा तक सीमित रखा नहीं जा सकता। ग्रामीणों, किसानों के लिए व्यापक स्तर पर बीमा संबंधित समस्याओं का समाधान पेशकश करना होगा। कंपनी व्यापक बीमा पॉलिसी शुरू करना चाहती है।

जिसकी अनुमति के लिए बीमा नियामक और विकास प्राधिकरण (आइआरडीए) के पास पहले ही



बंगाल चेंबर ऑफ कॉमर्स की ओर से कोलकाता में गुरुवार को ग्रामीण कनेक्ट -2020 विषय पर आयोजित वार्षिक कृषि सम्मेलन में रिपोर्ट जारी करते हुए एआइसीआइएल के अध्यक्ष मलय कुमार पोद्दार, मुख्यमंत्री के कृषि सलाहकार प्रदीप कुमार मजुमदार, नाबार्ड के उप महाप्रबंधक गौतम सेन और चेंबर के अध्यक्ष देव ए. मुखर्जी।

आवेदन किया जा चुका है। वे इस दिन बंगाल चेंबर की ओर से ग्रामीण कनेक्ट -2020 विषय पर आयोजित वार्षिक कृषि सम्मेलन में हिस्सा लेने के बाद संवाददाताओं से बातचीत कर रहे थे।

कार्यक्रम में मुख्यमंत्री ममता बनर्जी के कृषि सलाहकार प्रदीप कुमार मजुमदार, नाबार्ड के उप महाप्रबंधक गौतम सेन, सिजेंटा फाउंडेशन के सलाहकार पार्थ आर दासगुप्ता, बंगाल चेंबर ऑफ कॉमर्स के अध्यक्ष देव ए. मुखर्जी और चेंबर के कृषि और ग्रामीण विकास कमेटी

के सह अध्यक्ष जयंत चक्रवर्ती सहित अन्य गणमान्य लोग उपस्थित थे।

पोद्दार ने कहा कि भविष्य में कंपनी को व्यापक बीमा उत्पाद बाजार में लाने की मंजूरी मिलने की उम्मीद है। जो कृषि, मत्स्य पालन, पशुपालन और कृषि उपकरणों से संबंधित सभी क्षेत्रों को कवर करेगा। उत्पाद के दायरे में किसानों की आजीविका संबंधित सभी जोखिमों को लाया जाएगा। इस व्यापक नीति से फसल बीमा की लागत को कम होने की उम्मीद है। इस दौरान उन्होंने

बंगाल सरकार से प्रधानमंत्री फसल बीमा योजना (पीएमएफबीवाई) को लागू करने का आग्रह किया। मुख्यमंत्री के कृषि सलाहकार प्रदीप मजुमदार ने कहा कि राज्य सरकार सभी किसानों को फसल बीमा मुफ्त देती है।

पीएमएफबीवाई में किसानों को बीमित राशि का दो प्रतिशत वहन करना पड़ता है, जबकि बाकी राशि केन्द्र और राज्य देता है। खरीफ फसल के दौरान इसके दायरे में देश के 15 जिलों के 35 लाख किसान आते हैं।



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Publication:- Businessinsider.in (<https://www.businessinsider.in/business/news/agri-insurance-co-for-comprehensive-policy-seeks-irda-nod/articleshow/74338447.cms>)

Date:- 27th February 2020

Page:- Online

Story Source :- PTI

Rural Connect 2020 program organized by The Bengal Chamber at Vivanta on 27th February, 2020.

Agri Insurance Co for comprehensive policy, seeks IRDA nod

PTI Feb 27, 2020, 19:04 IS

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