



Embassy
of the Federal Republic of Germany
New Delhi

Indo-German Academy to promote Natural Farming launched

- **Indo-German Global Academy for Agroecology, Research and Learning (IGGAARL) launched**
- **Academy a partnership between the Government of Germany and Government of India**
- **Unique farmer-driven academy will help to develop “Farmer Scientists”- to steer forward natural farming in the state**

July 07, 2022, New Delhi: The Embassy of Germany in New Delhi is pleased to announce the launch of the ***Indo German Global Academy for Agroecology, Research and Learning (IGGAARL)*** in the YSR Kadapa district, Andhra Pradesh. The Academy is a joint effort between the Federal Government of Germany and the Government of India to strengthen the ongoing initiatives in the state and develop the science behind natural farming. The inauguration of the academy was held today in the presence of the **Honourable Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Shri YS Jagan Mohan Reddy**.

The IGGAARL will organise research through competitive grants, involving globally and nationally acclaimed research institutes and universities. It will work closely with the Rythu Sadhikara Samstha (RySS) which helps implement the Andhra Pradesh Community Managed Natural Farming (APCNF), working for the empowerment and all-round welfare of farmers. The academy will also collaborate with the other institutions, including Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) Institutions, Andhra state Agriculture and Horticulture Universities and Research Stations, and Kisan Vigyans Kendras in the state. IGGAARL WILL feature a digital repository and learning platforms and state-of-the-art laboratories at various levels.

Speaking on the inauguration, **Secretary of State of the Ministry of Development Cooperation, Jochen Flasbarth** said, “Together, we are pursuing the 2030 Agenda and the implementation of the Paris Climate Agreement. In addition to just energy transition, sustainable urban development, and mobility, our bilateral cooperation focuses on natural resource management and sustainable food systems. We are all aware global food systems are facing tremendous challenges. Producing enough food is a top priority with many agricultural practices fostering land degradation, biodiversity loss, water scarcity, and pollution.”

The opening of IGAARL comes under the aegis of the recent inter-government consultations where Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and German Chancellor Olaf Scholz signed a new partnership for green and sustainable development. Owing to the challenges faced globally due to dramatic climate changes (drought, dramatically sinking groundwater levels, damages due to the changing monsoon patters, floods etc.), Germany has increased its development cooperation



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plans with India. Under the Joint Declaration of Intent, agroecological plans will be strengthened under the lighthouse initiatives by an additional 300 Mio. Euro for the next years.

Speaking on the occasion, **Christoph Kessler Director of KfW**, The German Development Bank's India office, said, "The government of Andhra Pradesh was implementing this national farming program and the German Embassy had a close look at it, appraised it, checked it, and then recommended to the German government, to finance it. Today, we are proud to announce that we did it and it was successful. We are one of the first development banks that financed such an ambitious program of the Andhra Pradesh government. We hope that we have been sort of an ice breaker inciting other banks and development agencies to also co-finance and finance natural farming".

The Academy will be a **farmer-led and farmer-driven research organisation**- a unique feature for such an organisation. The aim is to develop a strong cohort of thousands of 'Farmer Scientists' - by nurturing the skills of identified farmer innovators through a rigorous process of 3-4 years. These farmer scientists will be crucial to steer the natural farming movement in the state forward by acting as science leaders at different levels in the state- and helping to develop Climate-Smart Villages. The academy will also help in developing and conducting a certification program for Champion Farmer Trainers of the RySS-APCNF program. This will strengthen the efforts of RySS in scaling natural farming within and beyond the state.

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