



☞ In the Interim Budget presented today, there was high expectation for rural India, and the budget was not an upset. A specific drift has gone unobserved is that the dialog has moved from farm output to farm income building the capacity of the farmers, moving beyond traditional farming to becoming farmed entrepreneurs. With self-sufficiency and surplus production accomplished the country should be assured in terms agriculture output. The big announcement was that of providing an assured income support to the small and marginal farmers, under the “Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN)” is truly historic.

Also the Income support, seen along with the key initiatives taken in the past such as a higher MSP on 22 crops, Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojna (PMKSY), Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojna (PMFBY), Soil Health Card Scheme and roll out of the national agriculture market (NAM) will provide a far reaching impetus.

The proposal of the government to extend the interest subvention for farmers affected by severe natural calamities, for the entire period of reschedulement of their loans is timely and welcome. ☞

—Ajay S Shriram,
Chairman & Sr
Managing Director,
DCM Shriram