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## Cold and Fog in Bihar Hits Rabi Crops | Bihar | 06 Feb 2024

### Why in News?

According to agriculture department officials, **preliminary assessments** from various districts in Bihar indicated that intense **cold and fog damaged potato and mustard** the most, followed by lentils. However, there are **no significant reports of damage to wheat crops**.

### Key Points

- Scientists at [Krishi Vigyan Kendra \(KVK\)](#) in different districts **confirmed damage of Rabi crops** due to the **cold wave and cold day conditions** that lasted for days.
  - They highlighted the **adverse effects of late sowing on yield and production**, particularly with the changing climate.
  - Late-sown potato crops reported damage ranging from 25 to 40%, while early-sown potato crops faced a 15% damage. Mustard crops also suffered damage between 10 to 15%.
- The challenge faced by farmers is that they harvest paddy until December and then begin sowing rabi crops, including mustard and potato, either in mid-December or early January, exposing them to severe cold conditions.
- The extended cold spell and reduced sunshine during the day have affected rabi crops. These conditions have negatively impacted the growth, flowering and yield-making process, leading to widespread reports of Jhulsa Rog in potatoes. However, wheat crops remain largely unaffected.

### Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK)

- KVK is an integral part of the **National Agricultural Research System (NARS)**. The first KVK was **established in 1974 at Puducherry**.
- The mandate of KVK is technology assessment and demonstration for its application and capacity development.
- It aims at **assessment of location specific technology modules in agriculture** and allied enterprises, through technology assessment, refinement and demonstrations.
- KVKs also produce quality technological products (seed, planting material, bio-agents, livestock) and make it available to farmers.
- The KVK scheme is 100% financed by the Government of India and the KVKs are sanctioned to Agricultural Universities, ICAR institutes, related Government Departments and Non Government Organizations (NGOs) working in Agriculture.

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## NITISH Device | Bihar | 06 Feb 2024

### Why in News?

The **Bihar State Disaster Management Authority** has launched the **Novel Initiative Technological Intervention for Safety of Human Lives (NITISH)** device.

- It is an innovative **pendant-shaped device** designed to **provide timely alerts to farmers and the public**, specifically targeting **lightning, floods, heatwaves**, and cold waves.

### Key Points

- The initiative was triggered by recurring deaths among farmers due to lightning and flash floods, emphasizing the device's role in saving lives.
- It is introduced in collaboration with **the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Patna**.
- The device is connected to the **Bihar Meteorological Service Centre**, ensuring **real-time and accurate weather-related alerts**.
- The pendant will get **charged from body heat**. The device **will sound an alert in three ways**:
  - It will send **voice messages**.
  - Its **colour will change from green to red**.
  - The **device will keep warming till its user switches it off**.

### Bihar State Disaster Management Authority

- Bihar SDMA was set up on 6th November 2007, under Section 14 (1) of the Disaster Management Act, 2005 passed by the Parliament.
- Its aim is to build a safe and disaster-resilient Bihar by developing a holistic, proactive, multi-disaster and technology-driven strategy for Disaster Management.
- This will be achieved through a culture of prevention, mitigation and preparedness.



