



Cold and Fog in Bihar Hits Rabi Crops

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.