

## Aid must for farmers due to climate change

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Pune:** Government officials and academics discussed the need for providing financial and technical aid to farmers as yields diminish due to climate change at an international consultation held by Watershed Organisation Trust (WOTR) on Wednesday.

WOTR is a Pune-based NGO that completes 25 years of existence this year. Some of the attendees pointed out examples like Jharkhand, where yields of crucial crops like kharif and rabi are expected to drop by at least 20-30% over the next century.

“This consultation focused on the water needs and farming in semi-arid regions. The effects of climate change are already showing on long-term yield projections and investment into new technology must be soundly done. For example, it is good to invest in solar-powered water pumps but it risks excess extraction,” a professor of the Wageningen University in Netherlands Christian Siderius said.

The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) said that it plans to invest more in agromet. “We are coordinating with agricultural universities to create around 600 new agromet stations,” head of climate change initiatives at IMD, SD Atri, said.

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