

Study suggests single agri policy for better coherence

FE Report

The government should consider integrating its policies regarding water management, seed and fertiliser distribution into a single agriculture policy to maintain better policy coherence, a leading research organisation of the country has recommended in its recent study.

At the same time, there should be a prior estimation about the agricultural demand and supply requirement so that farmers do not incur financial loss due to oversupply.

Unnayan Shamannay has conducted the study as part of Sustainable Development Investment Portfolio (SDIP) of the Australian government.

The study was conducted in five countries of South Asia such as Bangladesh, India, Bhutan, Nepal and Pakistan. It aimed to address sustainable use of water, food and

energy security in South Asia through better regional cooperation, policy reforms, technology transfer and capacity building.

On the issue of renewable energy, the study said all the solar panels should be connected with the national grid through adjusted metering machine so that they can provide reading of the net electricity consumption and the final electricity bill can be adjusted with the individual electricity contribution to the national grid.

"The government can provide support for solar panel buyers-especially small and large companies engaged in electricity production," Shaheen ul Alam, Project Coordinator of Unnayan Shamannay, said at a workshop organised in the city on Saturday to share the research findings.

Simultaneously, solar thermal power should be used on a large scale as its

built-in storage capabilities allow it to be integrated more easily into the electric grid, Unnayan Shamannay officials said.

Each and every newly-developed commercial or non-commercial buildings of the country should mandatorily install solar panels on their rooftops in a bid to increase the use of renewable energy, the study recommended.

The research also reiterated the call for providing subsidy to the farmers on seed, fertilisers and pesticides while also instituting more efficient agriculture marketing system, ensuring crop diversity and optimising agricultural production.

On the issue of water resources, the study has pressed for enhanced knowledge sharing among the SAARC countries on sustainable use of water while also increasing cooperation among the South Asian nations on trans-border water issues.

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