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NEWS

Stage set for businessline Agri & Commodity Summit on Feb 27

The discussions will focus on role of women in Rural Economy and the challenges they face

By BL Hyderabad Bureau

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The Hindu *businessline* is back with fifth edition of its Agri and Commodity Summit. the *businessline* Agri & Commodity Summit 2026, to be held on February 27 at The Leela Palace, New Delhi, will commemorate the Year of the Women Farmer.

The United Nations has declared 2026 as the International Year of the Woman Farmer (IYWF 2026). Led by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), this initiative highlights the vital contributions of women in agriculture, aiming to close gender gaps, enhance access to resources, and boost recognition for their role in food security. Keeping this in mind, the summit has been themed as ‘Women: The Pillar of Rural Economy’.

The presenting sponsor is NABARD, while Associate Sponsors are Yara India, Indofil Industries Ltd, Bayer, HURL, and Markfed Punjab. The banking partner is State Bank of India and media partner is Agri Network Consultancy.

At a time when India is recognising the central role women play in sustaining agriculture, strengthening rural incomes and driving commodity markets, *businessline* is the first national platform to formally celebrate and shape this narrative.

The Summit will be inaugurated by Devesh Chaturvedi, Secretary, Department of Agriculture and Farmers’ Welfare. A special address will be delivered by Shaji KV, Chairman, Nabard.

As India enters the Year of the Woman Farmer, this summit will move the conversation from participation to power — from labour to leadership — from inclusion to investment. The aim of the summit is to:

- Spotlight empowered women across the agricultural value chain
- Address funding and credit access challenges

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- Present inspiring stories from the field
- Explore women's participation in bullion, commodities and wealth creation

“Silent Architects of the Rural Economy” will see panelists Sarbani Bose, CoE Lead, Gender Equality, PRADAN, Chhavi Rajawat, Former Sarpanch, Soda Village, Rajasthan, Sanjiv Kanwar, Managing Director, Yara South Asia and Country Head, Yara India and Kalyani Singh, Entrepreneur, Better Life Farming Alliance, in discussion with Shishir Sinha, Associate Editor, the Hindu *businessline* on the the real story behind the journey.

“Seeds of Funding” will have panelists: Anupam Gupta, CBO, Kissandhan, Ravi Kumar, Lead-Smallholder Farming, South-East Asia, Bayer AG, and Ajay Kumar Jha, Deputy General Manager (Product Development and Marketing), State Bank of India, conversing with Subramani Ra Mancombu, Consulting Editor, the Hindu *businessline*.

“Precious Metals: Beyond Aam Aadmi's Reach” will see businessline's Lokeshwarri S K, Data Editor, in conversation with, Kavita Chacko, Research Head, India, World Gold Council, Jateen N Trivedi, VP, Commodity and Currency Research, LKP Securities, and Tarun Kanwar, Director, Navrattan Jewellers, Delhi.

Besides these, there will a session “From Field Work to Entrepreneurship”. In this session *Lakhpati didis* Aruna Debbarma from Tripura and Vaishali Ghuge from Aurangabad (Maharashtra will share their stories with Richa Mishra, Resident Editor, Hyderabad, the Hindu *businessline*. Ghuge is working with Swayam Shikshan Prayog organisation.

The grand finale will be the fireside chat with a distinguished woman — Brahmani Nara, Executive Director, Heritage Foods, with Raghuvir Srinivasan, Editor, the Hindu *businessline*.