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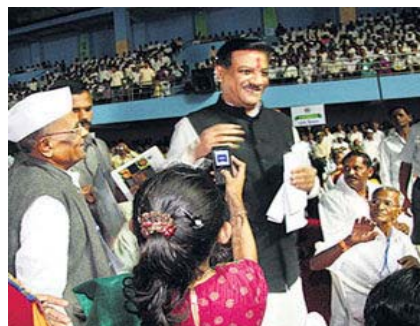
'Maharashtra needs a green revolution'

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Pune: Chief minister (CM) Prithviraj Chauhan emphasised the necessity of green revolution to meet the increasing demands of the country. Speaking at an event organised at the Shiv Chhatrapati sports complex, Balewadi, on Friday to felicitate 1,500 farmers of the state, Chauhan said that the emergence of globalisation, open market and increasing population has enhanced the demands of the state.

He said that it is up to the people working in the agriculture sector, including farmers, to deliver in order to meet the supply.

"Though we as a state are doing pretty well in the agriculture sector, there are areas which need to be amended. More use of technology in agriculture will enable the development of the sector in the state. The present scenario of the state demands a green revolution," Chauhan said.

Deputy CM Ajit Pawar, MS Swaminathan Research Foundation founder and chairman MS Swaminathan and state agriculture and marketing minister Radhakrishna Vikhe-Patil were present.

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Swaminathan urged on to make scientific enhancement in farming in order to motivate educated young people to join the agriculture sector. "The future belongs to the nation which has grains and not guns. Agricultural universities must take initiative to educate rural farmers, enabling development in the field."

He said the dearth of young people in the agricultural field and lack of interest is not good news for the sector. "If agriculture becomes economically rewarding and intellectually interesting, then it would make the youth join the field," he said.

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