NITI Aayog and ITC to collaborate to transform agriculture and water sectors

NITI Aayog and ITC Ltd plans to collaborate in the area of agriculture and allied sectors in order to strengthen farming systems, an ITC release said. The two organisations signed the letter of intent on Thursday.

The partnership is for a period of four years till April 2022 with the prime objective of increasing net returns from farming through reduction in costs of production and increasing productivity of major crops in each of the identified district.

NITI Aayog will work in close collaboration with the district administration and ITC to build capacities of relevant government extension staff to create a cohort of master trainers. They will in turn disseminate sustainable agricultural practices and templates for seasonal planning to the gram panchayat level. The baseline and end line data would be collected by ITC for impact documentation, mapping of government schemes and programs along with suggestions, if warranted, for improving efficiency of delivery, the release said.

In order to ensure implementation, performance review and problem-solving will be undertaken by a specially constituted project management committee at the district level. ITC expects over two lakh lead farmers in 25 districts will be trained as a part of the partnership.

Launched by the Centre in January, the ‘transformation of aspirational districts’ program aims to quickly and effectively improve the performance of these districts across identified key performance indicators in sectors which improves quality of life and economic productivity in areas like health and nutrition, education, agriculture and water resource management, financial inclusion, skill development and basic infrastructure.