

Andhra Pradesh: Tobacco Board plans regulation of non-FCV tobacco growers for fair pricing

Oct 11, 2025, 03:45 AM IST



Vijayawada: The Tobacco Board is planning to launch the registration of non-FCV tobacco growers for effective regulation of tobacco crop in the country. As of now, the board regulates only FCV tobacco production and sale. With non-FCV tobacco cultivation increasing in all states without any regulation, growers are often pushed into debt. Taking the grievance of farmers into consideration, the board is contemplating to bring all varieties of tobacco under one umbrella.

Tobacco Board chairman Yaswanth Kumar Chidipothu said a pilot plan for non-FCV regulation will be launched soon, while proposing a policy roadmap mechanism to regulate non-FCV

tobaccos under a legal and institutional framework. "Our FCV auction model is a global benchmark in transparency. But now, the time has come to design a non-FCV regulation model that ensures fair prices, planned production, and farmer dignity. It needs to be highlighted that the recent overproduction of HDBRG, Rustica, and Lal Chopadia non-FCV tobacco varieties in the country resulted in a loss of close to Rs 500 crore to the farming community in 2025. A mechanism to monitor supply and demand would have helped avoid such overproduction and associated losses," Yaswanth Kumar told a seminar .

The Federation of All India Farmers Associations (FAIFA) has alleged the role of multinational companies in making farmers grow excessive crops, particularly in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. FAIFA, working to uplift the cause of millions of farmers and farm workers involved in commercial crop cultivation in states such as Uttar

Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and Karnataka, has constantly raised concerns about the growing unauthorised crop size and emphasised the urgent need for comprehensive regulation of all varieties of tobacco.

FAIFA general secretary Murali Babu alleged that vested interests, particularly multinational corporations, are exploiting tobacco farmers by offering attractive prices initially, only to trap them into long-term dependence. "Once farmers become reliant, they are often left vulnerable to unfair practices and price manipulation. This hurts their livelihoods besides creating instability in the sector. To address this, we urgently need a unified strategy across states and among farmer leaders. The growers must reinforce the importance of aligning production with actual demand and take concrete steps to curb overproduction," opined Murali Babu.

Vipinchandra R Patel, president of Consortium of Indian Farmers Associations (CIFA), said they are not seeking subsidies. "We are seeking systems. Every tobacco farmer, whether FCV or non-FCV, deserves a transparent market and a stable income. We request the Centre to evolve a national tobacco crop regulatory framework that brings all tobacco varieties under a single umbrella for planning, production, and pricing — ensuring one policy, one platform, one protection," he said. Dr U Sreedhar (senior scientist, CTRI), Shankar Narayan Reddy and Vikramraj Urs, farmer leaders from Karnataka, also attended the seminar.