

# Krishi-techno parks in GPs now

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bangalore: After IT and BT parks, it will now be 'krishi-techno parks' in Karnataka.

The Karnataka agriculture policy-2006, which was released by chief minister H D Kumaraswamy here on Thursday, proposes to establish in each gram panchayat a krishi-techno park — a place where new agricultural technologies will be demonstrated to farmers.

The parks will help the state in achieving growth rate of 4.5 per cent per annum in agricultural gross state domestic product during the next decade. As this can be done by bridging the gap between laboratory and land, krishi-techno parks will take technology to the doorstep of farmers.

To be based on the public-private partnership (PPP) model, the park will come up in one hectare area in each gram panchayat. Scientists working in agricultural universities and agri-research stations will provide scientific back-up at the park.

Other salient features of the policy are:

- Budgetary expenditure on development heads for agriculture sector to be at 10 per cent of total development expenditure.
- Increasing investment in rural farm and non-farm en-



**ALL FOR RYOTS:** CM H D Kumaraswamy unveils the new agriculture policy on Thursday

terprises by five per cent per annum.

- Planned programme focussing on improving soil health titled 'Bhoomi thaya arogya', will be taken up by covering 35,000 hectares each year.

- Farmers to be give *raitha mitra pusthaka* (RMP), a small coded passbook containing information of the farm family.

- Constituting rainfed agricultural commission and establishing Karnataka Trade Authority.

- Establishing telemetric rain guage stations at gram panchayat level on a phased manner.