

Ramakrishnan M, Managing Director, Primus Partners

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More funds needed for R&D in climate-resilient seeds

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Article Content:

‘More funds needed for R&D in climate-resilient seeds’

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Higher allocation of funds for research and development (R & D) of climate resilient seeds have more impact than providing subsidies or other incentives in agriculture, according to Ramakrishnan M, Managing Director of global management consultant firm Primus Partners India.

“What studies have shown is that spending on R&D has a maximum impact (on climate resilient seeds) compared to any other subsidy or other activities in agriculture,” he said in an online interaction with *businessline*.

Calling for more investments in indoor farming because of changing weather patterns, Ramakrishnan, who leads the Agriculture and Sustainability Practice at Primus, said more training is required for this while market linkage should be provided in urban areas



Ramakrishnan M, MD,
Primus Partners India

where there is a demand and inclination to spend on chemical-free produce. This is another area where more spending needs to be done, he said.

OTHER FOCUS AREAS

The other area of focus should be fisheries and aquaculture. “There isn’t enough support in terms of Krishi Vigyan Kendras and extension services,” he said.

“Eventually, there will have to be some kind of carbon tax which we will need to impose locally as well. Apart from this, we should think

about guideline changes in various sectors to make each stream and industry greener,” he said.

“Attempts being made to increase the revenue generation possibilities in these areas by getting communities involved with aquaculture activities or ecotourism activities,” the firm’s managing director said.

On raising funds through Budget support, Ramakrishnan said some of the amount allocated for chemical fertilizers, such as urea, can be spent on R&D and indoor farming.

“Everyone recognises the need for blended capital. So it can’t all come from green bonds, it can’t all come from government funds, it can’t all come from philanthropy, it can’t all come from impact investors. But if you bring all these people together and create effective structures, some people would be willing to invest in the future in terms of making money,” he said.