

Dutch firm inks pact with Future Group

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Larive International, a Dutch private sector company that works closely with the Dutch government, and puts Dutch companies in touch with Indian companies working in the field of agriculture, has signed an MoU with the Future Group.

Under the MoU, they would put up 20 polyhouses (green houses) as pilot projects where each farmer can grow any crops with increased yield and then train other farmers in the techniques they are taught.

Subsidised by the Dutch government to the tune of about 2.5 million euros, the target is to train 10,000 farmers initially and reach a target of 20,000 in five years, said Peter Uyttewaal, Partner India who has been working in Tamil Nadu for the last 17 years. The framers would take their produce to the Future Group which will sell them in their stores. The polyhouses will be located in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

Mr Uyttewaal also founded International Agricultural Processing Pvt Ltd as a production facility for gherkins pickled in vinegar that are labelled, packed in jars and exported to Europe's supermarket chains and North America.

An estimated 35-40 million jars are exported annually.

The company which is now a leading exporter of gherkins, has trained 2,000 farmers who grow between 12,000 to 15,000 metric tonnes of gherkins annually for export.

Because of the technology of drip irrigation, these farmers in Tamil Nadu are able to grow four to five tonnes per acre which is a yield of three times over normal farming.

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