



## Huge supply of groundnuts arrives at Rajkot Bedi marketing yard: Farmers express anger over low prices; demand immediate relief package & 50% loan waiver

**At Rajkot's Bedi Marketing Yard, there is currently a massive influx of groundnuts being observed, resulting in long queues of farmers. However, amidst this large-scale arrival, farmers are expressing strong discontent as they are not receiving adequate and sustainable prices for their produce.**

Despite farmers needing immediate funds for upcoming sowing preparations like wheat and seeds, they are facing a situation where they have to wait for two to three days to sell their groundnuts. Additionally, farmers are taking a major financial hit when comparing current market prices with their expenses, leading them to express dissatisfaction even with the relief package announced by the government. A farmer named Devayatbhai Gorabhai, who came to sell his groundnuts at Bedi Marketing Yard, expressed his anguish about this situation. He is a resident of a village in Paddhari taluka of Rajkot district. He mentioned that he has been at the yard with his groundnuts since last night, but due to such high arrivals, it appears it will take another two-three days for his turn to come. Currently, since groundnut is the main crop that was cultivated, farmers urgently need money, especially for the upcoming wheat sowing and to purchase seeds.

Devayatbhai expressed serious concern about the price, saying that currently the price appears to be between Rs. 900 to Rs. 1100. However, in one or two other entries, the price of good quality material could be Rs. 1200 or more, because every farmer's produce is not the same. Despite the increase in prices of all farming items including fertilizers, seeds, and medicines, the price of groundnut is decreasing. Actually, for farmers to survive financially, the minimum price of groundnut should be Rs. 1800 to Rs. 2000 per maund. At current prices, if groundnuts are sold, farmers can only buy 50% of wheat seeds, otherwise it is even difficult for them to get seeds. Farmers are expressing dissatisfaction with the relief package announced by the government for farmers. Devayatbhai clearly stated that farmers are dissatisfied with the package announced by the government.

This package is good, but it should reach all farmers quickly, that is, on a war footing. He hasn't received its benefits yet. Hope the government will provide it, but it's only useful if given on time. Otherwise, what's the use of offering me food after I've already eaten? Along with this, he has also demanded 50% waiver in loans.

### **Main demands of farmers**

**Immediate Implementation of Package:** The relief package announced by the government should be implemented immediately and on a war footing, so that farmers can prepare for the upcoming sowing season on time. **50% Loan Waiver:** Farmers said that if not 100%, then at least 50% loan waiver should be given to all account holders of cooperatives, only then can farmers become self-sufficient immediately and return to farming.

It is noteworthy that due to low groundnut prices, long queues, and delays in implementation of government packages, the current situation of Rajkot's farmers has become miserable and dire. Farmers are hoping that the government will take their problems seriously and take appropriate action immediately. They also expect immediate implementation of the relief package and 50% loan waiver. Now, only time will tell when and what steps the government will take in this matter.