

DNA, Mumbai, 10 Apr 2008

## State committee to study global warming

Prashant Hamine

The state would appoint a seven-member committee headed by vice chancellor of Mahatma Phule Agriculture University at Rahuri to study the effects of global warming on agriculture and suggest ways to tackle it, said minister for agriculture, Balasaheb Thorat. He said the committee would submit its report to the government in six months.

It would make recommendations on protection of crops and horticulture, he said. A similar committee has been appointed by the centre. Thorat blamed global warming for the unseasonal rains and hailstorms that damaged mango and other crops in 21 districts in the

state. He said crops on 5,000 hectares were damaged due to rains since March last, for which Rs130 crore was allocated as compensation. He said the government would pay Rs1,350 crore for crop damage due to unseasonal rains from 2004 to September 2007 within one month. Minister for horticulture, Vinay Kore said the government would consider goods management for crops like mangoes, pomegranates and grapes, which are affected by sudden weather changes.

Minister for relief and rehabilitation, Patangrao Kadam said the panchanama will be made within a fortnight, and that the cabinet sub-committee would decide on compensation in a month.

h\_prashant@dnaindia.net