

K'taka, TN farmers discuss Cauvery's revival

R Uday Kumar | TNN

Mysuru: Farmers of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, who often clash over the waters of the Cauvery, gathered on its banks near Mysuru on Friday to listen to a pitch for cooperation for river conservation.



Spiritual leader **Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev** met farmers from the

two states at Meenakshipura, 20km from Mysuru.

He told the farmers that the real problem was not

about legal conditions or politics, but lay in the fact that there was not enough water in the river. "If there is sufficient water in rivers, there will be no water issues between states or people. We should protect water sources and rivers and unite to sort out the issues and safeguard our rivers," he said.

Sadhguru travelled around the district on Friday as part of his ongoing nationwide Rally for Rivers campaign, met farmers of both states, and ended the day with a large public meeting at University of Mysore.

He said a team from Tamil Nadu Agricultural University and National Institute of Hydrology, Roorkee had drawn up a draft river revitalisation policy, which he would submit to the Centre on October 2. "More than 27 scientists and environmentalists worked on it. Once it is presented to the government on October 2, we will give a copy to other scientists and environmentalists to provide inputs. Everybody will have opportunity to contribute and give their feedback," he said.

He asked farmers' leaders from Karnataka and Tamil

Nadu to form a Cauvery Belt Farmers' Association to sort out issues related Cauvery water amicably.

Farmers' leader Puttannaiah said a similar panel, Cauvery Kuttumbam had been formed and nine meetings held. He agreed that the states should not be fighting about how much Cauvery water each should get but instead think about ways to ensure continuous flow in the river.

Sadhguru said his Isha Foundation was working with 16 states to change cropping patterns and introduce crops that are not water intensive.