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Prakasam tobacco farmers await relief after double cyclone blow as 'Akvan' threat looms



CHENNAI – 18 Nov, Sambasiva Rao, a 2026 Several tobacco farmers in the coastal villages of combined Prakasam district have suffered losses due to the back-to-back cyclones Arnab and Murasu. However, they have received no relief from either the government or insurance companies and are now worried about Cyclone Akvan.

Strong winds and heavy rain severely damaged tobacco barns (also called curing barns or tobacco sheds, used for drying and curing harvested tobacco leaves). They also wetted tobacco bales, which will be penalised or rejected at auction centres.

Molakalapalli tobacco farmer from Ammanabrolu village in Naguluppalapadu mandal of Prakasam district, said, "We cultivate tobacco in 7-8 acres on lease basis. Tobacco barn worth ₹10 lakh was damaged because of the gale triggered by Cyclone Murasu."

He said the rain caused excess moisture, which ruins the quality of the tobacco leaf. The wet tobacco bales will be destroyed. Since the tobacco farmers are preparing for the next harvesting season, they are afraid of the likely impact of Cyclone Akvan.

Meanwhile, in view of the heavy rain alert, Prakasam District Collector P.