



MONTHLY POLICY TRACKER FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

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INVESTMENT IN AGRICULTURE

- Farmers in Uttarakhand will be given high-yielding seeds on subsidized rates by the state agriculture department. Also students of Pant Nagar and Bharsar Krishi Vidyalayas will be deputed to as technical experts to provide advice on use of modern techniques to boost agricultural production.
- The 2011-12 Krishi Karman Awards for foodgrain production will be awarded to 8 states namely Bihar, Haryana, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Nagaland, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh. A selection committee headed by the Secretary (Agriculture and Cooperation) assessed the states' performance taking into account production outcomes, implementation of crop production programmes and innovative approaches adopted for effective service delivery.

TRADE

EXPORT

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved the export of following processed and/or value added agricultural products even in the case of future restriction/ ban on export of basic farm produce.

Name of Product	HS Code
Wheat of meslin flour	1101
Cereal flours other than of wheat or meslin (maize, oats etc.)	1102
Cereal groats, meal pellets	1103
Cereal grains otherwise worked except rice of heading No.1106; germ of cereals, whole, rolled, flaked or ground	1104
Other cereals item	1901 to 1905
Milk products including casein & casein products etc	3501
Butter & other fats derivatives from milk, dairy spread etc.	0405
Cheese and curd	0406
Value added products of onion	0712
Peanut butter	15179020

IMPORT

- The CCEA approved a de-freeze on tariff values of all edible oils. The tariff value of edible oils will now be notified on the basis of their prevailing international prices. This alignment is expected to have an impact on the duty collected from import of edible oils and provide an even field to the domestic refining industry.

FOOD PROCESSING

- Of the 56 food parks approved by the Government between the 8th and 10th Five-year Plan, 9 failed to make much progress and will be shut down. No funds were released for 3 of the 9 parks while for the remaining 6 parks no progress was recorded. Authorities in the concerned state governments have already been notified about the closure, and have been requested to recover the amount along with interest as arrears of land revenue.

FOOD SAFETY & STANDARDS REGULATION

- The Gujarat street food safety model, followed by the Gujarat Food and Drugs Control Administration (FDCA), will be replicated in other states by FSSAI. Gujarat FDCA has been following the street food safety model in 25 districts and the state already has standard norms in place.

DAIRY

- The Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC) has issued a circular whereby the transportation of milk by rail or a vessel will not attract a service tax. The Finance Ministry has also cleared the same.

COMMODITY

SUGAR

- In continuation to the earlier notification from Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution for release of sugar quantity the Central Government, has decided that fresh non-levy quota released for December, 2012 to March, 2013 be reduced to 66.50 lac MT (instead of 68.00 lac MT). In addition there will be no automatic conversion of any unsold quantity into levy sugar.

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