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Agri Marketing

Maharashtra to delist F&V from APMC soon

The official government notification (GR) to delist fruits and vegetables from the purview of the Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) in Maharashtra will be issued within the next few days. In the pipeline for the last many years, the move is aimed at removing the monopoly of the traders and commission agents in the trade of fruits and vegetables. Other than delisting of fruits and vegetables, the government will also reduce the area of the APMCs within the four walls of the marketyard. At present, the APMCs have jurisdiction over trade in agriculture commodities that happen anywhere in the districts of their influence. It is also decided that the market cess which till now was deducted from the farmer's bill, would be levied on the trader's bills. The reforms are expected to help farmers realise better prices for their produce

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Investment

India ADB sign pact

India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a \$120 million loan pact to improve irrigation and water management infrastructure in Odisha. The soft loan is the second tranche of a \$157.5 million financing facility under the Orissa Integrated Irrigated Agriculture and Water Management Investment Program. The financing will be used for modernising seven irrigation subprojects resulting in improved irrigation in over 1,00,000 hectares and strengthening of Water User Associations (WUAs) and the institutional capacity of Odisha's Department of Water Resources. The selected areas for the investment program are the Baitarani, Brahmani, Budhabalanga and Subernarekha river basins and parts of Mahanadi delta.

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New Initiative

New policy for reviving fisheries sector

The Ministry of Agriculture plans to come out with a new National Policy on fisheries towards increasing the country's export earnings from fish and fish products from Rs 33,441 crore in 2014-15 to Rs 1,00,000 crore in the next five years. The new policy will cover development and management of inland fisheries, aquaculture, marine fisheries including deep sea fishing and all activities undertaken by the National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) towards realising a 'Blue Revolution' in the country. Besides the increase in fish production, the integrated scheme would stimulate growth of the subsidiary and allied industries and growth of other related economic activities, especially in the coastal regions, leading to many direct and indirect benefits to the entire fisheries sector.

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Partnership

Telanga and California sign MoU for Joint Innovation

The State Government of Telangana has signed an MoU with California for joint innovation, exchange and cooperation in agriculture and other technology-based industry sectors. Through this agreement, the companies that participate in the Telangana T-Hub (Telangana government's start-up incubator) will have access to resources and contacts within the GO-Biz Innovation Hub (I-Hubs) network which stretches from Redding to San Diego and includes 15 distinct I-Hubs making it the largest state sponsored innovation network in the US

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AP Food Processing Society signs MoA with NRDC

The Andhra Pradesh Food Processing Society has entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with the National Research Development Corporation (NRDC) to strengthen the agribusiness & food processing sector by establishing Smart Agribusiness Platform Networks of Andhra Pradesh (SAPNAP). These networks will focus on creation of enabling ecosystem for accelerated growth of agribusiness by involving all the stakeholders. SAPNAP will have two key development platforms - Smart Agribusiness Value-chains and Smart Agribusiness Incubators & Accelerators. Smart Agribusiness Value Chains will focus on Intelligence / Analytics

/ Big Data, Innovations and Partnerships. The Smart Agribusiness incubators will focus on establishment of 13 district level incubators with enabling infrastructure and ecosystem for start ups, enterprise development and FPO mentoring. NRDC shall be the knowledge partner in the programme and would provide the required technologies / know-how / IPRs and other value added techno-commercial services to the Start-ups of SAPNAP and linkages to the national and international Stakeholders.

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Trade

Exports to UAE turn tougher

UAE has tightened norms for import of chili peppers, mango and cucumber from India making it mandatory for Indian exporters to furnish a pesticide residue analysis report for each consignment of shipment of these products.

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Dairy

FDI norms for Animal Husbandry

As per FDI Policy 2016, FDI in Animal Husbandry, Pisciculture, Aquaculture and Apiculture was allowed 100 per cent under Automatic Route under 'controlled conditions'. It has now been decided to do away with the 'controlled conditions' clause as a result the sector is now open up for multi-national research and development agencies participation. The move is expected to bring in high end technology for breed improvement in turn resulting in productivity gains that would benefit the overall animal husbandry sector, and improve the milk scenario in the country. Also better technologies will introduce more innovative and novel products giving more choice and freedom to the consumers.

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Dairy exports to Russia to start soon

The long pending decision on exporting Indian dairy products to Russia has finally come through with both the sides agreeing on terms to sign the protocol.

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Sugar

Export Duty levied at 20%

The central government has imposed 20 per cent export duty on the export of raw sugar - white or refined sugar. The decision is taken to help maintain sufficient availability of sugar in domestic market and keep price under control. Due to delayed harvest of the crop in Brazil, there has been a rise in international prices and this surge in price has made exports of Indian sugar feasible as well. India has so far exported 1.7 million tons in the marketing year that began on October 1. On the other hand the India's sugar output is expected to decline as the crop is impacted by adverse weather in key growing geographies.

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