



## New Initiative

### Loans at farmer door step

A 'Bank on Wheels' scheme will be launched in 20 remote and tribal pockets in Keonjhar, Koraput, Kalahandi, Mayurbhanj, Sundargarh and Sambalpur districts of Odisha from August 2015. Twenty vans with ATM facility will move around the selected locations and the Centre has already provided Rs 6 crore, at the rate of Rs 30 lakh for each vehicle. The vehicles will be handed over to the central cooperative banks (CCBs), which will run and maintain them

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### Govt launches information portal

A portal for Multi State Cooperative Societies, <http://mscs.dac.gov.in> has been launched by Ministry of Agriculture to provide easy access of information relating to the status of the societies to the applicants as well as to the general public. Initially the website shall facilitate access of information like status of applications, notices, orders, certificates issued to the societies and contact details of officers. The website shall also provide link to the websites of the offices of State Registrars of Cooperative Societies. Subsequently the website shall be upgraded to inducting other web enabled services for the applicants as well as for the registered societies.

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## Bilateral Cooperation

## India, US to renew pact on agricultural cooperation

India and United States have agreed to give renewed focus on cooperation in agriculture and take immediate steps for renewing the memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed in 2010. The new areas of cooperation may cover US technology, especially weather forecasting systems for improving preparedness as well as redressal of problems caused by natural calamities; amicably resolving sanitary and phytosanitary issues for enhanced bilateral trade.

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## India seeks greater cooperation with China in farm sector

India has sought greater cooperation with China in the farm sector to improve bilateral trade in products like basmati rice, beef and fish. The issues were discussed in details between by Agriculture Ministers of the two countries. An MoU was signed between the two countries in 2006 in the field of agriculture and both the Ministers agreed on the need to work together to identify new projects for adding momentum to the cooperation under the ambit of the MOU.

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## Trade

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### Switzerland lifts ban on mango imports from India

Switzerland has lifted its ban of last year on import of mango from India. Though Switzerland is not a large market for Indian mangoes but the move could ease shipment to other countries in Europe. Earlier, Mauritius had in March lifted a ban on import of Indian mangoes. In the same month, the European Union had made a similar announcement, with some conditions. India has assured the EU and the other importing nations that mango exports would be done only through entities registered with APEDA

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### Canada opens market for Indian grapes

Canada has granted market access for the Indian fresh grapes following the recent Indo-Canadian bilateral discussions held in New Delhi. According to APEDA, as per communication from Canadian side India can export fresh grapes subject to a trial period during which the Canadian Food Inspection Agency will inspect up to 100 per cent of the consignments entering Canada to verify compliance. Further

Canada has imposed conditions that exporters have to register the vineyards and pack houses, and maintain traceability.

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## WTO ruling on US chicken: Govt mulls scientific options to stop imports

The World Trade Organisation's (WTO) has scrapped India's ban on US poultry items on the grounds that that India's ban was not based on science. As a result Indian poultry industry is likely to face competition from cheap chicken leg imports from the US. WTO panel had ruled last year that that India's ban on US poultry product imports flouted global norms. India appealed against this verdict in January 2015 but has lost the case.

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## Dairying & Animal Husbandry

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### NDDDB inks MoU with DD Kisan

An MoU has been signed between NDDDB and DD Kisan to create meaningful content for farm and dairy sector. The objective is to ensure dissemination of up-to-date technical know-how to farmers thus improving their livelihood and income by enhancing their knowledge and information on various technical issues related to farming in broader sense.

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### Animal Welfare Board of India wants Code of Practices for dairy animals

The Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI), the statutory body of the Government of India , has issued an advisory to all state governments recommending the National Code of Practices for Management of Dairy Animals in India . Maj Gen (Retd) Dr R M Kharb , chairman, AWBI, has requested all state governments to introduce and implement the Code of Practices, as a parameter and reference for dairy cattle management in India .

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