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Policy

Punjab levies 3% fee on basmati

As per notification No.S.O.49/P.A.8/2002/S.53/2015 dated 10.11.2015, State government of Punjab has levied 3 per cent infrastructure development fees on purchase of basmati in the state. The revenue generated will be used to for infrastructure development in the state.

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Govt allows 100% FDI in five plantation crops including coffee

Department of Industrial policy and promotion, Ministry of commerce has allowed 100 percent Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in five plantation crops, mainly coffee, rubber, cardamom, palm oil tree and olive oil tree via automatic route. So far 100 per cent FDI was allowed only in tea plantation through the government approval route. The move is expected to boost domestic production .

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Rajasthan announces agro processing and agri marketing policy 2015

The state Government of Rajasthan has announced Agro processing and Agri Marketing Policy 2015 to promote agro-processing industries and ensure competitive prices to farmers through financial incentives and facilities. However under the new policy Beef meat processing units, vegetable milling units, and processing units discharging toxic effluents without having effluent treatment plants and certain other industries are no more eligible for subsidy benefits provided under the Rajasthan Investment Promotion Scheme 2014.

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New Initiative

Niti Aayog initiates discussion for National Nutrition Strategy

Niti Ayog has initiated a discussion for 'National Nutrition Strategy Development' to analyze the emerging data on under nutrition and formulate a specific strategy for poorly performing states and districts. Niti Ayog is expected to prepare a draft Nutrition Strategy by the end of December 2015, in consultation with the concerned ministries, sectoral experts, States and other relevant stakeholders. An Inter-Ministerial Group on Health and Nutrition Data will be constituted, to identify the focus districts and finalize recommendations for monitoring and tracking progress of the Nutrition Strategy.

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CRRRI to come out with climate resilient paddy soon

Central Rice Research Institute (CRRRI), Cuttack may soon come out with a 'climate smart' variety of paddy that will be able to stand stress of flood as well as drought. Around six varieties of 'Climate Smart' paddy have been nominated to the Centre and the field trials are on in several states, encompassing different climatic and land conditions. The first of the 'Climate Smart' series is likely to be released within two years.

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Partnership

AP signs pact in agriculture marketing

State Government of Andhra Pradesh has inked n MoU with 16 companies to market products under the Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA) program in the international market. The key crops that will be focused on are - rice, chillies, tobacco, coffee and cashew. In addition farmers will be given training on agricultural mechanization and dairying activities; provided financial assistance for the construction of small godowns and information on the trends in agri- markets.

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Agriculture Marketing

Purchase of cotton and groundnut at MSP

The state government of Gujarat, in coordination with the center government, will purchase cotton and groundnut at the minimum support price (MSP) from farmers. The state government will assist the centre to set up 69 purchase outlets apart from the APMCs where cotton will be purchased at Rs 810 for 20 kg while groundnut will be purchased at Rs 800 for 20 kg.

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Maharashtra lifts storage limit on pulses, oil & oilseeds

The State Government of Maharashtra has issued orders for lifting the storage limit it had imposed on imported pulses, cooking oil and oilseeds to keep a check on the spiraling prices of food grains.

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Proposal to create buffer stock for lentil

The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers welfare has moved a proposal to create a buffer stock of 3.5 lakh tonnes of lentils during the current 2015-16 crop year through domestic purchase or imports to prevent a further price rise in pulses. Out of the proposed 3.5 lakh tonnes, about 1.5 lakh tonnes of tur and urad will be procured in the ongoing kharif marketing season and the rest 2 lakh tonnes of chana and masoor will be bought in the rabi marketing season. These pulses will be purchased locally or through imports using the Rs 500-crore Price Stabilisation Fund and a scheme that supports MSP operations. Pulses will be procured both at the minimum support price as well as market rates. The state-owned Food Corporation of India (FCI), Small Farmers' Agriculture-Business Consortium (SFAC) and Nafed will be engaged in the pulses procurement.

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Trade

Iran to issue license for basmati imports

Iran is expected to issue fresh license for import of Basmati Rice from India over the next two months. Iran had stopped issuing fresh licences for Basmati import since October last year, citing reasons of high pesticide content and self-sufficiency

in production as a result of which Basmati export had taken a major hit.

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