



1 Oct

7 Stories

New Initiative

Kisan Portal to reach out to farmers through SMS

The State Government of Maharashtra will reach out to 50 lakh farmers in the state through 'Kisan Portal' by the end of this year. The portal gives cell phone alerts about weather forecast, cropping activities and possibility of outbreak of disease affecting crops and livestock. In addition, the portal also sends alerts on benefits of crop insurance policies and deadlines for renewal of insurance. The information shared through SMSs will help farmers save crops during crisis. There are a total 1.37 crore farmers in the state and the government will come out with the second phase for linking the remaining farmers.

[Read more](#)

New biosecurity norms for poultry farms

The Government has come out with new biosecurity norms for poultry farms to prevent outbreak of diseases and maintain basic sanitary conditions essential for healthy birds and hygienic products. The biosecurity guidelines were last issued in 2013. The new guidelines are proposed to act as roadmap for keeping a close vigil and maintenance of biosecurity and have been attempted to cover the conceptual, structural and operational biosecurity through advisories on the farm location and design, restricted access to birds, traffic control, isolation and quarantine of new birds among others.

[Read more](#)

India may add 175,000 hectares to green cover

The new green high way policy aims to add 175,000 hectares to the countries

current green cover over the next five years by creating a green belt alongside 100,000km of national highways. The policy makes it compulsory to set aside 1% of the total project cost of any highways contract for a green fund corpus.

[Read more](#)

Agriculture Marketing

Gujarat to connect 26 APMCs under e-market program

The state of Gujarat is putting in place an electronic market platform for its Agricultural Produce Market Committees (APMCs), under the National Agriculture Market (NAM) initiative. Under the initiative Gujarat will initially connect 26 of the 210 APMCs under e-market program by November 2015. These include the APMCs in Ahmedabad, Rajkot, Bhavnagar, Himmatnagar, Unjha, Surat, Dahod and Gondal. The Gujarat government aims to bring at least 100 APMCs under the e-market platform by the end of March 2016 for which the central government has allotted Rs 200 crore.

[Read more](#)

Trade

Edible oil duty hiked

The Central Board of Excise & Customs (CBEC), vide Notification No. 46/2015-Customs dated 17th September 2015 has increased import duty on crude oil to 12.5 per cent from 7.5 per cent and that on refined edible oil to 20 per cent from 15 per cent.

[Read more](#)

Govt to extend duty-free import of pulses by 3 months

The Government has decided to extend duty free imports of pulses until December 31st 2015 to prevent further escalation of prices. The earlier dead line for duty free imports expired in September 2015. The import duty will be revisited in December after taking into account the sowing area under winter pulses.

[Read more](#)

Sugar

NSI releases white sugar standards

National Sugar Institute, Kanpur (NSI) has approved and released the plantation white sugar standards for the Indian sugar factories for the sugar season 2015-16. The new set of plantation white sugar standards comprising seven sugar standards, L31, L30, M31, M30, S31, S30 and SS31 had been prepared on the basis of sugar crystal size and reflectance value of sugar. The L, M, S and SS denote crystal size as large, medium, small and super small respectively. The standards were finalized by an expert committee comprising of representatives from Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), Indian Toxicological Research Institute, National Federation of Co-operative Sugar Factories, Indian Sugar Mills' Association, Indian Institute of Sugarcane Research and Sugar Technologists' Association of India, Ministry of food and public distribution.

[Read more](#)

Published by: CII-Jubilant Bhartia Food and Agriculture Centre of Excellence (FACE) C/o Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) India Habitat Centre, Core 4A, Ground Floor, New Delhi - 110003, (INDIA) Tel: +91-11-43007490, Website: www.face-cii.in/www.cii.in For more information or suggestions, please contact: Meetu Kapur Executive Director – FACE Email: meetukapur@cii.in