



# MONTHLY POLICY TRACKER FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

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## INVESTMENT IN AGRICULTURE

- **A 300 crore rupee scheme has been drawn by the Union Government to popularize millet processing.** The University of Agricultural Sciences, Bengaluru (UAS-B) will set up a Centre for Excellence for the development of millet-based value-added products. The University has developed 35 products from minor millets and is now scouting for industry partners to transfer the technology.

The Centre for Excellence will focus on the development of farm machinery and look at refinement of existing mechanization equipment to ensure cost and time-saving measures. It will also offer training to entrepreneurs and facilitate market linkages between producers and purchasers.

- **The State of Maharashtra plans to invest 2,750 crore rupees** over the next five years to conserve water and achieve security of water for sustainable agriculture.
- **The scheme on Vegetable Initiative for Urban Cluster (VIUC)** launched by the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation in 2011-12 will continue during 2012-13 with an outlay of INR 300 crore. The Scheme covers all aspects relating to formation of farmers' association/ groups, training and/capacity building of farmers, linking farmers group with aggregators/ markets, vegetable production and supply to urban centers starting from planting material to marketing to retail level.

## FOOD PROCESSING

- **A new Food Processing Industrial Policy 2012** has been approved for implementation to boost investments in the state of Uttar Pradesh.

## FOOD SAFETY & STANDARDS REGULATION

- **FSSAI has issued advisory on New Product Approval Procedure** dated 10 December, 2012 stating that all earlier procedures and advisories will be superseded by the new one. A limited exemption timeline for existing products which are there in market prior to 31 March 2011 is given.
- **FSSAI has issued draft regulations on Labeling (Claims)** dated 27 December 2012 for consultation with all the stakeholders. The deadline for submissions and suggestions is 31 January 2013.

## DAIRY

- **A credit flow of 400 crore rupees** will be provided to Punjab's dairy sector during the next three years by NABARD to boost milk production and promote dairy farming in the state. The districts of Ludhiana, Jalandhar and Ropar have been identified for modernization and capacity building in the dairy sector.

## COMMODITY

### SUGAR

- **The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved the issue of pricing for bio-ethanol procurement** by Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) for Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme. The EBP Programme is presently being implemented in a total of 13 States with blending levels of about 2 percent against the mandatory target of 5 percent.

A stable EBP programme would ensure sustainable benefits for the sugarcane farmers across the nation. By ensuring an alternative market in case of bumper crop, the programme would enable better returns to small and medium farmers.

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