



MONTHLY POLICY TRACKER FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

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AGRI MARKETING

- **The Delhi Government has decided to do away with the 6 per cent commission levied on farmers for selling their produce at government-regulated mandis in the city.** The government will now levy the 6 per cent commission on buyers (traders). The development is likely to reduce the prices of fruits and vegetables in the city by increasing the arrival of goods in the city, apart from providing direct relief to farmers.
- **The Government of Maharashtra is likely to decontrol rava, aata, maida, split dal and sugar from the Agriculture Produce Market Committee markets.** Director, Marketing, Maharashtra said these commodities are not directly produced by the farms and are their derivatives so there is no need to keep these commodities on the APMC list. Regulations add about 8% to 10% to the cost without bringing any value into the chain.
- **The State Government of Odisha has waived off the two per cent CST (central sales tax) on the interstate trade of paddy for four months.** “The state government, having been satisfied that it is necessary so to do in the public interest, do hereby direct that the tax on sale of paddy to a registered dealer in the course of interstate trade or commerce by a dealer, having his place of business in the state of Odisha, shall be exempted from levy of tax subject to the conditions of production in Form ‘C’ prescribed under the Central Sales Tax (registration and turnover) Rules, 1957 obtained from the purchasing dealer during the period from 1st January 2014 to 30th April 2014,” read a finance department notification.
- **The Government of Assam has removed fruits and vegetables from the purview of the Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee (APMC) Act. In a similar move the Government of Arunachal Pradesh has de-listed fruits, vegetables and eggs from Arunachal Pradesh Agricultural Produce Marketing (Regulation) Act.** The step will benefit the entire farming community by reducing post-harvest investment for marketing, while enhancing competitiveness in the emerging agro-business sector.

FOOD SECURITY

- **The Government of India has made food grain allocations to the seven states/UTs.** Haryana, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Delhi, Punjab, Karnataka and Chhattisgarh as per requirements projected by them for the implementation of the National Food Security Act. The people identified as beneficiaries by the state governments will now get food grain at highly subsidized prices of Rs 3/2/1 per kg for rice, wheat and coarse grains. Each beneficiary will get 5kg food grain per month.

TRADE

- **The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved a proposal to raise the duty on refined edible oil to 10% from 7.5%.** The hike is aimed at promoting domestic refining and helping farmers.

NEW INITIATIVES

- **The Government of Punjab inked a joint statement on agriculture cooperation with Canada's Alberta province** to work together in the agro-sector including agriculture research, animal husbandry and agri-food endeavours. Under the pact, Punjab and Alberta will work together to identify areas of common interest and to explore opportunities for scheduling joint-exchange programmes for Scientists to share their expertise.
- **Government of Haryana has launched 'e-mausam' website to provide weather forecasts and agro advisories using Web and SMS-based alerts** through National Informatics Centre (NIC)'s SMS gateway. This will help farmers to have more lead time to minimize losses due to abnormal weather conditions and increase productivity with efficient management of day-to-day farm operations.

DAIRY

- **The Government of Uttar Pradesh has drafted a blueprint for setting up 150 'mini dairies' spread over all the 75 districts across the state.** Each dairy unit will be set up by individual entrepreneurs and will comprise 50 cattle heads. The government would provide interest subsidy to these units on 75% of the bank credit secured through public sector commercial banks.

FERTILIZER

- **A ministerial panel, headed by Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture, has approved an increase in the fixed cost of urea by Rs 350 a tonne.** The fixed cost of urea has remained unchanged since 2002-03. For a urea plant, the fixed cost mainly comprises establishment cost, annual maintenance cost, working capital, salaries and interest. The move will benefit the industry but will push up the government's subsidy Bill by about Rs. 900 crore.

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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

