



# MONTHLY POLICY TRACKER FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Volume 3, No. 3 / 2014

March 1, 2014

## INVESTMENT IN AGRICULTURE

- **Project Sanctioning Committee of NABARD** has sanctioned Rs 1,112 crore for creation of 1,336 warehouses in Haryana, Kerala, Punjab, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Tripura and West Bengal, which will create 7.5 lakh MT of additional storage space. The warehouses funded by NABARD are mandated to conform to the accreditation standards of Warehouse Development Authority which will facilitate better liquidity to farmers through Negotiable Warehouse Receipts.
- **CCEA has approved the implementation of the National Mission on Agricultural Extension and Technology (NMAET)** with an outlay of Rs 13,073.08 crore for the 12th Plan Period. The mission aims to restructure and strengthen the agricultural extension to enable the delivery of appropriate technology and improved agronomic practices to farmers. NMAET would consist of four separate sub-missions – one each on Agriculture Extension, Seed and Planting Material, Agricultural Mechanisation, Plant Protection and Plant Quarantine.
- Irrigation and Public Health Minister for Himachal Pradesh informed that **the Centre has sanctioned 39 small irrigation projects** for Himachal Pradesh under its Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP). The projects, which are to be executed at a cost of Rs 73.74 crore, would benefit 9,836 farmers besides covering 4,110.44 hectares area under irrigation facility. Of the 39 schemes, three schemes would be implemented in Kullu, five in Solan, thirteen in Kangra, nine in Mandi, four in Shimla, one in Bilaspur, two in Hamirpur, one each in Kinnaur and Una districts.
- **The Progressive Punjab Agri Summit 2014** provided a platform for the Punjab government to firm up investments worth Rs 2,600 crore with 10 memoranda of understanding (MoUs) signed for collaborations in agriculture, food processing and bio-mass renewable energy.
- **A sum of Rs. 5,990 crore has been allocated** under various schemes of the Food Processing Industries ministry for promotion and development of the food processing sector. Infrastructure development activities, including setting

up of mega food parks, integrated cold chains and abattoirs, gets Rs. 2,800 crore. The National Mission on Food Processing gets Rs. 1,850 crore. The rest, Rs. 1,340 crore, will be spent on other activities such as strengthening of institutions, quality assurance and standardisation, technology up-gradation and human resource development.

## AGRI MARKETING

- **The Karnataka State government** has launched the first phase of integrated marketing project under the APMC for the markets in Tiptur, Tumkur, Arsikere and Chamarajanagar. In the first phase, the government has launched integrated marketing for copra and turmeric. The primary objective of integrated marketing is to ensure that farmers get appropriate price for their produce.
- **Country's largest international terminal market** for fruits and vegetables, flowers and dairy products will be constructed in Gannaur, Haryana at a cost of Rs 1,500 crore over 536 acres of land. The International Terminal Market, being set up by Haryana Government, would be designed on the pattern of Rungis International Market in France. The market would be equipped with the facilities like cool chamber, ripening chamber, grading, sorting, waxing and packing. It would also house commodity hubs, multiple commodity hubs and collection centres. A National Horticulture Arcade is also being developed in this market.
- **Rashtriya e-Market Services Pvt. Ltd. (ReMS)**, a joint venture between NCDEX Spot Exchange Limited and the Government of Karnataka, launched the first ever Unified Market Platform (UMP) in the country. The UMP brings the international best practices to offer risk management and trade fulfilment processes for spot markets in the state. The initiative would enable even the smallest farmer to get access to a wider market and enjoy the benefits of transparent price discovery.

## FOOD SECURITY

- **Bihar Government has given Rs 10-crore contract** for automation and monitoring of the public distribution system (PDS). To be implemented in six months, the project covers six crore people. The main components of the project include GPS-based fleet tracking for grain transportation, an Integrated Weight Management System and SMS-based information dissemination and a public grievance redressal system.
- **As per the interim budget 2014-15**, the government has increased the food subsidy by Rs 23,000 crore to Rs 1,15,000 crore for 2014-15 fiscal mainly for implementation of the National Food Security law. Out of Rs. 1.15 lakh crore on food subsidy, the government has provided Rs. 88,500 crore for the Food law.

## NEW INITIATIVES

- **Minister for Environment, has approved** Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC)'s year-old decision to permit field trials of genetically modified crops such as rice, wheat and maize among others. The minutes of the decisions taken by GEAC for granting approval on March 22 last year have been cleared and will now be put up again on the GEAC website.
- **TNAU signed an agreement with University of Illinois**, to improve market access on behalf of small and midsized farmers in India, by developing market channels called Market Maker India (MMI). MMI will facilitate the farmer's organisations, commodity groups and agripreneurs for linking the market to realize maximum profit. It will create an Information and Communication Technology infrastructure with farmers and buyers' data base in collaboration with the University of Illinois.

## SUGAR

- **Government has raised the Fair and Remunerative Price (RFP)** for sugarcane for the 2014-15 sugarcane season to Rs 220 per quintal from Rs 210 for 2013-14.
- **CCEA has approved a subsidy amount of Rs 3,333 per tonne** for export of 4 million tonne of raw sugar for February and March. The subsidy push would help clear off a part of the cane price arrears of the farmers.

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*Published by:*

CII-Jubilant Bhartia Food and Agriculture Centre of Excellence (FACE)  
C/o Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)  
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