

FOCUS ON PROVIDING INSTITUTIONAL CREDIT AT NOMINAL RATES THROUGH KISAN CREDIT CARD.

Kisan Scheme to Boost Modern Agri Practices: Singh

Our Bureau

New Delhi: The PM-KISAN scheme will help farmers modernise agricultural practices and protect them from private moneylenders, said Union agriculture minister Radha Mohan Singh.

Singh said the scheme reflected central government's commitment to provide an assured income to small and marginal farmers having land up to 2 hectares.

"It will protect farmers from the clutches of moneylenders and ensure continuity in their farm activities. This scheme will also enable

them to modernise their agricultural practices, and this income support along with other schemes will help them live a life of dignity," Singh said, adding that the fixing of minimum support price will be further helpful in doubling the income of farmers by 2022.

Singh said that the government is focusing on providing institutional credit at nominal rates to farmers through Kisan Credit Card. This not only helps in increasing agricultural production but also productivity.

"There are about 7 crore active KCC, which means that almost 50% of the farmers are still out of the in-



situtional credit system. To bring all farmers under KCC fold, the government has decided to initiate a comprehensive drive with a simplified application form," he said.

Singh said the Modi government had launched Rashtriya Gokul Mission to promote country's cattle and buffaloes, to preserve their genetic resources in scientific and holistic form and for continuous growth in the productivity of Indian bovine.

"We have increased the budget allocation of ₹250 crore in 2018-19 to ₹750 crore for the next fiscal. Similarly, Rashtriya Kamdhenu Aayog has been established to upscale sus-

tainable genetic up-gradation of cow resources and to enhance production and productivity of cows," he said.

He said the government has created a separate department of fisheries with India being the second largest fish producing nation in the world accounting for 6.5% of global production.

"The fisheries sector contributes 1% to GDP and provides livelihood to about 1.5 crore people at the primary level. The sector registered an average annual growth of more than 7% in recent years and the total production during 2017-18 was 12.61 million tonnes," he said.

2018-19 horticulture output pegged at record 314 mt

OUR BUREAU

New Delhi, January 30

The production of fruits and vegetables during the current year is estimated to be 314.5 million tonnes (mt), about 1 per cent more than what the country produced in 2017-18, the first advance estimates of horticulture production released by the government said on Wednesday.

Per the final estimates provided by the government, the total production of fruits and vegetables in 2017-18 was 311.7 mt. While the production of vegetables was estimated to be 187.5 mt, about 3.5 per cent more than that in 2016-17, that of fruits was 97.35 mt, up 4.8 per cent over the previous year.

There is a marginal in-

Bountiful harvest

Crop	2016-17		2017-18	
	Area	Production	Area	Production
Vegetables				
Onion	1,306	22,427	1,285	23,262
Potato	2,179	48,605	2,142	51,310
Tomato	797	21,557	789	22,320
Brinjal	733	12,510	730	12,801
Total vegetables*	10,238	1,78,172	10,259	1,84,394
Fruits				
Mango	2,212	19,506	2,258	21,822
Citrus	985	11,419	1,003	12,546
Banana	860	30,477	884	30,808
Apple	305	2,265	301	2,327
Total fruits*	6,373	92,918	6,506	97,358

*inclusive others



crease in the area under horticulture crops. The area in 2018-19 is estimated to be 25.87 million hectares (mh) as compared to 25.43 mh in 2017-18.

In the current year, the production of staple vegetable crops - onions, potatoes and tomatoes - is expected to be higher as compared 2017-18. While potato produc-

tion is projected to go up by 6 per cent to 52.58 mt from 51.31 mt last year, that of onion is pegged at 23.62 mt, 1.5 per cent higher than the 23.26 mt in 2017-18. Tomato production, on the other hand, is estimated to be 2 per cent higher at 20.51 mt, the official statement said.

2017-18 final figures

The government also released the final estimates for 2017-18. The final production in 2017-18 was 3.7 per cent higher in the previous year. Among vegetable crops, even though there was a drop in the area under potato and onion crops, the quantum of their production went up.

On the other hand, the production of tomatoes dropped by almost 1 mt, even

though there wasn't much of a drop in area. The production of major fruits, on the contrary, rose significantly in 2017-18 as compared to the previous year, the estimates showed.

Spices production in 2017-18 remained almost unchanged at 8.12 mt even though there was a marginal increase in the acreage to 3.88 mh from 3.67 mh in 2016-17. Among plantation crops, arecanut and cashewnut recorded impressive growth in production. While the production of areca nut went up to 8.33 lakh tonnes in 2017-18 from 7.23 lakh tonnes in 2016-17, production of cashewnut in 2017-18 was 8.17 lakh tonnes as against 7.45 lakh tonnes in the previous year.

Centre seeks list of farmers from states to implement PM-KISAN



OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: In a move aimed at speedy implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN), the Centre has asked all the heads of the states to provide the list of farmers to ensure expeditious transfer of benefits to the beneficiaries at earliest.

In a letter written to all the Chief Ministers of the states and Union Territories, Union Agriculture Minister Radha Mohan Singh has sought their support for the effective and speedy implementation of the PM-KISAN.

The Union Minister, in his

letter, said that the committed involvement of the administrative machinery was essential for the timely implementation of the PM-KISAN scheme.

"I would request you to provide your able leadership for speedy implementation of this scheme so that the eligible small and marginal families are transferred the entitled benefits expeditiously so that they can move towards prosperity with renewed enthusiasm," Singh wrote in a letter to the CMs on February 6.

In the Interim Budget, the government had announced direct income support of Rs 6,000 per year to 12.5 crore small and marginal farmers

with landholdings of up to 2 hectares under the scheme.

Singh further said that the selection of the eligible small farmer families must be done by the state governments by providing the Central online portal of the scheme with their essential details such as bank account numbers so that the first installment of the benefit can be transferred to them.

He also wrote that "adequate funds" had been provided in the supplementary Budget 2018-19 as the scheme would be effective from December 2018, and operational guidelines had been sent to the chief secretaries of the states.

Govt plans to link all 7,500 APMCs with e-NAM by 2022

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
Mumbai, January 23

THE GOVERNMENT IS planning to link all the 7,500 agricultural produce market committees (APMCs) along with the weekly and bi-weekly temporary markets (haats) across the country with e-NAM — the centralised online commodities trading platform — by FY22, Union agriculture minister Radha Mohan Singh said on Wednesday.

Currently only 585 APMCs are linked with e-NAM, the minister said but he was quick to add that more than 400 more will be linked to this portal by 2020, taking the total to 1,000 APMCs.

That apart, there are around 14,500 temporary mandis dealing in agri and non-agri goods across the country, which the ministry wants to interlink with the National Agriculture e-Market (e-NAM), he added.

"Already 585 mandis are linked to e-NAM and we are planning to link 22,000 mandis by FY22," the minister told an



event organised by Crop Care Federation. "This will be another step forward, in contributing to realise the goal of doubling farmers' income by 2022 as declared by

the prime minister," Singh said. The minister said the government is implementing several programmes to develop the farm sector and improve the

The agriculture minister has called for a more concerted approach, wherein the government, industry and farmers work together to overcome the challenges

economic condition of farmers. "Issues such as reducing the cost of production, ensuring remunerative price for farmers, stopping wastage and ensuring alternative sources of income are being addressed in a mission mode," he said. He called for a more concerted approach, wherein the government, industry and farmers work together to overcome these challenges.

"The government has been working with the industry to help farmers confront the challenges facing them. However, there is a need to expedite support for them," he added.

Singh said the budgetary outlay of the ministry has gone up to ₹2,11,694 crore between 2014 and 2019.

It's markets without borders as farmers get online mandi

Sell Beyond Local Markets In Four States

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New Delhi: India's ambitious e-NAM (e-National Agriculture Market) electronic trading portal for agriculture commodities has made a new beginning this month with farmers in four states entering into interstate trading for the first time to get best price of their produce by looking beyond their respective 'mandis' (regulated market) or states.

It, however, took nearly three years to break the states' barrier — an ultimate objective of the e-platform which was launched to create a unified national market for farm commodities in April, 2016.

The very first inter-state transaction on e-NAM in the country had been recorded between farmers of Bareilly in Uttar Pradesh and Haldwani in Uttarakhand for trade in turmeric earlier this month followed by similar trades in groundnut between farmers of Gafwal Mandi in Telanga-

FARMERS BREAK STATE BARRIER

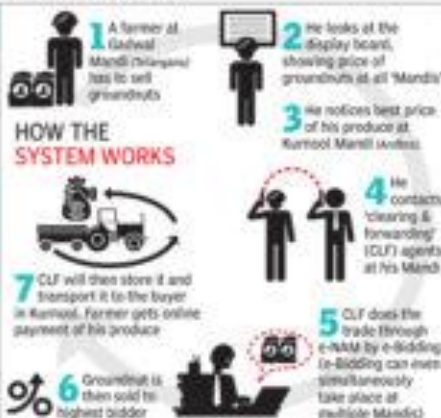
e-NAM (e-National Agriculture Market)

WHAT
A pan-India electronic trading portal which networks the existing 'mandis' to create a unified national market for agricultural produce

WHY
Ensure better price of farm produce to farmers as they will be able to sell their commodities to highest bidder anywhere in India

STATUS: 144 lakh farmers used e-NAM to sell their produce between April 14, 2016 and January 28, 2019

Total traded value: ₹56,175 cr during the period



na and Karnool in Andhra Pradesh on January 19.

"It's quite encouraging. We have introduced a new license for 'clearing & forwarding' (CLF) agents to take responsibility of inter and intra state trade," said Lakshmi Bai, director of agricultural marketing, Telangana government. She told TOI on Wednesday

that such a move would be quite beneficial for farmers of one state if demand of their produce is quite high in other states even after factoring in transportation cost.

Asked about the critical component of transportation in inter-state trade, she said, "The CLF agents will have to take responsibility of stor-

age, quality and transportation as per the requirement of distant buyer."

The move has added a new chapter in agri marketing in the country where such trades in 28 farm commodities is currently possible in 365 mandis on common e-market platform in 16 states and two UTs.

Full report on www.pti.in