

## FEDERATION NEWS

### 17<sup>th</sup> Indian Cooperative Congress – Prime Minister's Address at 11.00 AM on 1st July 2023



Federation issued detailed guidelines to SCARDBs and PCARDBs to make suitable arrangements for livestreaming of Prime Minister's Inaugural Address in the 17th Indian Cooperative Congress on 1st July 2023. Nearly 3000 units in the network of ARDBs are expected to make arrangements for public to watch Prime Minister's address live in big screens in their premises or other places like schools, auditorium etc. It is estimated that ARDBs will make arrangements for about 10 lakh people to watch Prime Minister's address live on 1st July 2023.

### Computerization of ARDBs – updates

Ministry of Cooperation convened a joint meeting with NABARD and Federation on 2nd June 2023 for finalizing the broad norms of the scheme for computerization of ARDBs. The meeting was chaired by Shri Gyanesh Kumar, Secretary, Ministry of Cooperation. Participants of the meeting included Shri Pankaj Kumar Bansal, Jt. Secretary, Shri K.V. Shaji, Chairman, NABARD, Shri Dolar Kotecha, Chairman, NAFCARD and Shri K.K. Ravindran, Managing Director, NAFCARD. Shri Gyanesh Kumar, Secretary informed that the Ministry of Cooperation has given in principle approval for the proposal regarding computerization of ARDBs on the same software platform developed for PACSs as it includes required modules for all credit and non-credit operations and related functions of ARDBs as well. Secretary informed that adoption of common software of PACSs will also facilitate changes in the software in future without additional investment as Govt of India owns its source code.

As in the case of PACSs, ARDBs will be given hand holding support including data centre and software maintenance during the first five years. Shri K.V. Shaji, Chairman, NABARD said that the implementation of the scheme including customization of software and digitization can be commenced soon after getting the final approval of the

Govt. Shri Dolar Kotecha, Chairman, NAFCARD suggested some modifications in the norms regarding hardware and accessories. Shri Gyanesh Kumar, Secretary, MoC instructed the Federation to submit revised proposal based on deliberations in the meeting. Federation submitted the revised proposal on 9 June 2023 to NABARD and MoC.

### Office bearers meeting of ICA-AP Credit and Banking Committee

An online meeting of ICA-AP Credit and Banking Committee was held on 16 June 2023. Shri K.K. Ravindran, Managing Director, NAFCARD who is also the Chairman of the above Committee chaired the meeting. Shri Balu Iyer, Regional Director, ICA-AP, Vice Chairpersons of the Committee, Shri Datto Mohammad Sukri Aiza, Board Member, ANGKASA and Shri Raul Calayan, CEO of NCCB (Network Consolidated Cooperative Bank), Philippines, Shri Kulbhushan Kukreja (ICA-AP) and Mrs Sreeja Murali (ULCC), Secretary and Joint Secretary respectively also attended the meeting.

The meeting approved a plan of action for stepping up the activities of the Committee and also deliberated on the preparations for holding the physical meeting of the Committee on 7th November 2023 Manila, Philippines in conjunction with the 16th ICA-AP Regional Assembly.



## COOPERATIVE NEWS

### COBI: Ajay Patel elected Chairman & Milind Kale Vice-Chairman



The well-known co-operator from Gujarat Shri Ajaybhai Patel was elected unopposed as the Chairman of Cooperative Banks of India (COBI). The election of the COBI was held at the boardroom of NCUI in Delhi on 15th June 2023. Mr. Patel, hails from Gujarat, who is also the Chairman of Gujarat State Cooperative Bank.

## AGRICULTURE NEWS

### Maharashtra farmers to get ₹6,000 a year under new scheme approved by Cabinet

The Maharashtra government rolled out a new financial scheme under which more than one crore farmers in the state will be paid ₹6,000 annually. The scheme, Namo Shetkari Mahasanman Yojana, was approved at a Cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde. He said the amount was in addition to ₹6,000 paid to farmers in instalments per year by the Centre under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana. Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis who is also the state's finance minister said more than one crore cultivators will benefit from the state government's scheme. He had announced the scheme in the 2023-24 budget which he presented in the Assembly in March.

### Broken rice exports allowed to help other countries

The government allowed the export of broken rice on the basis of permission given for shipments to other countries for meeting their food security needs, though the export of broken rice is banned in general. In September 2022, India had banned the export of broken rice and imposed a 20% duty on exports of various grades. In December last year, it allowed the export of organic non-basmati rice including organic non-basmati broken rice. China is the largest importer of Indian broken rice with shipments worth \$418.29 million in 2022-23, followed by Senegal, Indonesia and Vietnam.

### Tur, Urad prices to stay firm even with stock limits

The agriculture ministry has estimated decline of 18.3%

### Milk prices unlikely to witness further spike: NDDB chief

Milk prices are unlikely to witness spikes in the coming months due to cooler temperature in April and parts of May, which has delayed the onset of 'lean' season, when milk production usually drops, according to Meenesh Shah, Chairman & Managing Director, National Dairy Development Board (NDDB). The end of the flush season when milk production goes up was delayed by rains and cooler climates in the last few months, thus helping dairy cooperatives to build up stocks for the lean summer months when output would drop. He ruled out any possibility of imports of dairy products at present to meet domestic demands of milk and products. There has been an increase of 7.5% in milk procurement by cooperatives in April 2023 compared to a year ago. However, milk inflation increased to 8.78% in April 2023 compared to 6% a year back. A combination of high cost of feed and raw material, and supply challenges, Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) and rising dairy exports has impacted milk production and costs, leading organised players, including Mother Dairy and Amul, led to hike in milk prices multiple times in the last one year.

and 3.7% in the output of tur and urad during 2022-23 (July-June) at 3.4 million tonne (MT) and 2.7 MT, respectively compared to the previous crop year. Amid a shortfall in output due to unseasonal rain last year and sluggish imports, the prices of tur and urad are likely to stay elevated in the coming months despite the government imposing stock holding limits on pulses varieties. Both these varieties of pulses are grown in rainfed regions of Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. Performance of monsoon this year and government's decision on imports therefore, will have a bearing on the price movement in coming months. The department of consumer affairs asked pulse importers to expedite shipment of tur and urad varieties from Myanmar to improve domestic supplies. In a meeting held with importers, the department has said that if imports of pulses do not ease, the government would consider government-to-government deals with Myanmar. It is reported that some importers are deliberately slowing imports from Myanmar, in their bid to jack up domestic prices. To curb hoarding and speculation amid rising prices, the government had imposed limits on the stocks of tur and urad dal for wholesalers to retailers, millers and importers.

### Erratic weather to reduce litchi yield by 50% in Uttarakhand

In Dehradun, once renowned for its litchis, the fruit is much smaller in size this season and lacks its usual fragrance and flavour. According to farmers, industry stakeholders and officials of the state horticulture



department, litchi yield has taken a hit across the state, due to erratic weather (dry winters and excess rains and unusual cold in the spring months). Litchi orchards in Uttarakhand are spread across 10,000 hectares, producing 25,000 metric tonnes of the fruit every year. In May, when litchis need dry weather, it rained heavily. This led to excess moisture, spoiling the fruit. Farmers believe if the rains continue, overall yield of litchis will be hit by at least 50%.

### **Prices of tomato and ginger skyrocket within a fortnight**

Prices of kitchen essentials like tomato and ginger have shot up in the last month. While the recent unseasonal rains have affected the tomato crop in northern India, ginger farmers, on the other hand, are holding back their crop and allowing the prices to surge to recover the losses they had faced last year. Meanwhile, the price of melon seeds (char magaz) has increased threefold as the armed conflict in Sudan, from where it is imported, has brought down the supply. The price of a kg of char magaz is now ruling at ₹900, which was only ₹300 before the Sudan conflict. Tomato prices in the retail market have increased to around ₹80 per kg from ₹40 a month ago. Tomato supply to the Azadpur mandi (in Delhi) has dwindled as rains have damaged the crop. Prices will remain firm for some time now, till the new crop comes. There is a huge demand for tomatoes from southern India, which too is pushing up prices. Tomatoes are now coming from some parts of Haryana and UP. Prices are likely to remain firm for at least two months. Ginger prices, which were at ₹30 per 100 gms, have shot up to ₹40.

### **Double-digit cereal inflation: Govt. plans more open-market sales**

To bring down cereal inflation that has been in double digits for the past many months, the government is likely to sell more wheat and rice in the open market, and keep a close watch on the price movement. While the Food Corporation of India (FCI) is likely to offload wheat in the open market through bulk buyers against usual practice of selling the stocks during the January-March 'lean' period, a proposal is also considered to sell surplus rice to curb the possibility of any spike in prices. The distribution of monsoon rains is being closely monitored as there is likelihood of an adverse impact of El Nino condition on annual precipitation which may pull down kharif paddy sowing. Kharif output has a share of around 80% in the total annual rice production in the country. "5 million tonne (MT) of rice can be released in the open market. Wheat inflation in May should be coming down as the wholesale price index is already down which could reflect on consumer price index (CPI) data with a lag," according to informed sources.

### **Mango exports to US double, realisation high**

India's exports of Alphonos, Kesar and Banganpalli mangoes to the high-value United States market has more than doubled in the current season (April-June) compared to the year-ago period, because of a decline in

air freight and a new irradiation facility in Ahmedabad. Mango exports to the US have crossed 2,000 tonne in the current season, up from 891 tonne in the 2022-23 season. The exports of Banganpalli and Kesar varieties have commenced this season to South Korea, another high value market. Exports to the United Kingdom is currently being undertaken. Exporters said that Alphonso and Kesar varieties have been sold in the US market at a premium of \$ 9/a kg and \$ 7/a kg respectively. One of the factors behind the spike in mango exports to the US and the UK this year has been the rise in the air freight rates. Currently, mangoes exported to the US undergo an irradiation process, where fruit is exposed to gamma radiation, which kills insects or pesticides inside the fruit while countries such as Japan and South Korea seek imports of fruits which have undergone vapour heat treatment and hot water treatment for eliminating presence of pests. Irradiation facility at Gujarat Agro Industries Corporation, Ahmedabad, along with similar facilities at Vashi (Navi Mumbai), Nasik and Bengaluru has helped expand mango exports to a high value market such as the United States.

### **Foodgrain prices up 5-15% as delayed monsoon hits sowing**

Prices of kitchen staples like rice and rice products like poha, murmura, besides jowar, bajra and chicken have shot up by 5-15% in the last fortnight after the slow progress of monsoon delayed the sowing of kharif crops. Prices of wheat and pulses too have been ruling firm at high levels despite government's price control measures. Market functionaries and trade analysts expect food prices to stay firm or increase further till rainfall turns favourable for the sowing. Paddy and pulses like tur, moong, urad, oilseeds like soyabean and groundnut are some of the key staple foods grown in kharif season. The prices of rice and rice products like poha and murmura have increased by about 15% as the monsoon has been delayed. Prices of jowar and bajra are also up, while the prices of pulses and wheat have not declined after the stock limit. The prices of cereals are expected to stay firm or increase further if we do not get timely and sufficient rainfall. Delay in monsoon by another 7-10 days may have an adverse impact on the acreages under of pulses crops which may tend to price rise for the overall pulse complex. For other key crops like paddy, if the inadequate rainfall situation prevails till the end of July, it may lead to decline in paddy acreages and production leading to further price rise. Late onset of summer and persistent high temperatures in June due to delayed rainfall had reduced productivity of poultry farms, boosting chicken prices.

### **El Nino likely to hit rabi crops: Top weather forecasters**

The El Nino weather event may adversely impact rainfall during the upcoming winter season, thereby affecting the key rabi crop of wheat and make the next summer season the hottest ever, one of the top weather forecasters in the country has said. The impact of El Nino is likely to be



witnessed in the winter rains. Winter rainfall is crucial for key rabi crops like wheat, chana and mustard. El Nino, an ocean-warming weather pattern that occurs every 2 to 7 years, was expected to impact the monsoon rainfall in the second half of this season. However, now it looks like El Nino forming earlier than initially expected. IMD's latest report has forecast El Nino development in June-August, while the Climate Prediction Centre of the US government in its latest report has said the El Nino conditions are already present and are expected to gradually strengthen and continue through the upcoming winter season in the northern hemisphere. While IMD has given a forecast of normal monsoon this season with 96% of the long period average rainfall (with +/- 4% error), chances are that the monsoon rainfall may remain at the lower end of the forecast. Besides this monsoon and upcoming winter rains, El Nino's impact is also expected to be felt on the summer next year. As there are early indications of the hottest summer season next year as the El Nino is likely to subside only by May 2024. Meanwhile, the delayed onset and subsequent sluggish progress of monsoon so far, partly due to the Biparjoy cyclone, have elevated prices of cereals and pulses in the country.

### **Bamboo emerges as a promising renewable energy source, finds study**

The Hungarian University of Agriculture and Life Science releases a ground-breaking study that demonstrated bamboo's transformative potential in the field of renewable energy. Published in GCB Bioenergy, this ground breaking research uncovers the immense potential of bamboo as a sustainable source of energy. The findings of this study represent a promising stride toward a cleaner and greener future. Bamboo may become the next game-changer for renewable energy as the world struggles with pressing issues affecting the global ecosystem, such as climate change. Bamboo possesses exceptional qualities that make it a remarkable natural resource. Notably, its growth rate surpasses that of most other plants, making it a rapidly renewing resource. Bamboo plays a crucial role in combating climate change by acting as a "super sponge" for carbon dioxide, effectively reducing greenhouse gas emissions. In addition, this unassuming plant releases copious amounts of oxygen, contributing to the refreshing of our planet's atmosphere. Bamboo has the potential to lead the way in the quest for cleaner and more sustainable energy sources, given its remarkable attributes. To harness its full energy potential, the study delves into the technicalities of employing advanced techniques such as fermentation and pyrolysis to transform raw bamboo material into bioenergy products like bioethanol and biogas. The process of harnessing bamboo's bioenergy potential is not straightforward. The study emphasizes the importance of selecting the correct bamboo species to achieve the most effective energy production. Different bamboo species possess variations in their chemical composition, underscoring the need for comprehensive

and precise data to maximize bamboo's renewable energy potential. The study primarily focuses on bioethanol and biochar derived from bamboo's abundant cellulose and hemicellulose, which show promise in driving efficient energy production. To tap into the vast energy reserves hidden within bamboo, cutting-edge techniques such as pyrolysis, hydrothermal liquefaction, fermentation, and anaerobic digestion are explored. The research provides valuable insights into different types of bamboo and their unique morphological characteristics, which play a vital role in bamboo bioenergy production. This approach ensures efficient energy production while capitalizing on bamboo's renewable energy potential. As the world continues to seek innovative solutions to address the challenges of climate change and environmental degradation, bamboo could play a significant role in transforming the renewable energy sector and shaping a more sustainable future.

### **Wheat eating into jowar farming, trend ill-suited to rising heat, says study**

Since 2000, area under wheat production in India has grown 17%, driven in part by expansion of production from the traditional breadbasket of the northwest towards the central semi-arid parts of the country. In the same period, and in much of the same semi-arid areas, land under jowar or sorghum cultivation fell by 21%. This trend is unsuitable amid rising global temperatures, suggests a new study comparing climate sensitivity of the two crops. Rising temperatures could reduce wheat yields in India by 5% by 2040 and by 10% by 2050, assuming no mitigating interventions. By contrast, increased temperatures had little effect on jowar productivity. Total water requirement for wheat could increase by 9% by 2030, compared with a 6% increase for jowar, in a higher warming scenario. On balance, sorghum provides a climate-resilient alternative to wheat for expansion in rabi cereals. However, yields need to increase to make sorghum competitive for farmers. Jowar, or sorghum, is known as the "camel of crops" for its ability to grow in dry conditions. It consumes 1.4 times less water than wheat. On the other hand, wheat's high yields mean more crop per drop water used per tonne of wheat, or the "water footprint", is about 15% lower than jowar. But even that advantage could erode in the future. Study also found a 12% increase in the "water footprint" of wheat by around 2050, compared with a 4% increase for jowar. Wheat is especially vulnerable to rising temperatures as its growing season extends into summer. Wheat is thus more exposed to heatwaves, which are expected to become more frequent. Last February, an early and record-breaking heatwave scorched wheat harvests and led to restrictions on exports, at a time of supply disruptions caused by the war in Ukraine. India is the world's second-largest producer of wheat. Looking at the data, total wheat production in India rose by 42% between 1998-2002 and 2012-17, driven by increases in crop area and yield, which went up by 17% and 26% respectively. Meanwhile, production of jowar declined 5%,



despite a 37% increase in yield. The decline was driven by a 21% reduction in crop area. The area trends were driven by the semi-arid central region, where both jowar and wheat are grown, but wheat production has been expanding. Yields for both cereals has increased in these areas since 2000, but wheat yields remained higher and almost double that of jowar. Reason why the jowar yields are lower is because it was deprived of the same research attention, the same improvements in varieties that wheat has had. That could change with millets in the spotlight now. The

## NEWS & NOTES

### RBI moots light payment system

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is working on a lightweight payment and settlement system (LPSS) that can be operated from anywhere with minimal manpower in the event of natural calamities and war. The system will be independent of existing payment systems such as RTGS, NEFT, and UPI. In its annual report for 2022-23, the RBI said existing conventional payment systems are designed to handle large volumes while ensuring sustained availability. As a result, they rely on complicated wired networks supported by cutting-edge IT infrastructure. However, events like natural calamities and war have the potential to render these systems temporarily unavailable by disrupting the underlying information and communication infrastructure. Therefore, it is prudent to be prepared to face such extreme and volatile situations. A resilient system can enhance public confidence in digital payments and financial market infrastructure even during extreme conditions. The portable system is seen as a “bunker equivalent” in payment systems and will process transactions that are critical to ensuring the stability of the economy, such as government and market-related transactions. LPSS is expected to operate on basic hardware and software and will be made active only on a need basis. Furthermore, the system can ensure near-zero downtime of the payment and settlement system in the country and keep the liquidity pipeline of the economy intact by facilitating uninterrupted functioning of essential payment services like bulk payments, interbank payments, and provision of cash to participant institutions.

### DHARAKSHA: Converting rice straw stubble to sustainable packaging material

Every year during winter, air pollution in Delhi and surrounding areas become a major headline. Air Quality Index (AQI) that fall under the ‘severely polluted’ category and a smoky haze across the sky is a common phenomenon in the Indo-gangetic belt. One of the primary causes of this is stubble burning, which contributes to as much as 26% of Delhi’s air pollution. What if there was an economically viable solution that could help avoid stubble burning? This was the genesis for Dharaksha, a deep-tech material startup that converts paddy straw stubble into biodegradable packaging

UN declared 2023 as the International Year of the Millets, and the government has undertaken programs to boost its production and marketing. Much of the new attention has been on kharif or monsoon millets such as ragi and bajra. Researchers used yield models to predict the sensitivity of the grains to rising maximum daily temperatures and precipitation under higher warming scenarios. The study predictions do not take into account mitigating factors such as better crop management or new adaptive technologies.

material. Founded by Arpit Dhupar and Anand Bodh in 2019, the start-up makes sustainable packaging material using crop stubble waste that otherwise would have been burnt in the field. The company utilises its proprietary biotechnology process to develop packaging material that can biodegrade in 60 days in normal soil conditions. Incubated at the Regional Centre for Biotechnology, Dharaksha utilises Mycelium, which is essentially the roots of a mushroom, to decompose paddy straw and transform it into packaging boxes. The company was founded with a two-fold goal in mind, one, to minimise air pollution by converting crop residue into a valuable product, and two, to combat plastic pollution by providing a sustainable and environmentally friendly alternative to traditional packaging materials.

### Term deposits gain from ₹2,000 note withdrawal

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI)’s recent move to withdraw ₹2,000 notes from circulation has led to a rise in term deposits, a report by the research team of State Bank of India (SBI) showed. Total deposits of ₹3.3 trillion were added in the fortnight ended June 2. Of this, 81% was term deposits. In comparison, the average increase in deposits during the same fortnight in the last 2 years was around ₹1.5 trillion. In addition to term deposits, current account savings account (CASA) deposits are also expected to increase by ₹1.5 trillion as a result of the note withdrawal. Additionally, the move effectively anchors the surge in incremental cash deposit ratio, nearing pre-pandemic levels, by filling the coffers and keeping banks ready to meet funding needs from diverse sectors. Bulk deposits are also witnessing traction as bank deposits have become a favourite alternative for corporates due to higher returns and safety. While the RBI move has boosted liquidity, experts believe the surplus is likely to be short-lived as corporates will withdraw this money to make tax payments. E-Rupi will also benefit as the absence of the high-value note will propel merchants to adopt the former.

### Bargarh ethanol bio-refinery will give momentum to green growth: Pradhan

Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said the ethanol bio-refinery plant being set up by the Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited in Odisha’s Bargarh district would give momentum to green growth and sustainable



development. After inspecting the plant site, the Union Education and Skill Development Minister said the plant would provide employment opportunities to the youth of the region. The plant would produce ethanol from straw, waste and spoiled rice. This plant would promote green fuel. Bargarh bio-refinery is making steady progress and is expected to be commissioned soon. Ethanol produced from this plant will be blended with petrol. The cost of the project is around ₹1,607 crore.

#### **Voice payments in local language bridge an eDivide**

AI4Bharat is working with National Payments Corporation of India to develop an APP that will facilitate online banking transactions through Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS). Once operationalised, this will

facilitate people who do not have a smart phone and/or are unable to perform the login procedure on the smart phone, to transfer money using IVRS. This technology is expected to significantly help feature phone users get the benefit of digital railroads such as Unified Payments Interface (UPI). The NPCI, the platform for operating retail payments and settlement systems in India is working with AI4Bharat, an open-source language artificial intelligence (AI) centre based at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Madras, to facilitate voice-based merchant payments as well as peer-to-peer transactions in local languages. It is learnt that the language models will be provided by AI4Bharat. Currently, smart phone users can scan a QR code and send money. This technology will significantly help feature phone users

## **INTERNATIONAL NEWS**

### **India clears \$2.7 billion Micron chip testing plant ahead of Modi U.S. visit**

India's cabinet has approved U.S. chipmaker Micron Technology's \$2.7 billion plan for a new semiconductor testing and packaging unit ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's state visit to the U.S. The government agreed production-linked incentives worth 110 billion rupees (\$1.34 billion) for the plant, which is set to be built in Gujarat. Cabinet approval was required due to the size of the incentive package. Micron's plan had been previously reported but not approved by cabinet. Mr. Modi will meet the chief executives of a number of top American companies, including FedEx and MasterCard, and will be hosted at a state dinner in the White House on June 22. Micron Technology's plans come as the White House presses U.S. chip companies to invest in India with talks ongoing about possible further investments U.S. President Joe Biden wants domestic companies to decrease the risks of doing business in China while better integrating the U.S. economy with that of the world's largest democracy. The White House was encouraged by the number of U.S. firms considering India investments. China in May said Micron had failed a security review and barred operators of key domestic infrastructure from purchasing products from the United States biggest memory chipmaker, angering the Biden administration.

### **PM urges G-20 Agri ministers to focus on ensuring food security**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi while addressing the G20 Agriculture Ministers, who met in Hyderabad on 16th June 2023, deliberated on how to undertake collective action for achieving global food security. The Prime Minister said in a video message "We must find ways to build sustainable and inclusive food systems, focussed on marginal farmers and ways to strengthen global fertiliser supply chains at the same time adopt agricultural practices for better soil health, crop health and yield,". Calling for measures to empower farmers with innovation and digital technology,

solutions should be made affordable for small and marginal farmers in the Global South. There is also an urgent need to reduce agricultural and food waste, and instead, invest in creating wealth from waste. Mr. Modi also said, "As Indian policy is a fusion of 'back to basics' and 'March to future', we are promoting natural farming as well as technology-enabled farming. Farmers all over India are taking up natural farming now. They are not using synthetic fertilisers or pesticides. Their focus is on rejuvenating the mother earth, protecting soil health, producing 'per drop, more crop', and promoting organic fertilisers and pest management solutions." Farmers in the country are proactively using technology to boost productivity, generating and using solar power on their farms. Soil Health Cards to optimise crop selection and deploying drones to spray nutrients and monitoring the crops are also being used. "I believe this fusion approach is the best way to address several issues in agriculture. As agriculture ministers your task is not simply that of handling one sector of the economy. You shoulder a big responsibility for the future of humanity," he added. The Prime Minister also sought to draw attention to the challenges for the Global South. Globally, agriculture provides livelihood for over 2.5 billion people. In the Global South, agriculture accounts for almost 30% of GDP and over 60% of jobs. Today, this sector faces several challenges. The supply chain disruptions caused by the pandemic have been worsened by the impact of geopolitical tensions. Climate change is causing extreme weather event more and more frequently. These challenges are felt most by the Global South. India's G20 priorities in agriculture focus on healing our 'One Earth', creating harmony within our 'One Family' and giving hope for a bright 'One Future'. There is a need to continue valuing traditionally grown food crops such as millets as they are not only healthy, but also help raise farmer's income by using less water, needing less fertiliser and being more pest-resistant.



## MOC - SOCIAL MEDIA NEWS

### Chairman of the National Level Committee for drafting New National Cooperation Policy document Shri. Suresh Prabhu, makes a presentation to Union Home Minister and Cooperation Minister Shri. Amit Shah in New Delhi on 05.06.23.

Ministry of Cooperation



#### Committee members brief Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah about objectives, vision and mission of the draft Policy along with key recommendations in various sectors

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah gives his guidance on how to realise Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modiji's vision of 'Sehkaar se Samridhhi' and to strengthen the Cooperative movement at the grassroot level through the new policy

New Cooperation Policy is expected to be unveiled in July, 2023 after consulting all the stakeholders including state governments, central ministries/departments, National Cooperatives, etc.

National Level Committee for drafting New National Cooperation Policy was formed on 2nd September 2022 with a view to prepare a New National Policy to realise Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision of 'Sehkaar se Samridhhi' under the leadership of Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah

Posted On: 05 JUN 2023 8:26PM by PIB Delhi



The Chairman of the National Level Committee for drafting new National Cooperation Policy document Shri Suresh Prabhu, made a presentation to Union Home Minister and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah in New Delhi today. The meeting was also attended by other committee members including Shri Dileep Sanghani, Chairman, NCU, Shri K V Shahji, Chairman, NABARD, Shri Jyotindra Mehta, Chairman, NAFCUB, Shri P K Aggarwal, Financial Advisor, D/o Cooperation, Govt. of Uttar Pradesh, Dr. Umakant Dash, Director, Institute of Rural Management Anand (IRMA), Shri Satish Marathe, Director, RBI, Dr C Pitchai, Professor, Gandhigram Rural University, Dr. Hema Yadav and Director, VAMNICOM. Secretary (Cooperation), Additional Secretary (Cooperation) and senior officers of Ministry of Cooperation were also participated in the meeting.

The Committee members briefed Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah about the objectives, vision and mission of the draft Policy along with key recommendations in various sectors including structural reforms & governance, cooperatives as vibrant economic entities, level playing field for cooperatives, sources of capital and funds, inclusion of priority sections, use of technology, upskilling and training, sustainability and implementation plan.

During the meeting, Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah gave his guidance on how to realise Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji's vision of 'Sehkaar se Samridhhi' and to strengthen the Cooperative movement at the grassroot level through the new policy. As per the guidance received from Minister of Cooperation,

the Committee will prepare a revised draft. The new Cooperation Policy is expected to be unveiled in July, 2023 after consulting all the stakeholders including state governments, central ministries / departments, National Cooperatives, etc.

The National Level Committee for drafting New National Cooperation Policy was formed on 2nd September 2022 with a view to prepare a new National Policy to realise Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision of 'Sehkaar se Samridhhi' under the leadership of Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah. The current policy on cooperation was formulated in 2002 and there is a felt need to draft a new policy to deal with the changed economic scenario.

The drafting Committee is chaired by Shri Suresh Prabhu, former Union Minister. It comprises of 49 members drawn from all over the country and various stakeholders such as officers of cooperation department of various state governments, ministries/departments concerned of central governments, institutions like IRMA, RBI, National federations like IFFCO, NCCF, NAFCARD, NAFCUB, KRIBHCO, NFCSF, NCU, NAFED, representatives from Cooperative Societies in various sectors, academicians and experts.

The process of forming new National Cooperation Policy was initiated when the concept was discussed in the conference of State Cooperation Secretaries/ RCS held on 12th & 13th April, 2022 and State Cooperation Ministers held on 8th & 9th September, 2022 which were inaugurated by the Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation. More than 500 suggestions were received from various stakeholders and general public for the draft policy document. The National level Committee after its formation held more than 8 meetings and also consulted various stakeholders to prepare the draft document.

The incentive amount for Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Kendra is Rs.5 lakh (15% of monthly purchase or maximum of Rs.15,000 per month).One time additional incentive of Rs. 2 lakh as reimbursement for IT and infra expenditure in special categories and areas is also provided.

### Under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, Government of India has decided to allow 2000 Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) to open Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Kendras across the country.

Ministry of Cooperation



#### The decision was taken in a meeting of Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah with Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Shri Mansukh S. Mandaviya in New Delhi today

2000 PACS across the country will be identified to open Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Kendras, 1000 Jan Aushadhi Kendras will be opened by August and 1000 by December, this year

This important decision will not only increase the income of PACS and create employment opportunities but will also make medicines available at affordable prices to the people, especially those living in rural areas

Posted On: 06 JUN 2023 6:53PM by PIB Delhi



Under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the Government of India has decided to allow 2000 Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) to open Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Kendras across the country. The decision was taken in a meeting of Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah with Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Shri Mansukh S. Mandaviya in New Delhi today. 2000 PACS across the country will be identified to open Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Kendras. 1000 Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Kendras will be opened by August and 1000 by December, this year. This important decision will not only increase the income of PACS and create employment opportunities but will also make medicines available at affordable prices to the people, especially those living in rural areas. Secretary, Ministry of Cooperation, Secretary, Department of Chemicals and Fertilizers and other senior officers of Ministry of Cooperation and Department of Chemicals and Fertilizers were also present in the meeting.

More than 9400 Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Kendras have been opened across the country till now. 1800 types of medicines and 285 other medical devices are available in these Jan Aushadhi Kendras. Medicines at Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Kendras are available at 50% to 90% lesser rate in comparison to the

branded medicines. The Eligibility Criteria for the Individual applicants to open Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Kendra is to have D. Pharma/B. Pharma. Any organization, NGO, charitable organization and hospital can apply for this by appointing B.Pharma / D.Pharma degree holders.

For opening Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Kendra at least 120 square feet space either privately owned or rental should be available. The application fee for Jan Aushadhi Kendra is Rs.5000. Women Entrepreneurs, Divyang, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Ex-Servicemen come under Special Category. Aspirational Districts, Himalayan Mountain Region, North-Eastern States and Islands are in Special Areas. There is an exemption in application fee for applicants from special categories and special areas.

The incentive amount for Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Kendra is Rs.5 lakh (15% of monthly purchase or maximum of Rs.15,000 per month).One time additional incentive of Rs. 2 lakh as reimbursement for IT and infra expenditure in special categories and areas is also provided.



**Under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, Government of India has decided to allow 2000 Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) to open Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Kendras across the country.**



Ministry of Cooperation

**In the direction of realizing the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision of "Sahkar Se Samridhi", the Government of India has taken five more important decisions**

Posted On: 08 JUN 2023 3:24PM by PIB Delhi

The following 5 important decisions were taken in the meeting-

1. There are about 1 lakh Primary Agricultural Credit Cooperative Societies present across the country. On the basis of mapping, Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) which are not functioning as fertilizer retailers will be identified and they will be encouraged to function as retailers on the basis of feasibility in a phased manner.
2. PACS which are not currently functioning as Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samridhi Kendras (PMKSK) will be brought under the ambit of PMKSK.
3. PACS will be connected with the marketing of organic fertilizers, especially Fermented Organic Manure (FoM) / Liquid Fermented Organic Manure (LFOM) / Phosphate Enriched Organic Manure (PROM).
4. Under the Market Development Assistance (MDA) scheme of Department of Fertilizers, fertilizer companies will act as an aggregator for small bio-organic producers to market the end product, in this supply and marketing chain of bio-organic fertilizers PACS will also be included as wholesalers/retailers.
5. PACS can also be employed as Drone entrepreneurs for spraying fertilizers and pesticides. Drones can also be used for survey of property.

**The benefits of these decisions :** These important decisions will increase the income of Primary Agricultural Credit Societies, as well as increase the employment opportunities in rural areas and farmers will be able to get fertilizers, pesticides, seeds and agricultural machinery at the local level.

IN PHASED MANNER

## Centre to identify PACS

ANI  
NEW DELHI

The Centre has decided to identify Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) across the country which are not functioning as fertilizer retailers and encourage them to function as retailers on the basis of feasibility in a phased manner.

This will be among five more important decisions taken in the direction of realizing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of "Sahkar Se Samridhi". These important decisions will increase the income of PACS as well as increase the employment opportunities in rural areas and farmers will be able to get fertilizers, pesticides, seeds and agricultural machinery at the local level.

These decisions were taken in a meeting of the Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah with Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers Mansukh S Mandaviya here in the national capital.

The government has taken five more important decisions revolving around Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS).



A Primary Agricultural Credit Society (PACS) is a basic unit and the smallest cooperative credit institution in India. There are about one lakh Primary Agricultural Credit Cooperative Societies present across the country. On the basis of mapping, PACS which are not functioning as fertilizer retailers will be identified and encouraged to function as retailers on the basis of feasibility in a phased manner.

PACS which is not currently functioning as Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samridhi Kendras (PMKSK) will be brought under the ambit of PMKSK.

Thirdly, PACS will be connected with the marketing of organic fertilizers, especially fermented

organic manure (FoM) or liquid fermented organic manure (LFOM) or phosphate-enriched organic manure (PROM).

PACS can also be employed as drone entrepreneurs for spraying fertilizers and pesticides. Drones can also be used for the survey of the property.

Lastly, under the Market Development Assistance (MDA) scheme of the Department of Fertilizers, fertilizer companies will act as an aggregator for small bio-organic producers to market the end product, in this supply and marketing chain of bio-organic fertilizers PACS will also be included as wholesalers/retailers. PACS will also be included as wholesalers/retailers in this supply and

marketing chain of bio-organic fertilizers.

These decisions were taken in a meeting between the Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah and Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers Mansukh Mandaviya in New Delhi. Senior officials of both ministries were also present in the meeting.

Senior officials of the Ministry of Cooperation and the Department of Fertilizers were also present in the meeting.

"There are about 1 lakh Primary Agricultural Credit Cooperative Societies present across the country. On the basis of mapping, Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) which are not functioning as fertilizer retailers will be identified and they will be encouraged to function as retailers on the basis of feasibility in a phased manner," reads a Ministry of Cooperation statement.

Besides, another decision focuses, the PACS which are not currently functioning as Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samridhi Kendras (PMKSK) will be brought under the ambit of PMKSK.

## NEWS FROM MEMBER BANKS

### West Bengal SCARDB

World environment day celebration by WBSCARDB. Mr. Moinul Hassan, Special Officer of WBSCARDB inaugurated the auspicious program on 5th June, 2023.



### Karnataka SCARDB

Recovery drive conducted by Karnataka SCARDB under OTS scheme.



### J & K SCARDB



Commissioner Secretary Cooperatives, Ms. Yasha Mudgal, J & K state, reviewed functioning of J&K SCARDB branches operational in Kashmir division on 9th June, 2023.