

MOC NEWS



शहरी सहकारी बैंकों की कठिनाइयों का निवारण

सहकारिता मंत्रालय द्वारा बनाए गए वीडियो के जरिए देखें कैसे देश के सभी शहरी सहकारी बैंकों (UCBs) की कठिनाइयों को दूर कर उनके सशक्तिकरण के लिए कई महत्वपूर्ण पहलें की गई हैं।

सहकारिता मंत्रालय के यूट्यूब चैनल पर यह वीडियो 13 विभिन्न भाषाओं में उपलब्ध है।



National Cooperative Database

Data of nearly 8 Lakh Cooperative Societies has been gathered

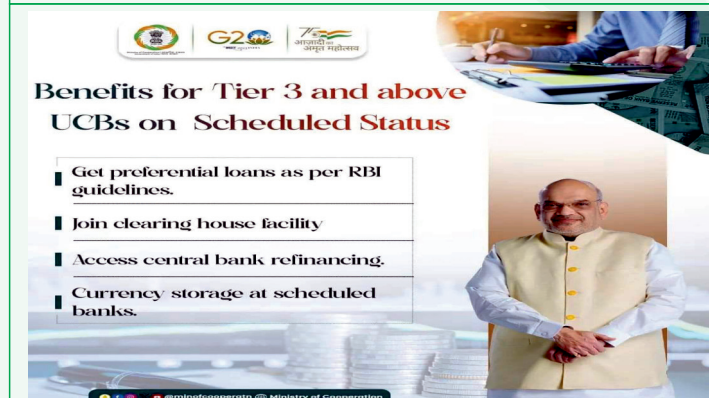
Aggregation of Data from 34 States UTs has been completed

National Cooperative Database

- Identification of Gaps and Vacuums in Cooperative Societies across States UTs
- Formation of Upward and Downward linkages of Cooperative Societies.
- Real-time status of Cooperative Societies for stakeholders.
- Easily adaptable for multiple activities over a period of time.

शहरी सहकारी बैंकों की कठिनाइयों का निवारण। सहकारिता मंत्रालय द्वारा बनाए गए वीडियो के जरिए देखें कैसे देश के सभी शहरी सहकारी बैंकों (UCBs) की कठिनाइयों को दूर कर उनके सशक्तिकरण के लिए कई महत्वपूर्ण पहलें की गई हैं।

National Cooperative Database to be launched soon. The Data of nearly 8 Lakh Co-operative Societies has been registered on the National Cooperative Database. The gathered data is under the process of being validated by Nodal Officers. Data of newly registered Cooperative Societies is also being entered along with Phase-III Data. Establishment of the National Cooperative Database will be a transformational Initiative in the History of the Cooperative Sector.



Benefits for Tier 3 and above UCBs on Scheduled Status

- Get preferential loans as per RBI guidelines.
- Join clearing house facility
- Access central bank refinancing.
- Currency storage at scheduled banks.



Pursuing Prosperity Through Cooperation

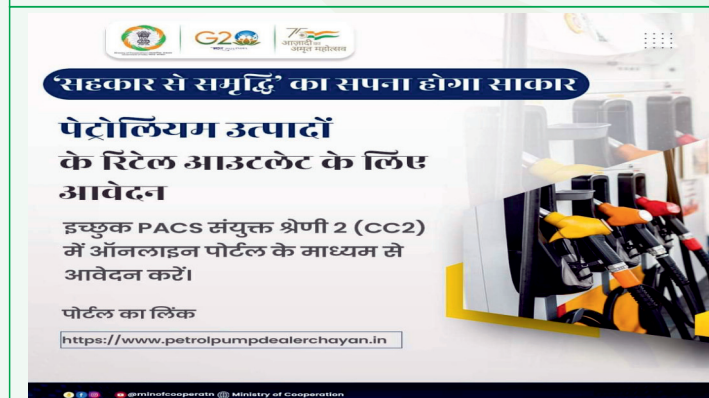
Taking steps towards achieving the vision

Ministry of Cooperation has attained various steps to strengthen the cooperative sector

Videos in 13 different languages have been created on 10 Major initiatives and are available on the Ministry's YouTube channel.

Strengthening the Cooperative Sector. Much-awaited scheduling norms have been introduced for Urban Cooperative banks. 1514 urban cooperative banks nationwide now have clear scheduling norms for entry into Schedule II of the @RBI Act, 1934.

The Ministry of Cooperation has undertaken various initiatives aimed at empowering the cooperative sector. Among these, there are 10 videos available, in 13 different languages covering major topics, which can be viewed on the Ministry's YouTube channel. youtube.com/@MinOfCooperatn

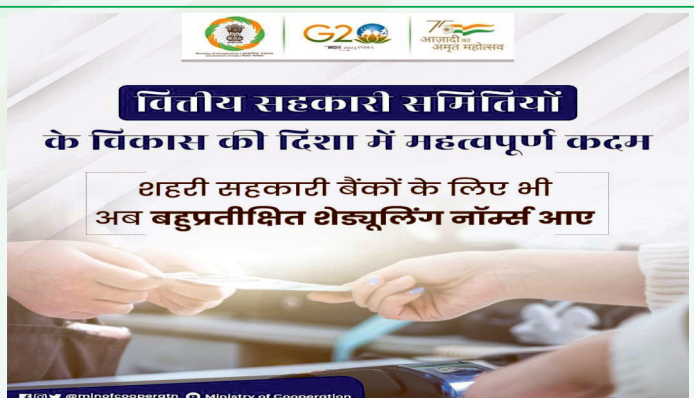


'सहकार से समृद्धि' का सपना होगा साकार

पेट्रोलियम उत्पादों के रिटेल आउटलेट के लिए आवेदन

इच्छुक PACS संयुक्त श्रेणी 2 (CC2) में ऑनलाइन पोर्टल के माध्यम से आवेदन करें।

पोर्टल का लिंक
<https://www.petrolpumpdealerchayan.in>



वित्तीय सहकारी समितियों के विकास की दिशा में महत्वपूर्ण कदम

शहरी सहकारी बैंकों के लिए भी अब बहुप्रतीक्षित शेड्यूलिंग नॉर्म्स आए

Empowerment of PACS is being given priority in petrol-diesel dealerships. Interested PACS Combined Category 2 (CC2) may apply through online portal soon.

वित्तीय सहकारी समितियों के विकास की दिशा में महत्वपूर्ण कदम। शहरी सहकारी बैंकों के लिए भी अब बहुप्रतीक्षित शेड्यूलिंग नॉर्म्स आ गए हैं। जिससे विलियरिंग हाउस, मुद्रा भंडारण जैसी सुविधाएं शहरी सहकारी बैंक प्राप्त कर सकेंगे।



Annexure 2: Average Closing Time – January to August, 2023

Annexure 2.1.: Ministries/Departments with High Average Closing Time

S. No.	Name of Ministry/Department	Cases Disposed	Average Closing Time (in days)
1	Department of Revenue	10282	111
2	Central Board of Direct Taxes (Income Tax)	48237	64
3	Department of Economic Affairs ACC Division	3087	63
4	Department of Atomic Energy	1043	63
5	Department of Personnel and Training	20609	48
6	Ministry of Shipping	1181	48
7	Department of Youth Affairs	682	46
8	Ministry of Culture	1490	39
9	Department of Official Language	157	39
10	Staff Selection Commission	9412	36

Annexure 2.2.: Ministries/Departments with Low Average Closing Time

S. No.	Name of Ministry/Department	Cases Disposed	Average Closing Time (in days)
1	Ministry of Cooperation	33385	2
2	NTTI Aayog	2787	3
3	Department of Legal Affairs	2461	3
4	Department of Telecommunications	30777	5
5	Department of Financial Services (Pension Reforms)	2331	5
6	Department of Investment & Public Asset Management	909	5
7	Department of Land Resources	2256	6
8	Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities	1909	6

शिकायतों के निस्तारण में फिर नंबर 1 सहकारिता मंत्रालय। DARPG की अगस्त महीने की रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक 2 दिनों के कम समय में सहकारिता मंत्रालय ने 33,000 से ज्यादा शिकायतों का निस्तारण किया।

**प्रधानमंत्री
भारतीय जन
औषधि केंद्र
के रूप में PACS**

अब तक 3500
से ज्यादा PACS ने अप्लाई किया

1500 से ज्यादा
PACS को प्राथमिक अनुमति

PACS as Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Kendra So far more than 3500 PACS have applied online to open Jan Aushadhi Kendra and more than 1500 PACS have got preliminary permission to open Jan Aushadhi Kendra.

Cooperative societies leading the way in every sector

Agri-Tourism Multi State Co-operative Society Ltd (ATCOS)

more than **3000 members**

Promoting **Agriculture and Tourism**

Initiatives for **Environment Protection**

Cooperative Societies Making a Positive Impact. ATCOS is a Multi-State Cooperative Society operating in the agriculture & tourism sector in Kerala & Tamil Nadu, now serving over 3,000 members. Their aim is to integrate various tourism pursuits to conserve the Ecology.

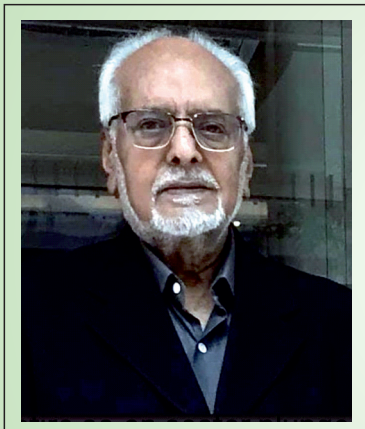
CSC Services provided by PACS

- Insurance Services
- Passport Services
- E-Citizen and E-District
- Pension Services
- Aadhaar Printing and Enrollment
- Pan Card
- E-Court Services
- Postal Department Services
- State Electricity and Water Bill Collection Service

PACS is also offering CSC (Common Service Centre) services. Through CSC, the Digital India Mission is eradicating corruption in governance and delivering services to people at their doorsteps.

FEDERATION NEWS

NAFCARD grieves the demise of its former Chairman Dr. B.S. Vishwanathan



(06.01.1934 – 24.09.2023)

The Chairman Federation Shri Dolar Kotecha and the entire Board of Management of the Federation paid their respects to the legendary co-operator Shri B. S. Vishwanathan, former Chairman NAFCARD and sent their condolences to the bereaved family and friends. Shri Dolar Kotecha extended deepest condolences on the passing of Dr. Vishwanathan and said that his demise is a big loss for the Cooperative Movement and particularly for the long term credit sector. Shri Vishwanathan's contributions were significant and his memory will forever be cherished, he said.



NAFCARD holds AGM in Jaipur; moots business plans for ARDBs



National Cooperative Agriculture & Rural Development Banks Federation Ltd (Nafcard) organized a series of events at Jaipur, which included the Nafcard board meeting, Annual General Meeting and a workshop on Business Development Plans of Agriculture and Rural Development Banks (ARDBs). A series of meetings were presided over by the NAFCARD Chairman Sh Dolar Kotecha. The other participants included Delhi SCB Chairman Sh Bijendra Singh, NAFSCOB Chairman Sh K. Ravinder Rao, Uttar Pradesh GVB Chairman Sh Santraj Yadav, Sh K. Sivadasan Nair, Himachal Pradesh SCARDB Chairman Sh Sanjay Singh Chauhan, Smt Shilpi Pande, Administrator Rajasthan RSBVB the host bank and the representatives from the State's ARDBs. The AGM and Board Meetings were held on 10th September 2023 whereas Workshop was organized on 11th September 2023. The Board approved the Business Development Plans of ARDBs for the next 5 years envisaging 20% yearly growth in lending. On this occasion, NAFCARD Managing Director Sh K.K. Ravindran presented the Power Point presentation on business development plans of ARDBs. In his presentation Ravindran focused on achieving the targets in the coming year. "The Long-Term lending including NFS to grow from ₹3540 crore in 2022-23 to ₹12319 crore in 2027-28. Besides, short term lending to grow from ₹1889 crore in 2022-23 to ₹5061 crore in 2027-28. Annual gross lending to grow from ₹5,437.76 crore in 2022-23 to ₹17,380 crore in 2027-28. Annual lending during 'Amrit Kaal' to grow from ₹17,380 crore in 2027-28 to

₹2,94,080 crore in 2047-48", he added. Ravindran further said, "Aggregate deposits outstanding of ARDBs to grow from ₹2340.54 crore in 2022-23 to ₹4345 crore in 2027-28 and ₹52720 crore in 2047-48. NPAs to come down from 40.83% in 2022-23 to 20.69% in 2027-28 and 3.2% in 2047-48 [Uttar Pradesh (81%) Tripura (98%) Punjab (58.85%) Rajasthan (53.48%) & Haryana (76.57%) are critical States. During the workshop, he made various demands from the Government of India, which included extending crop loan interest subvention scheme to ARDBs, Banking licence to SCARDBs, TransUnion CIBIL Membership and others. NABARD to introduce a new additional refinance product for ARDBs without government guarantee. Besides, channelize SAO refinance to SCARDBs/PCARDBs through SCBs/DCCBs with earmarked allocations", the demands include. The Annual General Meeting apart from the usual business has also approved a proposal for amendment of bye laws on the lines of Multi State Cooperative Societies (Amendment) Act 2023 notified by the Government on 3rd August 2023. There are 16 State Cooperative Agriculture & Rural Development Banks (SCARDBs) of which only 13 are fully functional with a network of 1,744 PCARDBs/branches of SCARDBs at ground level. These banks have a total membership of 1,10,84,964 rural households of which 65,30,812 have outstanding loans. The total loans outstanding and borrowings outstanding of these banks as on 31.03.2022 were ₹21341.06 crores and ₹13337.10 crores respectively. Fully functional SCARDBs have total deposits of ₹2257.67 crores as on 31.3.2022.

COOPERATIVE NEWS

SC sets asides HC & Tribunal orders; allows Kerala SCARDB relief under 80P

In a major development, the Supreme Court of India has restored income tax relief to Kerala State Co-operative Agricultural and Rural Development Bank (SCARDB) under 80P. The apex court ruled that since the SCARDB is not a bank in the true sense of the term, it can enjoy the benefits. After completing the hearing of this case, which was filed in 2016, the Supreme Court gave its judgment on 14th September 2023. The bench consisting of Justice Mrs. B V Nagarathna and Justice Mr Ujjal Bhuyan in their judgement ruled that Kerala SCARDB not being a bank coming under the BR Act is entitled to deductions under

section 80 P. This judgement of the apex court will settle once and for all, hundreds of disputes on the subject between ARDBs and IT Department pending in various courts across states. There are 16 State Cooperative Agriculture & Rural Development Banks (SCARDBs) of which only 13 are fully functional with a network of 1,744 PCARDBs/branches of SCARDBs at ground level. These banks have a total membership of 1,10,84,964 rural households of which 65,30,812 have outstanding loans. The total loans outstanding and borrowings outstanding of these banks as on 31.03.2022 were ₹21341.06 crores and ₹13337.10 crores respectively. The fully functional SCARDBs have total deposits of ₹2257.67 crores as on



31.3.2022. The SC observed “In the instant case, although the appellant society is an apex cooperative society within the meaning of the State Act, 1984, it is not a co-operative bank within the meaning of Section 5(b) read with Section 56 of the BR Act, 1949. In the result, the appeals filed by the appellant are allowed and the order(s) of the Kerala High Court and other authorities to the contrary are set aside. Consequently, we hold that the appellant is entitled to the benefit of deduction under Section 80P of the Act. The questions for consideration are answered accordingly. Parties to bear their respective costs.” It bears recall that the Section 80 P of income tax Act was amended in 2008 by adding subsection 80 P (4) which disallows deductions under 80 P for Cooperative banks coming under the BR Act. Subsequently the tax department applied the above amendment to SCARDBs as well by treating them as banks though they are not banks coming under the Banking Regulation Act and started levying tax on their entire income with effect from 2008. This has forced the SCARDBs to knock the door of courts and many litigations are going on throughout the country. Though, SCARDBs in some states managed to restore tax deductions under Section 80 P in appeal petitions at tribunal level. Talking to the Indian Cooperative correspondent, Kerala SCARDB General Manager Sindhu Nair said, “Finally, the Supreme Court of India announced the verdict in favour of the Kerala SCARDB and we are happy with the decision. We will provide you with the Judgment copy once I go to the office”. The dispute between the IT Department and Kerala SCARDB went up to the Supreme Court after the bank lost their appeals both before the Tribunal and the High Court of Kerala.

Kheti Banks: Kotecha led co-operators welcome SC judgement on 80P



Cooperators connected with State Cooperative Agricultural and Rural Development Banks (SCARDBs) were a jubilant lot as soon as the news of the Supreme Court giving relief to them under 80P became public. On 14th September, the apex court restored income tax relief to Kerala State Co-operative Agricultural and Rural Development Bank (SCARDB) under 80P. The apex court

ruled that since the SCARDB is not a bank in the true sense of the term, it can enjoy the benefits. The entire fraternity of the ARDBs spread across the country, have taken a sigh of relief. Chairman of the apex body of ARDBs called NAFCARD, Dolar Kotecha said “This will be a big boost in improving the financial position of SCARDBs which are ailing in many states and their efforts to increase credit availability to farmers at an affordable cost could be made possible after the judgement”. Several top functionaries of the SCARDBs are seeing this judgment as an opportunity to file a case against the pending notices of IT. Capturing the sentiments, Kotecha who is also the Chairman of Gujarat SCARDB, which is popularly known as Kheti Bank said “This judgement of the Supreme Court will help to settle hundreds of disputes on the issue of admissibility of tax exemption under section 80P to ARDBs pending at various levels across States. These cases relate to tax demand made to ARDBs for various years since 2008. The judgement brings tax relief of more than ₹600 crore to Kerala SCARDB and total relief to all banks will be about ₹1500 crore once all cases are settled on the basis of Supreme Court judgement”. In his reaction, West Bengal SCARDB Special Officer Moinul Hassan wrote, “It is a long-term relief for the cooperative sector, that the Hon’ble Supreme Court has given a remarkable judgement in favour of Kerala SCARD BANK, as far as the tax deduction is concerned. It will help the movement and ultimately the borrowers.” Recently the IT department has forcefully closed all branches of the West Bengal SCARD bank in Alipurduar district for not paying the Income Tax. According to IT, the taxable amount is around ₹26 crore. But we are planning to knock on the door of tribunals against IT action”, said Hassan who is also the Vice-Chairman of NAFCARD. Talking to the Indian Cooperative, Uttar Pradesh Sahakari Gram Vikas Bank Managing Director Shashi Rao said, “The Supreme Court decision has brought relief for Bhumi Vikas Bank also. We hail the decision. The UP SCARDB had also filed several cases against the IT notices in the Tribunal which continue to be pending. We hope to get relief now”. There are 16 State Cooperative Agriculture & Rural Development Banks (SCARDBs) of which only 13 are fully functional with a network of 1,744 PCARDBs/branches of SCARDBs at ground level. These banks have a total membership of 1,0,84,964 rural households of which 65,30,812 have outstanding loans. The total loans outstanding and borrowings outstanding of these banks as on 31.03.2022 were ₹21341.06 crores and ₹13337.10 crores respectively. The fully functional SCARDBs have total deposits of ₹2257.67 crores as on 31.3.2022.



G 20 Success: Co-operators congratulate Team Bharat led by PM

The 18th G20 Summit is took place in Bharat Mandapam IECC, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi on 9th and 10th September, 2023. During this Summit, leaders from across the world discussed various global issues and ideas.



Several co-operators led by NCUI President Dileep Sanghani have congratulated the team Bharat for spectacular gains from the first day of the G20 summit. In particular, Sanghani was full of praise for the Prime Minister for displaying unparalleled leadership during the Summit. Talking to the Indian Cooperative, Sanghani, who heads both the national apex co-op body NCUI and the largest fertilizer co-op in the world, IFFCO said the inclusion of African Union into G20 has made G20, a truly mass-based body as now the international grouping in its new avatar represents 90% of the global population. Such ground-breaking moves would not have been possible without Modi's charisma, said Sanghani who treats himself lucky to have worked with Modi in his cabinet during his Gujarat days. Sanghani was also proud of the fact that Modi's leadership ensured that the G 20 comes out with a Joint Declaration, exorcising the ghost of the Ukraine war. Sanghani also tweeted congratulating the PM. Meanwhile, Modi's tweet has summed up the gains very well "History has been created with the adoption of the New Delhi Leaders' Declaration. United in consensus and spirit, we pledge to work collaboratively for a better, more prosperous, and harmonious future. My gratitude to all fellow G20 members for their support and cooperation". PM's tweet read. Another important cooperative leader from India, who heads the co-operatives of Asia Pacific region, Dr Chandra Pal Singh Yadav was also full of praise for the Indian contingent. Talking to this correspondent, Yadav said that it's a matter of pride for every India that G20 is being conducted with such an élan. He also thanked the PM for keeping Indian interest supreme and not bowing before anyone be it West or China-Russia. Congratulating the PM, IFFCO MD Dr U S Awasthi also tweeted, "My heartiest congratulations to Hon'ble PM Sh. @narendramodi Ji for leading from the front for the successful #G20 meeting in New Delhi. It's an honour to our farm & farmers that he mentioned about fertilizers in his opening speech and showed his concern to the global leaders about the adequate & quality availability of fertilizers to farmers. He conveyed India's message of 'one earth, one family, one future' to the global leaders in the most appropriate way". Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah also tweeted "My warmest congratulations to PM @narendramodi and the member nations of the G20 on the adoption of the New Delhi G20

Leaders' Summit Declaration. In pursuit of our civilizational goal of promoting the welfare of humankind, the esteemed G20 leaders have arrived at a consensus to build bridges of trust among nations through diplomacy and cooperation. This marks a significant step towards a better future for all." It bears recall that co-operators were involved in the run up to the G 20 meetings and some of them were made part of the G20, B20 group on financial inclusion as well as in C-20 and W20. They expect the final report to have some reference to the co-op's role in the G 20 nations.

CM extends dividend limit to 20%; 87000 co-ops to benefit



Participating in a function organized by a TV channel in Gujarat, the state Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel announced that the Gujarat Government has allowed the cooperative societies of the state to pay a maximum 20 percent dividend to their shareholders. "The decision will benefit the shareholders of more than 87000 cooperative societies engaged in different types of businesses. The notification in this connection has been released", said Patel while addressing the event. Gujarat had earlier kept a maximum limit of 15 per cent dividend for the co-operatives, which used to be extended in special cases after following the due process. Dilip Sanghani led GUJCOMASOL, for example, gave a dividend of 22% after seeking state govt green signal. The event was also marked by the felicitation of several people who have made outstanding contributions in health, art, environment, cooperation and other fields. On this occasion, NCUI President Dileepbhai Sanghani, who doubles as the Chairman of IFFCO, was felicitated with a memento for his contributions in the cooperative sector. Tweeting about the event, the Gujarat Chief Minister wrote



on his twitter wall, "Attended NEWS 18 Gujarati channel Gujarat Ratna Samman program and honoured the gems of Gujarat who have made outstanding contributions in various fields including health, art, environment, cooperation. On this occasion, I called upon everyone to make a collective effort to realize the goal of building a developed Gujarat for a developed India". NCUI President Dileepbhai Sanghani also lost no time in extending thanks through 'X' to the Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel, Cooperation Minister Jagdishbhai Vishwakarma for allowing co-ops to pay 20 percent dividend to their shareholders. A notification issued by the Agriculture, Farmers Welfare and Cooperation Department, Gujarat,

AGRICULTURE NEWS

Apple country Himachal Pradesh gets ground ready for cannabis cultivation

With the Himachal Pradesh government inching closer to legalise cannabis (hemp) cultivation in the State, growers are upbeat and optimistic about getting an economic boost, even as the concerns and its multiple effects on society cannot be ignored, including allurements among adolescents and youth towards the use-abuse of cannabis, the nexus between illegal producers and suppliers of cannabis getting stronger, the risk of pilferage, and the occurrence of a motivational syndrome. A committee comprising lawmakers that explored the possibility of legal cultivation of cannabis has recently recommended cultivation of 'non-narcotic use of cannabis for medicinal, industrial, and scientific use'. Hemp is a botanical class of Cannabis sativa cultivars grown specifically for industrial or medicinal use. It is produced in parts of Himachal Pradesh though it is illegal under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985. An approval from the State Cabinet is awaited after which a policy is expected to be framed soon by the State government on cannabis cultivation keeping in view the provisions of NDPS Act, 1985, and NDPS Rules, 1989. The policy on hemp cultivation for medicinal, industrial, and scientific would pave the way for utilising the medicinal properties of cannabis to treat patients, besides raising revenue for the State from the products made of hemp. Also, allowing cannabis cultivation would reaffirm the government's commitment to safeguarding the interests of the farmers, who have been long demanding to lift the ban on cultivation. States are empowered to permit, by general or special order, the cultivation of hemp only for obtaining fiber or seeds or for horticultural purposes. In 2017, Himachal Pradesh's neighbour Uttarakhand became the first State in the country to legalise cannabis cultivation. Besides, controlled cultivation is also being done in some districts of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.

Farmers are *anna dattas*, protect their rights and future, says President

President Droupadi Murmu on 12.09.23 called for concrete steps to conserve traditional seed varieties and ecofriendly

reads, "In exercise of the powers Co- conferred by section 68 of the Gujarat Co-operative Societies Act, 1961 (Guj.X of 1962), the Government of Gujarat hereby prescribes the twenty percent as the maximum rate at which the payment of dividend by a society shall be made and no society shall pay the dividend to its members exceeding the rate, so prescribed". "Provided that the dividend payable in case of co-operative credit structure shall be subject to the guidelines of the Reserve Bank of India or, as the case may be the National Bank", the notification further reads, which was signed by Rajesh Joshi, Deputy Secretary to the Government.

farming practices. She was inaugurating a global seminar organised here by the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and the Food and Agriculture Organisation on farmers' rights. Smt. Murmu said farmers were *anna dattas* (providers of food) and they needed to be saluted. She said it was the duty of everyone to protect farmers' rights and future. Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar, who also addressed the symposium, said the rich agricultural heritage of the country had flourished owing to the efforts of farmers, who had carefully nurtured and developed numerous plant varieties. These varieties were not only a source of livelihood but also a living testimony of the deep connection between nature and culture. Smt. Murmu said farmers had toiled, developed and conserved landraces, wild relatives and traditional varieties of crops, and provided the building blocks for the modern crop breeding programmes and thus ensured food and nutritional security for human beings and livestock alike. The treaty was signed in 2001 to conserve, use, and manage plant genetic resources for food and agriculture. "My country provides a range of rights to farmers including use, reuse, save, share and sell the unbranded seeds of a registered variety. Besides, farmers can register their own varieties which get protection," she said.

Centre plans rejig of flagship farm-sector schemes

The government may announce an overhaul of its flagship schemes for the farm sector, ahead of the general election that is due by April-May next year. With this intent, the agriculture ministry has commissioned a series of surveys of Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-Kisan), Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) and interest subvention scheme, to assess their impact on the farming community. Based on the results of these surveys, the government will consider restructuring of these schemes, and it is open to the idea of expanding the schemes with higher budget outlays. According to the budget estimates for 2023-24, out of the total ₹1.25 trillion allocated for ministry of agriculture and farmers' welfare, ₹95,625 crore (76% of total budget) has been allocated for the three schemes – PM – Kisan (₹60,000 crore), PMFBY (₹13,625 crore) and interest subvention scheme (₹22,00 crore). The



ministry's agro-economic research centres (AERCs) at Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad, University of Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh and Sardar Patel University, Vallabh Vidyanagar, Gujarat have started conducting surveys amongst the farmers who are beneficiaries under the key schemes. Questioners have been prepared and sampling is being conducted currently by three research centres, the survey reports are expected in the next three months. The centre at IIM, Ahmedabad is carrying out the survey amongst beneficiaries for PMFBY with a sample size of 3500. AERCs at Allahabad University and Sardar Patel University will conduct surveys for PM Kisan and interest subvention schemes respectively. Since the launch of PM Kisan in February, 2019, more than ₹2.59 trillion have been transferred to farmers bank accounts so far. Under the direct cash transfer scheme, farmers are provided financial assistance of ₹6,000 annually through

three four-monthly instalments under the scheme. In July, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had transferred the 14th instalments under the PM-Kisan worth ₹17,000 crore to 85 million farmers. Of about 140 million farmer households in the country, roughly a third are tenants without land ownership, and these people are not covered under PM Kisan. Currently, financial assistance under PM Kisan is provided to farmers with land holdings which are subject to certain exclusion criteria. It allows farmers to take care of expenses related to agriculture as well as other incidental expenses. Under the PMFBY which is currently being implemented in 22 states and union territories, the premium to be paid by farmers is fixed at just 1.5% of the sum insured for rabi crops and 2% for kharif crops, while it is 5% for cash crops. It is optional for the farmers to opt for PMFBY and currently around 20 million farmers avail the crop insurance scheme.

NEWS & NOTES

Pay now, adjust later: Rice exporters cook up ways to skirt basmati curbs

Basmati rice exporters are negotiating with global buyers for a price exceeding \$1,200 per tonne for new orders now and adjust the price against future orders when the government's move to temporarily halt exports of this aromatic variety of rice is rescinded. India on 27.08.23 announced a temporary halt of export of any basmati rice consignment for less than \$1,200 a tonne, while shipments contracted above that price threshold will continue to be allowed. The move was to restrict possible "illegal" shipment of white non-basmati rice in the garb of premium basmati rice. This will remain effective till October 15, 2023. Basmati rice exporters are choosing the overbilling route so that they do not lose their export markets to Pakistan, a major competitor. For the time being exporters can only do overbilling and export rice above \$1,200. They will adjust it with the buyers in future orders. India exported 4.5 million tonnes of basmati valued at ₹38,524.11 crore in FY23. Gulf nations are major buyers. Overbilling will be possible in cases where exporters have long-standing relationships with buyers and have offices abroad. Trade sources said overseas buyers are in touch with Indian exporters to work out a possible formula for the import of rice as they have to fulfil their domestic demand. The average FOB price of basmati rice last year was around \$1,050 per tonne. These exports generally happen in three primary forms raw or brown, steam, and parboiled.

UNDP and NABARD sign MoU to co-create data-driven innovations in agriculture

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to co-create data-driven innovations in agriculture and food systems to support small holder farmers. Under this MoU, both organizations will work to improve the lives and livelihoods of

smallholder farmers by sharing open-source data for product development, transfer of technology and supporting the framing of agrarian policies. The MoU was signed by Chief General Manager of NABARD, Mr. Sanjeev Rohilla, and UNDP Deputy Resident Representative, Ms. Isabelle Tschan. Under the MoU, UNDP will leverage its expertise in open innovations, data collaboratives, data science approaches and global know-how for supporting NABARD's agenda of embedding data-driven decision-making in agriculture investments. The partnership includes enhancing and disseminating collaborative digital public goods like DiCRA (Data in Climate Resilient Agriculture). DiCRA is a collaborative digital public good which provides open access to key geospatial datasets pertinent to climate resilient agriculture. DiCRA, which is curated by UNDP and partner organizations to inform public investments in agriculture, already provides intelligence on climate resilience for 50 million hectares of farmland across India. By partnering for enhancing and scaling its use, NABARD will host and maintain the DiCRA platform and use its key geospatial datasets for policy making, research and development activities, with UNDP's technical support. This five-year technical cooperation is envisaged to foster collective climate action, create innovative platforms and new product offerings to enhance economic empowerment in rural India. Mr Shaji KV, Chairman of NABARD, said, "NABARD is extremely excited about this collaboration with UNDP. This opens a sea of opportunities for the two organizations to leverage data and present it as a digital public infrastructure for the vast rural Indian community of farmers. We are looking forward to deeper ties with UNDP as we progress, and this MoU is a step towards this direction." Reaffirming UNDP's commitment, Ms. Isabelle Tschan, Deputy Resident Representative said, "Agriculture is the largest source of livelihoods in India employing 80% of rural women who are more vulnerable to climate change.



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

No duty cuts on US apple, almond imports: Piyush Goyal

The Centre on 12.09.23 said it had not removed customs duty on apple and almond imports from the US and had put in place measures to prevent cheap imports flooding the Indian market. "There is no duty reduction on apples," Commerce and Industry minister Piyush Goyal said. On the contrary, the government has imposed a minimum import price of ₹50 per kg on imports of apples from all countries except Bhutan. "This will ensure that no one can flood Indian markets and hurt our farmers," Goyal said, adding that India had imposed a 20% retaliatory duty in addition to a 50% import duty on some US imports in view of trade disputes at WTO. Only the retaliatory duty has been removed in view of the resolution of those disputes. India is not self-sufficient in apple production to meet the domestic requirements. Following the decision to resolve six outstanding World Trade Organisation (WTO) disputes between the US and India through Mutually Agreed Solutions in June 2023, India has withdrawn additional duties on eight US origin products, including apples, walnuts and almonds. Additional duties of 20% each on apples and walnuts and ₹20 per kg on almonds were

imposed on the US's products in 2019 over and above the Most Favoured Nation (MFN) duty as a retaliation to the US's state protectionist measure of increasing tariffs on certain steel and aluminium products. There is no reduction in the MFN duty on apples, walnuts and almonds, which still applies to all imported products, including US-origin products.

Agri market body pitches for removal of India's rice trade curbs

The Rome-based Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS) in a note just prior to the G20 leaders' summit in New Delhi said India's export restriction on rice, combined with El Nino-related concerns over rice production in the region, have roiled global markets for the grain, with Thailand prices rising 20% since last month. India, as one of the largest producers of food grains, had banned wheat exports last year and put ban or export taxes on the several varieties of rice, in order to increase domestic supplies. The G20 leaders also agreed against imposition of any export ban or restriction which creates market distortions as per the WTO rules.

NEWS FROM MEMBER BANKS

Gujarat SCARDB

Shri. K.V. Shaji, Chairman NABARD with Shri. Dolar Kotecha, Chairman Gujarat SCARDB and other senior functionaries of the Bank during his visit to Gujarat SCARDB on 01.09.23.



Karnataka SCARDB

Karnataka SCARDB held its 94th General Body Meeting 2022-2023 at Bangalore on 22.09.23.



J & K SCARDB

NABARD CGM RO conducted meeting with J&K SCARDB officials at their head office on 25.09.23 regarding working and existing structure of the bank as per J&K Cooperative Society Act, 1989 and also in conformity with bye-laws of SCARDBs. CGM also deliberated on steps and measures to be taken for the effective functioning of the bank.



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