

FEDERATION NEWS

Special General Body Meeting for Election of Board & Office Bearers

The first meeting of the present Board of Management of the Federation which was reconstituted in the Special General Body Meeting on 27th March 2023 was held at 12.30 pm at Hotel Orchid, Mumbai.

The General Body elected the new Board, all unopposed. The newly elected Board mostly consists of members from the previous Board including Dr. Bijender Singh, Shri. K. Ravinder Rao, Shri. Bijay Kumar Singh, Shri. Moinul

Hassan, etc. Notable new faces in the Board include Shri. Suresh Kumar Goyal, Chairman, Punjab SCADB and Shri. Shivaram, Director, Karnataka SCARDB.

The Board also elected Shri. Dolar Kotecha (Gujarat SCARDB) as Chairman of the Federation. It is a term continuation for Shri. Kotecha who was elected as interim Chairman in July, 2022. Shri. R. Parimelazhagan (Chairman, TN CSARDB), Shri. Suresh Kumar Goyal (Chairman, Punjab SCADB) and Shri. Moinul Hassan (Special Officer, WB SCARDB) were also elected as Vice Chairmen.



Study on Reforms, Restructuring and Innovations in ARDBs

Govt of India has instituted a study on Reform, Restructuring and Innovations in ARDBs, through NABCONS, the consultancy wing of NABARD. NABCONS has constituted an expert team under the leadership of Shri Arvind Kumar Srivastava to undertake the study. Leader of the study team along with 2 Project Directors, Shri R. Srinivasan and Shri P.A. Premakumar visited Federation office on 3rd March, 2023 and held detailed discussion on the terms of reference of the study with Shri K.K. Ravindran, Managing Director, Federation and representatives of select member banks who joined the discussions online. The team will be visiting all SCARDBs in all states in the course of next few weeks and will submit

its reports within 3 months. The report of the study team is expected to be the basis of the revival package for LTCCs being implemented by the Govt.

Shri K.K. Ravindran, Managing Director, NAFCARD welcoming Shri A.K. Srivastava, Leader of the Study Team during their visit to Federation's office on 3rd March, 2023.





Computerisation of ARDBs

The Ministry of Cooperation has given in-principle approval for the proposal submitted by the Federation for Computerization of ARDBs. The computerization scheme will cover 1851 operational units under 13 fully functional SCARDBs. The Ministry of Cooperation held a meeting on 18th November, 2022 regarding Computerization of ARDBs, which has attended by representatives of NABARD, NAFCARD and the Ministry. The meeting decided to prepare a national level scheme for computerization of ARDBs in the lines of the computerization of PACS using the same software

platform being developed for PACS. In this meeting, it was decided that the NAFCARD would prepare a proposal scheme indicating state-wise specific requirements. Apart from common software and hardware the scheme will also cover digitalization of records, data migration, data centre and connectivity with linkage to NABARD and Ministry for easy and faster access to data at national level. The Federation in consultation with NABARD submitted a detailed proposal regarding computerization of ARDBs to the Ministry in January 2023. It is expected that the computerization scheme will be fully implemented during 2023-24 with required approvals by Central and State Govts concerned.

NEWS FROM MEMBER BANKS

Gujarat SCARDB



Shri Dollar Kotecha, Chairman welcomes the study team from NABCONS during their visit to GSCARD Bank on 17th April, 2023.

Uttar Pradesh SGVB



Visit of the Study team to Uttar Pradesh Sahakari Gram Vikas Bank Ltd. on 24 March, 2023.

Tamil Nadu CSARDB



The Study team constituted by Govt of India on Reforms, Restructuring & Innovations in ARDBs called on Dr. J. Radhakrishnan, Principle Secretary

and Cooperation during their visit to Tamil Nadu.

Himachal Pradesh SCARDB



The NABCONS Study team on reforms, restructuring and innovations in ARDBs, set up by Govt. of India, visited HPSCARDB on 26-04-2023 and held

discussions with Shri Sanjay Singh Chauhan, Chairman, Shri Sachin Kanwal, Managing Director and section heads of the bank.

Meeting of the Study Team with Officials of Tamil Nadu CSARDB on 11.04.2023. Shri R. Parimelazagan, President and Shri AG ChandrSekar, Managing Director along with the members of the Study team.



Changes in Banks/New Appointments

Shri Gulpreet Singh Aulakh, IAS has assumed charge as Managing Director of the Punjab State Cooperative Agricultural Development Bank Ltd., Chandigarh w.e.f. 31st March, 2023.

Financial Results of Member Banks

• Gujarat SCARDB



Shri Dollar Kotecha, Chairman GSCARD Bank announcing the Annual financial results of the bank for the year 2022-23 at the Special Board meeting of the bank

convened on 31st March 2023. The bank made a record net profit of ₹ 52 crores during the year. The bank almost

West Bengal SCARDB



The Study team visited West Bengal SCARDB on 13 April 2023 and held discussions with Shri Moinul Hassan, Special Officer and

Shri Manasij Mukhopadhyay, Managing Director.



doubled its annual advances and also amount of loan recovery compared to the previous year.

• **Telangana SCAB:**

During the year 2022-23, TSCAB's Deposits increased to ₹7402.91 cr. with 6.64% increase. Business Turnover rose to

₹ 19021.39 with 16.86% surge. TSCAB's Gross Profit (Profit Before Tax) soared to ₹142.68 cr. with a 41.43% increment and the Profit After Tax also elevated to ₹ 96.31 cr. with 34.62% shoot up. Percentage of Gross NPAs came down to 0.09 to 0.02 bps and percentage of Net NPAs was 0.00 to 0.00 bps respectively as on 31-03-2023.

COOPERATIVE NEWS

NAFED roped in for promotion of millets

The Agriculture Ministry said it has roped in NAFED for promotion of the government's millets initiative at global scale, including installation of millet vending machines and setting up of an experience center in Delhi-NCR.

Nano urea could save ₹ 25,000 cr in fertiliser's subsidy annually: House panel

A parliamentary panel said that precise application of nano-urea at critical crop growth stages can replace 25-50% of usage of conventional application of soil nutrient thus resulting in savings on fertiliser subsidy. "With the use of nano urea, the exchequer can save \$3 billion equivalent to around ₹ 25,000 crore in subsidy bill per year considering subsidy of approximately ₹ 20,000 per metric tonne of urea," the panel on 'nano-fertiliser for sustainable crop production and maintaining soil health' has said in a report. Expressing concern about continuous increase in the import of urea over the years which rose from 5.48 million tonne (MT) in 2016-17 to 9.8 MT in 2020-21, the panel has stated that subsidy burden on account of urea import constitutes 26% of the overall urea subsidy paid in a year by the government. The commercial production of nano urea commenced on August 1, 2021 by India Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative (IFFCO) and Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers (RCF). Soil nutrient in liquid form provides

nitrogen to plants as an alternative to conventional urea. A 500 ml bottle of nano urea is equivalent to a 45 kg bag of conventional urea. The government is aiming to increase the current annual production capacity of nano urea from the 50 million bottle (550 ml each) to 440 million bottles by 2025 thus would stop import of soil nutrient variety.

Rajasthan CM approves interest subsidy for first-ever women's cooperative fund

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot approved a proposal for giving 8% interest subsidy on loans obtained by the members of women's self-help groups (SHGs) from Mahila Nidhi, the State's first-ever women's cooperative fund. The financial institutions has been extending timely loan facility for women enterprises. Mahila Nidhi established in Jaipur in August 2022 is operated entirely by women and acts as a complementary body with the formal banking system. It has significantly brought down the number of loan applications by women pending in the banks, as they have been getting easy and adequate loans for their daily needs and self-employment form the fund. The financial institution in the cooperative sector has given membership to all cluster-level federations functioning in the villages. It has been set up on the pattern of Telangana's Stree Nidhi Credit Cooperative Federation.

AGRICULTURE NEWS

No shortage of fertilizers for kharif season: Mandaviya

Union Chemicals and Fertilizers Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said, "There was no shortage of fertilizers for the upcoming kharif season. There was adequate stock of urea on account of the long-term supply agreements the Ministry had with several producers abroad. On diammonium phosphate (DAP), more imports would be needed during the season. The stocks available in the country at the start of April and the estimated domestic production between April and September would be sufficient to meet the projected requirement during the kharif season."

Indian Army soldiers will get millets in ration

Indian Army introduces millets to soldier rations as a nod towards the UN's International Year of Millets 2023. Soldiers will now be supplied with traditional and native grains after a gap of over half a century, following the

discontinuation of millets in favour of Wheat Atta. The incorporation of millet into soldiers' daily meals is expected to mitigate lifestyle diseases and enhance morale. The government has been requested to sanction the procurement of millet flour not exceeding 25% of the authorised entitlement of cereals (rice and wheat atta) in rations for troops starting in the year 2023-24.

No let-up in elevated milk prices seen this summer

Milk prices will likely remain elevated through this summer, due to a supply crunch and high cost of feed, making 'milk and products' a key driver of inflation, when the generalised price pressures are expected to gradually ease. Low supplies and the drying up of stocks in the form of skimmed milk powder, butter and ghee could necessitate tariff reduction to facilitate imports. Inflation in milk and products, which has significant weight of 6.61% in the consumer price index (CPI), has been rising since April last year and stood at 9.65% in February, 2023.



Jute MSP hiked by 6%, move to benefit 4 million farmers

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved a 6% hike in minimum support price (MSP) for raw jute for the 2023-24 season to ₹ 5,050/quintal compared to the previous season. The hike is in line with the principle of fixing the MSP at a level of at least 1.5 times all-India weighted average of cost of production as announced in Budget 2018-19.

Unseasonal rain expected to increase prices of commodities in short supply

Prices of everyday essentials like wheat, jeera, chana and some fruits and vegetables are expected to increase as the unseasonal rainfall has damaged the crops. Unseasonal rainfall is expected to increase prices of commodities in short supply and reduce the returns for farmers in commodities that are perishable and where farmers have lost their crop. Wheat prices jumped 4% on news of heavy rainfall in wheat growing areas. The arrival of the new crop of wheat will be delayed by 10-15 days, which will keep the prices firm. Wheat production is also expected to fall by 3-4% because of the widespread rainfall in wheat growing states like Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Bihar and Maharashtra. Prices of jeera, which were already ruling at record high levels, have moved upwards during past 3/4 days by 6-7% as the harvest ready crop has been damaged in Rajasthan. Madhya Pradesh is the largest producer of chana in the country, where about half of the crop still standing in the fields will be damaged. This rainfall is expected to substantially reduce the disposable surplus in the hands of the farmers.

Farmers anxious as IMD predicts more rain in April

Fairly widespread rain accompanied by strong winds during the past 48 hours and more rains expected in coming days in the country's key grain-producing states Punjab and Haryana have left farmers and experts worried as they fear the inclement weather conditions could adversely damage the wheat crop, almost ready for harvesting. It has also predicted a fresh western disturbance approaching the region during the upcoming week, which could bring in more rain.

Assam govt. distributes ₹ 64 crore as special incentive to 370 tea estates

The Assam government distributed ₹ 64 crore as a special incentive scheme among 370 tea estates, to mitigate the adverse impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the beverage industry. Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma also announced a subsidy of ₹12/kg of orthodox tea fixed for fiscal 2023-24, to mark the 200th year of commercial cultivation of tea in Assam. The tea industry was the backbone of the economy of Assam, contributing to nearly 90% of the gross export value and providing direct or indirect employment avenues to more than a million people.

Govt to buy 300K tn onion in Rabi Season

Union Minister Piyush Goyal announced that the government agencies will buy 300,000 tonne of onion once the winter harvest starts coming in, the overall buying of the rabi harvest stood at 250,000 tonne.

Public participation sought for Senna eradication in Wayanad

Farmer organisations are mounting pressure on the government to ensure public participation for the eradication of *Senna spectabilis*, an invasive plant species posing serious threat to wildlife habitat in the Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary (WWS). The ₹5.31-crore project is being executed in 1,672 hectares of the 12,300 hectares of forestland under the Muthanga and Kurichayad forest ranges of the WWS with financial assistance from the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD). The project envisages eradicating Senna by girdling trees above 10-cm girth and uprooting those below that size.

Centre eases wheat procurement norms in Madhya Pradesh

With unseasonal rains having delayed the harvesting of wheat crops and impacting grain quality, the government relaxed norms for grains with lustre losses above 10% to be purchased from farmers in Madhya Pradesh with a marginal value cut of only

₹ 5.31/quintal against the minimum support price (MSP) of ₹ 2125/quintal. This relaxation in norms would help farmers against distress sale of the grain which has been impacted by rains. The food ministry in a directive to Madhya Pradesh has stated that wheat procured under relaxed norms to be stacked and accounted for separately, will have to be liquidated on priority basis.

Governments chana procurement tops 1 mt

Gram (chana) has 0.6% weightage in retail food inflation. Inflation in chana declined by 1.63% on year in March 2023. A major chunk of the country's production of chana goes into further processing for producing gram flour (besan). Prices are currently ruling in the range of ₹ 4,800/- 5,100/- quintal. The pace of procurement of chana, under the agriculture ministry's price support scheme for the 2023 rabi season has gathered momentum, but mandi prices have been ruling below the minimum support price (MSP) of ₹ 5,335/quintal. Traders say that higher carry-forward stock from the previous year, with Nafed and farmers still holding onto stock in anticipation of higher prices later, is keeping mandi prices below the MSP level. Prices are currently ruling in the range of ₹ 4,800-5,100 per quintal. Total purchases from farmers have crossed 1 million tonne (MT). Nafed is likely to procure around 2 MT of chana by the end of the month. As per the Nafed data, the value of the total chana procured from 500,000 farmers by paying MSP has been ₹ 5,349 crore. Despite the government procurement through Nafed and suspension of open



market sale of the previous year's stock by it, chana prices are still trading below the MSP. The Nafed has so far purchased 0.44 MT of chana from farmers in Maharashtra, 0.19 MT in Gujarat, 0.18 MT in Madhya Pradesh, 0.06 MT in Karnataka and 0.05 MT in Telangana. Currently, against the government's buffer stock norm of 2.3 MT, Nafed had 2.2 MT of pulses. According to the agriculture ministry's second advance estimate, chana production is pegged at a record 13.63 MT for the 2022-23 crop year (July-June) accounting for around 50% share in the country's pulses production. A major chunk of the country's production of chana goes into further processing for producing gram flour (besan). Meanwhile, out of 1.5 MT of chana offered to states from the buffer stock, at a discounted price of ₹ 8/kg, for distribution through the social sector programme last year, around 1 MT has been procured by states including Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. In August last year, the Cabinet had approved the disposal of 1.5 MT of chana from the surplus buffer stock for distribution through various social sector schemes the public distribution system, mid-day meal schemes, etc, to create space for pulses to be procured in the current season. The Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACPC), in its report on price policy for rabi crops for the marketing season 2022-23, has stated that Nafed often offloads pulses in the market at discounted prices and this leads to a sharp decline in market prices of the commodity. The commission has stated it was highly desirable to fix a reserve price that is linked to MSP, for disposal of stocks similar to wheat and rice, under the Open Market Sale Scheme being implemented by the Food Corporation of India.

India needs to raise maize output to 44-45 million tonnes in 5 years to meet demand.

The Centre said the country's maize output needs to be increased to 44-45 million tonnes in the next five years amid growing demand for the grain for ethanol production and poultry industry. Union agriculture secretary Manoj Ahuja, speaking at the 9th India Maize Summit organised by industry body FICCI, also stressed on the need to cut down the losses in the entire value chain of maize in a systematic manner. Currently, maize production in the country is in the range of 33-34 million tonnes. We need a quantity jump in the maize to 44-45 million tonnes in the next five years in order to meeting the rising demand for ethanol and the poultry industry. There is vast potential to harness the maize value chain. Making better seed availability, providing storage and marketing linkages, public and private partnerships, among others, should be focused on amid growing threat of climate change. Addressing the event, Maharashtra agriculture minister Abdul Sattar said the state government is ready to support the private players that are keen to invest in the value chain of maize, especially ethanol, in Maharashtra. Maize can be used for ethanol making in the state as this would enhance the income of the farmers. Private companies must set up

warehouses in the state, which would help maize growers hold their stocks and sell later when prices are better.

NITI Aayog suggests states to formulate specific AgriTech policy to promote start-ups

The NITI Aayog has suggested states to formulate their specific AgriTech policy to promote agriculture-based start-ups while enabling digitalisation of licensing regime, ensuring access of quality data and last mile connectivity to such start-ups to expand operations. In its white paper the Aayog said that the agritech solutions available in the market are making the lives of smallholders better by improving access to quality input, access to market, reducing risks, access to information, and a host of other products and services, resulting in improved productivity and price realisation. Still, the agritech start-ups are not scaling up as fast as the start-ups in other sectors as they face challenges regarding access to quality data, regulations and the absence of agriculture-related infrastructure.

Feeding inflation: Milk prices will keep rising with production flattening last fiscal

Rising milk prices exemplify the stubbornness of food inflation in the country which is the world's largest producer of this commodity. India also has the largest cattle population. Retail prices for milk rose by 9.31% in March from 4.7% in March 2022. Organised players have hiked prices several times in FY 23. Further increases are in prospect during the summer months ahead when milk yields decline due to heat stress and reduced availability of green fodder while demand for dairy products remains high. For the first time since 2011, India may resort to importing products like butter and ghee as their stocks are lower than in the previous fiscal. Milk production too flattened last fiscal after steadily rising over the decades. For a sense of perspective, annual milk production at 222 million tonnes is close to the output of rice and wheat and is an important source of household income for small and marginal farmers. Dairy is a critical part of the livestock sector which contributes 30% to gross value added in agriculture. Along with allied activities like forestry and fishing, livestock contributes significantly to the buoyancy and resilience of agricultural growth. This sector employs more than 80 million farmers according to the latest Economic Survey. Stagnant production and the likelihood that it would not meet elevated summer demand will only worsen milk inflation. Milk prices are on a rising trajectory for several reasons. A proximate factor relates to Covid-induced disruptions in the breeding cycle and outbreak of lumpy skin disease. The nationwide pandemic restrictions triggered a sudden demand contraction for a few months since March-April 2020 which led dairies to slash procurement prices. Farmers responded by reducing the size of their herds and underfeeding calves and pregnant



cattle as lower prices did not cover the costs of feeding them. Calves born during that period, which are now lactating cows and buffalos, have low milk yields. During this period, there was also deterioration of veterinary services, including artificial insemination. The lumpy skin disease led to the death of an estimated 75,000 cattle and lower milk output from infected animals across several states. However, as veterinary services return to pre-pandemic normalcy they can address future outbreaks of disease. The more important factor behind high prices is the shortage-driven doubling of the cost of fodder and dry feed. This problem is a longstanding one and unlikely to recede in importance. Feed accounts for two-thirds of the cost of milk production. Wholesale fodder inflation rose to 24% in February, sharply up from 7.14% recorded in January 2022. To tackle milk inflation, the upshot is that fodder shortages must be addressed on a war footing. An appropriate policy response must be fashioned on updated estimates of the shortages of green, dry fodder and concentrated feed as there are varying estimates in the literature. A complicating factor is that the area under fodder production is coming under relentless pressure from population growth. The policy challenge is also that the bulk of milk output comes from the unorganized sector where the animals feed off public pastures and village commons which are in a state of neglect. A big difference can be made by involving local communities in the maintenance and upkeep of such lands. Unless this is done, milk prices will keep rising despite the country being the world's largest producer.

Revamped Fasal Bima from Kharif 2023

The government will implement a revamped Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) from Kharif 2023 season, where insurers' concerns about profitability will be addressed, even as the subsidy burden on the government will be capped. Thrust on the use of artificial intelligence (AI) based technologies for timely assessment of crop yield data and resultant quicker claim settlement will be the other key features of the renewed crop insurance scheme. The need for revamping the scheme arose because a rise in premium rates have inflated subsidy liability of the government, forcing many state governments to discontinue the scheme. The states will now have the option to choose between two 'Cup and Cap' models where the insurance companies would have to pay claims to farmers, within two bands 60-130% and 80-110% of the gross premium collected. If the claims are below 60% or 80% of gross premium, the companies would refund the premium amount to the government, while if the claims exceed 130% or 110% of premium, the government would compensate the companies. At present, there is no fixed premium rate under PMFBY implemented by states. The rates vary from area to area and from crop to crop. Actuarial premium rates levied by the insurance companies are determined through

bidding conducted by the states. The new guidelines seek to "universalise" the scheme, with measures including digitised land records, farm level season-wise crop data, farm-level farmer's KYC and application programme interface (API) based data exchange. In an advisory, the agriculture ministry has stated that as it may take some more time for the approval of revised guidelines for the crop insurance scheme. It asked the states and UTs to prepare tender documents so that the insurance companies may act on the work plans for crop cycles between kharif-2023 and Rabi 2025-26. The claim-premium ratio which was 98.3% in 2018-19 has declined to 54.6% in 2021-22 the claims for the FY22 are still being settled. Since the launch of the PMFBY in Kharif 2016, the gross premium collected has been around ₹ 1.7 trillion till the end of FY22, against reported claims of ₹ 1.33 trillion. During 2016-17 till 2021-22, ₹ 25,181 crore have been paid by farmers as the premium, while the balance was paid by the government. The agriculture ministry has recommended use of crop simulation model, semi-physical model and ensemble and crop health factor models for timely assessment of crop yield data for prompt claims settlement and introduction of competitive bidding for premium quotes from insurers. It has proposed setting up of a national-level network of automatic weather stations and rain gauges and creating a platform for generation of long-term hyper local weather data information for crop insurance, agriculture advisory and disaster risk resilience needs. The coverage under the scheme implemented by around 10 state-owned and private insurance companies has been around 30% of the gross cropped area of the 20 states and UTs which are implementing it. In 2021-22, 83 million farmers had applied for crop insurance and 45.9 million hectare were covered. States such as Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal and Gujarat had dropped out of the scheme because of the high costs. Andhra Pradesh has re-joined the scheme from the Kharif 2022 season and Punjab will be joining the scheme from Kharif 2023. In a major change in the policy in early 2020, the crop insurance scheme was made optional for the farmers, while earlier farmers who used to avail loans compulsorily had to take crop insurance. Under PMFBY, 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. The balance premium is equally shared amongst the Centre and states and in case of North-Eastern states, the premium is split between the Centre and states in a 9:1 ratio. The government has allocated ₹ 13,625 crore for implementation of PMFBY in 2023-24. Ten insurance companies, both the public and private sectors, are implementing the scheme.

Agri trade on e-platform up a third to ₹ 75k cr in FY23

With more farmers, traders and farmers producers organisations (FPOS) starting to use the electronic



National Agriculture Market (e-NAM), which digitally integrates wholesale markets, the turnover of the e-NAM trade rose by 32% to ₹ 74,656 crore in 2022-23 compared to the previous fiscal. After seven years since the launch of e-NAM platform, farmers and buyers are increasingly using it for trade both within and outside the states. The turnover on the platform is expected to cross ₹ 1 trillion in the current fiscal. In FY22, the turnover on the e-platform was ₹ 56,497 crore while in the previous fiscal, sales worth of ₹ 31,366 crore were reported. The annual trade in farm

goods, excluding milk and marine products, is seen to be in excess of ₹ 5 trillion. In FY23, 18.6 million tonne of agricultural and allied sector commodities were traded on e-NAM platform, which was 41% more than 13.2 MT traded in the previous fiscal. The increase in e-NAM trade volume indicates that this platform, aimed at improving market access of farmers and creating a unified national market for agricultural produce, has reached a scale to make a meaningful difference in farmers' income.

NEWS & NOTES

G20 talks to steer towards consensus for agri growth

Union Minister Som Prakash said that discussions at the second Agriculture Deputies Meeting (ADM) of the agriculture working group will steer towards developing a consensus on the way forward for the growth of the sector. The three day meeting of the G20 agricultural working group commenced in Chandigarh where participants were discussing various issues including sustainable agriculture, food security and nutrition with a climate smart approach.

Small savings rates hiked by 10-70 bps for Q1FY24

The Centre raised interest rates on most small savings schemes by 10-70 basis points (bps) for April-June 2023, with the sharpest 70 bps increase for the National Savings Certificate (NSC), reflecting transmission of policy rate hikes by Reserve Bank of India (RBI). After a gap of 11 quarters, the interest rate on Sukanya Samridhi Account Scheme for the girl child was also raised by 40 bps to 8%. However, the rate for the other popular tax-free scheme Public Provident Fund (PPF) was kept at 7.1%, unchanged for 12 quarters in a row.

ICA NEWS

A historic moment as the UN General Assembly adopts the first resolution on the social and solidarity economy

Following the events organised in July and December 2022 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, the United Nations has adopted the first Resolution on promoting the social and solidarity economy (SSE) for sustainable development during the General Assembly held today. As an observer of the UN Task Force on the Social and Solidarity Economy, the International Cooperative Alliance has been part of the discussion over the last few years and welcomes this important step in mainstreaming and enhancing the international

dimension and profile of the SSE.

"This is a historic moment for the SSE family. The cooperative movement has been one of the main institutional pillars constituting the SSE ever since its origins in the 1830s, and has been actively engaged in the modern revival of the SSE concept. We believe the resolution will be a key instrument in increasing the visibility of the SSE and providing the opportunity for a focused exchange of knowledge and learning by member states, guiding UN agencies on SSE priority areas of work and documenting our contributions to sustainable development", said Ariel Guarco, President of the ICA.

MOC - SOCIAL MEDIA NEWS



Cabinet approves setting up of a national level multi-state cooperative organic society under Multi-State Cooperative Societies (MSCS) Act, 2002

The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Hon'ble Prime Minister

Shri Narendra Modi, has approved a historic decision of setting up and promoting a national level cooperative society for organic products under Multi State Cooperative Societies (MSCS) Act, 2002 with support from relevant Ministries especially the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Ministry of Food Processing Industries, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (M/Doner) through their schemes and agencies following the 'Whole of the Government Approach'.

The Prime Minister has observed that all efforts should be made to leverage the strengths of cooperatives and transform them into successful and vibrant business enterprises to realize the vision of "Sahakar-se-Samridhi". It is thus imperative for the cooperatives to think globally and act locally to leverage their comparative advantage.



PACS to APEX: Primary to national level cooperatives societies including primary societies, district, state and national level federations and multi state cooperative societies and Farmers Producer Organisations (FPOs) can become its Member. All these cooperatives will have their elected representatives in the Board of the society as per its bye-laws.

The cooperative society will manage various activities related to organic sector by providing certified and authentic organic products. It will help in unlocking demand and consumption potential of organic products in domestic as well as in global markets. This society will

also help cooperatives and ultimately their farmer members in getting benefits of high price of organic products through aggregation, branding and marketing on large scale by facilitating testing and certification at affordable cost.

The society will manage entire supply chain of organic products produced by cooperatives and related entities through member cooperatives. It will utilize the services of national cooperative export society being set up under MSCS Act, 2002 for export marketing and thereby enhance reach and demand of organic products in global market.

20 Major Steps taken by Govt.

20 Major Steps taken by the govt to strengthen the cooperatives

- Computerization of PACS
- Model byelaws for PACS
- PACS as Common Service Centres (CSC)
- National Cooperative Database
- National Cooperative Policy
- Amendment of MSCS Act, 2002
- National Cooperative Development Corporation
- Member Lending Institutions in Credit Guarantee Fund Trust
- Cooperatives as 'buyers' on GeM portal
- Reduction in surcharge on cooperative societies
- Reduction in Minimum Alternate Tax
- Relief under Section 269ST of IT Act
- Lowering tax rate for new Cooperative Manufacturing Units
- Increase in limit of deposits and loans in cash by PACS and PCARDBs
- Increase in limit for TDS
- Relief to Sugar Cooperative Mills
- Resolution of chronic pending issues of Sugar Cooperative Mills
- New National Multi-State Cooperative Seed Society
- New National Multi-State Cooperative Organic Society
- New National Multi-State Cooperative Export Society

Computerization of PACS

Computerization of PACS will help in expanding PACS's outreach as outlets for banking activities as well as non-banking activities. Further, it will promote digitalization in various rural and remote areas.

Computerization of PACS
Empowering Cooperatives, improving their economic activities, Encouraging digital India

Principles of cooperatives

Cooperatives work in accordance with 7 fundamental principles of cooperatives.

7 Principles of Cooperation

- 01 Voluntary and Open Membership
- 02 Democratic Member Control
- 03 Member Economic Participation
- 04 Autonomy and Independence
- 05 Education, Training and Information
- 06 Cooperation among Cooperatives
- 07 Concern for Community

MSCS Amendments Act, 2002,

Recent amendments in the MSCS Act, 2002, will help cooperatives in becoming transparent, accountable and promote ease of doing business. These amendments will address several issues of malfunctioning that were observed within various Multi-State Cooperative Societies, such as Financial Embezzlements, delay and disputes in elections, and biased elections.

MSCS Act amendments 2022
Challenges addressed

- Financial Embezzlements
- Delay and Disputes in Elections
- Biased elections.