

FEDERATION NEWS

171st Board Meeting of the Federation

The 171st Meeting of Board of Management of the Federation was held at 12 Noon on 29 May 2023 in the Board Room of NAFED HO, Ashram Chowk, New Delhi.



NAFCARD seeks representation in NABARD's Board

The policies and operations of NABARD have great bearing on the working of ARDBs. NABARD's mandate with respect to ARDBs include both financing institutional development and regulatory functions. Proper understanding, recognition and appreciation of the problems in the sector at the highest decision making level in NABARD are required to perform these functions. To facilitate this, NABARD Act provides for including persons having knowledge and experience in rural cooperative credit structure for nominating to its Board of Directors. However, no representative of the cooperative sector has been nominated to the NABARD Board so far except a representative of LTCCS for a brief period in late 80s.

On the above background, Shri Dolar Kotecha, Chairman of the Federation had written a letter to Shri Amit Shah, Hon'ble Minister of Home and Cooperation for considering nominating a representative of LTCCS to the Board of Directors of NABARD.

Shri Amit Shah, in response to the letter, has informed that the matter has been forwarded to concerned departments for necessary action.

Updates on Computerization of ARDBs

Federation in consultation with NABARD submitted a

proposal to Govt of India for Computerization of ARDBs in January 2023. Subsequently, Ministry of Cooperation held an on-line meeting on 17th April 2023 to discuss about certain important changes in the norms for extending financial assistance to ARDBs for computerization from what was discussed earlier. The Federation after a meeting with Ministry of Cooperation on 9th May 2023 has again submitted revised proposals based on modified unit cost and unit-wise requirement of hardware and accessories. It is proposed that common software developed for PACS, which has all the modules required for ARDBs including long term loans, deposits, recovery etc. can be used with customization. Following are the components of the computerization scheme proposed.

- Software customization cost
- Cost of data center services
- Cost of hardware and accessories
- Cost of digitization and support system
- Training

ARDBs are required to bear 25% of the cost of hardware and accessories as well as digitization and support system and all other costs are borne by the Central and State Govts together.

Supreme Court Order regarding Income Tax Relief to Cooperative Credit Societies under Section 80P (2)

Section 80(P) of Income Tax Act provides for tax exemptions to cooperative societies in their business with members. However, the Income Tax Act was amended in 2007-08 to introduce section 80P (4) which restricts tax relief under section 80P only to cooperatives which are not engaged in any banking activities. After the above amendment, the income tax department has been making tax assessment on all kinds of cooperatives engaged in providing credit to their members on the ground that advancing loans or credit is a banking function. Though the tax demand of income tax department in many such cases were set aside by tribunals and also high courts, the Supreme Court of India did not give a final verdict in the matter at any time before. The Commissioner of Income Tax, Mumbai filed a civil appeal No.8719/2022 challenging the order of Mumbai High Court which quashed its tax demand on Quepem



Urban Cooperative Credit Society Ltd. In its judgement on the appeal petition filed by the income tax department, the Supreme Court has observed that “By merely giving credit to its members only cannot be said to be the Cooperative Banks/Banks under the Banking Regulation Act. The Banking activities under the Banking Regulation Act are altogether different activities. There is a vast difference between credit societies giving credit to their own members only and the Banks providing banking services including the credit to the public at large also”. Taking into consideration the CBDT circulars and even the definition of Bank under the Banking Regulation Act, the

respondent and assessee cannot be said to be a Cooperative Bank/Bank and therefore section 80P (4) shall not be applicable and that the respondent/assessee shall be entitled to exemption/benefit under section 80P (2) of the Income Tax Act. The above judgement has wider implications on on-going disputes between ARDBs and income tax authorities in various States. The Supreme Court has taken a clear view that a credit cooperative which is not defined as a Bank under the Banking Regulation Act cannot be denied the benefit of section 80P. This decision is equally applicable to ARDBs which are also credit cooperatives without banking licence.

COOPERATIVE NEWS

Sahkar se Samridhi: Govt assigns NCDC task of forming additional FPOs



The Government has announced formation of additional 1100 Farmer Producers Organisations (FPOs) in Cooperative Sector as part of realising Prime Minister's vision of “Sahakar Se Samridhi”. These FPOs are being promoted by NCDC and will be in addition to formation of 10,000 FPOs already promoted by NCDC, NABARD and Small Farmers Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC). Each of these new FPOs will be extended financial assistance of ₹33.00 lakhs each under the FPO scheme of Ministry of Agriculture Farmers Welfare. The FPO scheme will facilitate Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) and Primary Cooperative Agriculture & Rural Development Banks (PCARDBs), which are primarily engaged in providing credit and distribution of inputs like seeds and fertilizers to expand their business into areas like storage, processing and marketing. This initiative will ensure remunerative prices to farmers for their produce by providing them necessary market linkages. This, along with various other initiatives undertaken by the Ministry of Cooperation for strengthening of cooperative movement in the country, will enable cooperative sector in general and PACS in particular, to generate alternative sources of revenues for their members, thus transforming themselves into viable, dynamic and financially sustainable economic entities.

Co-op Secretary visits GUJCOMASOL; calls it a role model

Union govt. Cooperative Secretary Gyanesh Kumar visited

the headquarters of Gujarat State Cooperative Marketing Federation called GUJCOMASOL located in Gandhi Nagar and apprised himself of the working of the co-op body. Kumar was received by renowned co-operator and Chairman of Gujcomasol Dileep Sanghani, Vice-Chairman Bipin Patel and several departmental heads of



Gujcomasol. Gyanesh was visibly impressed by the working of the marketing co-operative federation and felt that state federations across India should follow its model. Secretary also mentioned about the record dividend of 22% paid to member marketing societies by Gujcomasol last year. Gyanesh Kumar said that he plans to hold a national seminar of all the state co-op marketing federations in Delhi sooner than later where the Gujcomasol model will be discussed at length.

(Source: Indian Cooperative)

Shah takes up Coop Banking Case with FM

Shri Amit Shah, Union Home and Cooperation Minister recently had a Meeting with Union Finance Minister, Smt.



Nirmala Sitharaman on possible measures to overcome problems faced by Cooperative Banking in accordance with the policy of the Government of India to treat Cooperatives on par with other economic entities, particularly in the banking sector. The representatives of NAFCUB including Chairman Shri Jyotindra Mehta apprised the Ministers the issues faced by Urban Cooperative Banks. Shri Gyanesh Kumar, Secretary, Ministry of Cooperation also participated in the Meeting.

(Source: The Cooperator: April 2023)

Doubling the Income of Farmers through Cooperatives: Amit Shah

The Union Home & Cooperation Minister Amit Shah has said that the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given a target to double the income of the farmers with the help of cooperatives and the government is moving forward on it at a fast pace. He was addressing a program at Rishikul grounds in Haridwar recently. In the program, Shah inaugurated the computerization of all the PACS in the state. He said that the Uttarakhand Government has implemented all the incentives given by the union government in the cooperative sector in the state. Shah said that the process of computerization of the PACS in India started in Uttarakhand in October 2021 and after 17 months all the 670 PACS in the state have been computerized now. Appreciating the efforts of Uttarakhand's Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami and State Cooperative Minister Dhan Singh Rawat, the Union Minister said that work on 95 MPACS has also started in the

state. Shah said that Uttarakhand has become the first state where Jan Aushadhi Kendra (JAK) have been associated with the cooperative societies. He said that PM Modi made a separate department of cooperatives in 75 years to bring prosperity from the cooperative mission and all 63,000 PACS of the country have been computerized. Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami said that the tradition of cooperatives is very old in India and it encourages cooperation instead of competition. The CM said the state government has taken many major decisions such as bringing anti-copying law, uniform civil code, law against religious conversions, sports policy and education policy implementation in the last one year. State Cooperative Minister Dhan Singh Rawat said that with the guidance of Shah and leadership of Dhami all the cooperative societies in Uttarakhand have been made online and the state has become the first in the country to have this distinction.

(Source : The Cooperator – April 2023)

NCUI holding 17th Indian Cooperative Congress

The National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI) will be holding 17th Indian Cooperative Congress during 1st – 2nd July 2023 in New Delhi. Shri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister will be the Chief Guest at the Congress. The theme of the Congress is "Amritkaal – Prosperity through Cooperation for a Vibrant India". The Congress is expected to be participated by around 2000 delegates representing Cooperative Movement in India and abroad.

AGRICULTURE NEWS

El Nino contingency plan being readied for farmers & output

The government is putting in place a contingency plan to mitigate harm and protect farmers and farm output as chances of El Nino in the monsoon this year rises. The ministry of agriculture and farmers' welfare has set up a system for specific advisory services and forecasts for the main agricultural belt of the country based on different rainfall scenarios. It will also come out with agromet advisories specific to different regions to help farmers take appropriate steps to mitigate any damage to crops. It is in constant touch with the India Meteorological Department (IMD) to prepare a specific plan of action for each region in the country. According to the forecast by the official weather office, some areas of northwest India, parts of west-central, and some pockets of northeast India are likely to receive normal to below normal rainfall this year. The situation is constantly monitored despite the chances of El Nino, the weather office has predicted a normal rainfall this monsoon season. IMD has predicted a "normal" monsoon in the country this year with a 70% probability of El Nino in the June, July, and August this season and the probability rises to 80% in July, August and

September. However, the IMD also clarified that about 40% of the El Nino years in the past, from 1951 to 2022, were years with normal or above normal monsoon rainfall.

MSP wheat purchases up 38% on year in April

With a significant increase in wheat procurement by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) and state agencies which has given a boost to stocks, the food ministry will be initiating open market sale of the grain on a quarterly basis from July for the first time. As per earlier policy, FCI had been selling surplus wheat to bulk buyers such as flour millers and food companies during the lean season (January-March). Through initiating open market sales on a quarterly basis, the government is aiming to intervene in the market in case of any spike in wheat prices. During April, 2023, the government agencies have purchased more than 22 million tonne (MT) of wheat under the Minimum Support Price (MSP) operations, which is an increase of 38% on year. In the current procurement season (April-June), the total wheat purchase by agencies is likely to exceed 26 MT, while around 18.4 MT of the grain is required annually for supplying to beneficiaries of the National Food Security Act. On April 1, FCI had a wheat stock of 8.34 MT, against the buffer norm of 7.46 MT.



PDS & climate-smart agriculture

The department of food and public distribution (DoF&PD) and, in particular, the Food Corporation of India (FCI) heaved a sigh of relief that the procurement of wheat so far has crossed 20 million tonnes (mt), a notch higher than last year. 3 states, Punjab, Haryana and Madhya Pradesh (MP) have contributed more than 98% to the central pool. In Punjab and MP, post assessment the overall procurement of wheat has stopped between 25-30 mt. In Khanna market in Punjab, which is supposed to be Asia's largest grain market, almost 80% of the purchases are being made by private trade.

Heatwave: Crop losses to be large; wheat and vegetables hit the most

Heatwave conditions since the middle of March have caused significant damage to the standing wheat crop, especially in Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh, all major producers of the staple cereal. While record high temperatures were witnessed in March and April, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has predicted that the heatwaves would continue during May, especially in the north-west region. Advisories have been sent to farmers to ensure frequent irrigation for saving fruits and vegetables such as mango, guava, lemon, tomato, chilli, brinjal and okra. Heatwave could affect agriculture by lowering yields of several standing crops in Punjab, Haryana and west Uttar Pradesh. Crops in more than 60% of wheat-grown areas, especially in Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan and parts of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh have been hit by heatwaves. Day temperatures should ideally be in the early 30°C when the wheat kernel accumulates starch and nutrients. In the second half of March and early April, temperature rose to 40°C in Punjab and Haryana, increasing the shrivelled grain in the wheat crop significantly above the tolerable level of 6%.

Agri exports rise 9% to \$26.3 bn in FY23

Exports of agricultural and processed food products rose by 9% to \$26.3 billion in 2022-23 as compared to FY22, driven by a spike in shipment of rice, fruits and vegetables, livestock and dairy products. The shipment of products under the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Exports Development Authority (Apeda) basket surpassed the target of \$23.56 billion for FY23. According to the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, the value of rice exports in FY23 rose by more than 15% year-on-year to a record \$11.1 billion from \$9.6 billion in the previous fiscal. In terms of volume, rice shipment grew by 5% to 22.34 million tonne (MT) last fiscal year-on-year. Adherence to quality parameters has resulted in sharp increase in demand for Indian rice with the grain being shipped to more than 75 countries. Fresh and processed fruits and vegetables reported export growth of 18.8% to \$3.8 billion in the last fiscal year. The

shipment of cereals, preparations and processed food products rose by 20% to \$4.3 billion in FY23. Export of meat, dairy and poultry products declined marginally compared to last year at \$4 billion last fiscal compared to previous year. However exports realisation, in terms of rupees, rose by 4% to ₹ 32,334 crore last fiscal. Exports of products under Apeda basket was \$ 25.6 billion in 2021-22, which was around 51% of the country's total agricultural goods exports of more than \$50 billion. Rest of agricultural products exports include marine, tobacco, coffee and tea. Commerce ministry officials attribute the rise in the export of agricultural and processed food products because of the government's initiatives such as organising B2B exhibitions in various countries, tie ups with global hypermarket chains, exploring new markets through product-specific marketing campaigns by the active involvement of Indian missions.

Cereal inflation seen cooling on robust govt stocks

A likely improvement in the government's grain stocks will help cool retail cereal inflation, which has remained in double digits for several months in a row. Cereals and the products category, which includes rice and other grains, has 9.67% weightage in the Consumer Price Index. A food ministry official said surplus grain stocks with the Food Corporation of India (FCI) will allow the corporation to commence open market sales, if prices do not soften by the next few months. Wheat and rice prices rose by 15.46% and 11.37% in April on year against an increase of 25.05% and 10.51%, respectively, in January 2023. According to department of consumer affairs data, the modal retail wheat prices declined by 9% to ₹25.5/kg against the prices prevailing in January 2023 while rice prices have remained unchanged at ₹35/kg in the past three months. The decline in wheat inflation since January was due to an improvement in supplies as fresh harvest arrived in the market while the FCI and state agencies stepped up procurement from farmers at the minimum support price (MSP). Further drop in wheat inflation is expected by June as a major chunk of harvest would have arrived in the market by then, thus pulling down prices.

First study on Indian sludge finds high potential for use as fertilizer

A first of its kind analysis of the sludge found in Indian sewage treatment plants (STP), set up to treat polluted water from the Ganga, found that most of it had high potential for use as fertilizer, but required treatment before it could be used unrestricted in farms, or as a potential biofuel. An emerging initiative of the 'National Mission for Clean Ganga', a flagship programme of the government to establish treatment facilities and prevent pollution of the river, is to derive livelihood opportunities from the river rejuvenation programme. One of the measures, under this 'Arth Ganga' (economic value from Ganga), is to monetise and reuse treated wastewater and sludge. This means converting sludge - a thick residue



filtered out of STP that while rich in organic chemicals is also a repository of heavy metals, industrial effluents and bacterial contaminants - into usable products such as manure and bricks. The contaminants in sludge means that they need to be treated and dried before they can be safely disposed. Treated sludge can be classified as class A or class B, as per the standards of the United States Environment Protection Agency. With class A being safe to be disposed of in the open and useful as organic fertilizer. Class B means that the sludge can be used in restricted agricultural applications, the edible parts of the crop not be exposed to the sludge-mixed soil, and animals and people not come into extensive contact. India doesn't yet have standards classifying sludge as class A or B. Currently, those awarded contracts for developing and maintaining STPs under the Namami Ganga Mission are also apportioned land for disposing off sludge. However, this is rarely treated, and during rains, such sludge with its accompanying chemical and metallic constituents often makes its way back into rivers and local water sources. Before standards were made, it was necessary to understand the characteristics of the sludge from these STPs before ways could be devised to incentivise private players to treat and

dispose sludge. This is the first time such a project has been conceived in India.

Summer crop area marginally down at 69 lakh hectares

The sowing of summer crops is marginally down at 69.20 lakh hectares (ha) this year against 70.30 lakh hectares a year ago, according to the latest data released by the agriculture ministry. The sowing area under pulses and coarse cereals is higher year-on-year, while the acreage of rice and oilseeds is lower. About 19.61 lakh ha coverage has been reported under pulses compared with 18.44 lakh ha last year. They are mainly in Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Gujarat. Shri Anna and nutri and coarse cereals are being grown in about 11.73 lakh ha compared with 11.30 lakh ha last year, with Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal being the top three states. About 27.89 lakh ha coverage under summer rice has been reported against 29.80 lakh ha last year while that of oilseeds is 9.6 lakh ha this year compared with 10.85 lakh ha last year. The agriculture ministry has set a target of a record 332 million tonnes production of food grains for 2023-24 against the latest estimate of 323.5 million tonnes produced last year.

NEWS & NOTES

RBI withdraws ₹ 2,000 notes from circulation, asks all to exchange or deposit them by Sept 30

RBI withdraws ₹ 2,000 notes from circulation, asks all to exchange or deposit them by Sept 30. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced the withdrawal of its highest value currency note, ₹ 2,000, from circulation, adding that the notes will continue to be legal tender. It said the existing ₹ 2,000 notes can be deposited or exchanged in banks until September 30, but set a limit of "₹ 20,000 at a time". The central bank advised the public to deposit ₹ 2,000 notes which were introduced during demonetisation in November 2016, when ₹ 500 and ₹ 1,000 notes were withdrawn, into their bank accounts and or exchange them into notes of other denominations at any bank branch. It also advised banks to stop issuing ₹ 2,000 notes with immediate effect. In order to ensure operational convenience and to avoid disruption of regular activities of bank branches, exchange of ₹ 2,000 banknotes can be made up to a limit of ₹ 20,000 at a time, at any bank starting from May 23. The facility for exchange of ₹ 2,000 notes, up to the limit of ₹ 20,000 at a time, will also be provided at the 19 regional offices of the RBI having issue departments from May 23. It has also been observed that this denomination is not commonly used for transactions and the stock of banknotes in other denominations continues to be adequate to meet the currency requirement of the public.

India pitches green ideas for its blue economic policies

Plantation of seagrass and algae along the west coast and providing electricity-charged boats to fishermen with

floating solar panels are some of the ideas being discussed for the restoration of biodiversity in oceans in India and could form an agenda for blue economic policies to be adopted through a G20 resolution. Leena Nandan, secretary, Union ministry of environment, forest and climate change (MoEFCC), said the government was thinking on how to upscale the experiments of floating solar panels to safeguard boating activity and make boats rechargeable for longer runs. Besides, generating power while taking the salt out of seawater and later using both, separated salt and water, effectively would be among the ideas that may get the push. The ministry of earth sciences has done a lot of research in tidal energy, wave energy and salt waste energy. How the high-cost energy can be translated into an affordable one for low-income developing countries will have to be seen as financing and R&D were closely interlinked. On the second day of the three-day Third Environment and Climate Sustainability Working Group meeting, Nandan said strengthening mangrove cover along the coast was a priority as they protected planktons, which eventually become food for fish and other marine animals. She further stated, India's successful coral transplantation in the gulf of Kutch and the gulf of Mannar exemplifies effective use of science. India's approach towards Olive Ridley turtle conservation using satellite tagging and radio-collaring, a first in Asia, highlights how innovative and cost-effective technologies can aid marine species protection. India has also achieved a significant increase in mangrove cover too.



Nabard, SBI Cards may seek up to ₹ 5.8K cr via bond issues

The National Bank for Agricultural and Rural Development (Nabard) is likely to issue three-year bonds worth up to ₹5,000 crore and its bond sale is likely to include a base size of ₹2,000 crore and a greenshoe option of ₹3,000 crore. The maturity of the bonds is likely on August 31, 2026. Separately, SBI Cards and Payment Services is likely to conclude sales of five-year bonds worth around ₹800 crore shortly. The bonds, rated AAA by CRISIL and ICRA, may bear a rate of interest of 7.85%. On April 21, Nabard issued securities worth ₹ 4,922 crore maturing in July 2026. The coupon for Nabard bonds was set at 7.56%. Nabard bonds are often considered as pricing reference points in the corporate debt market. The most liquid three-year central government security ended trading at 6.96% yield. Sovereign bond yields are the benchmarks used by other entities to determine borrowing costs.

Farm Loan Interest Waiver Scheme for 11 Lakh Farmers in MP Launched

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister, Shivraj Singh Chouhan, launched a farm loan interest waiver scheme that he claimed would benefit over 11 lakh farmers in the state. Under the Mukhyamantri Krishak Byaaj Maafi Yojana-2023 or the Chief Minister Farmer Loan Waiver Scheme, the state government will compensate defaulter farmers, who have an outstanding loans of up to ₹ 2 lakh including the principal and interest as on March 31, 2023, from Primary Agricultural Credit Cooperative Societies (PACS).

Uttarakhand CM inaugurates millet festival

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama inaugurated a millet festival here in Dehradun with thousands of farmers from the state participating in the four-day event aimed. "Shree Anna Mahotsav 2023 will prove to be a milestone in the promotion of millet production in the state," Dhama said. It will also provide necessary information to farmers interested in growing

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Flying tractors a window into future of farming

Early one recent morning in Vidalia, Georgia, third-generation farmer Greg Morgan launched an AG-230 drone carrying eight gallons of fungicide over a field of sweet onions. The chemical, which is essential to crop survival in this humid state, would typically be dragged and dripped from a 500-gallon tank behind Morgan's 10,000-pound tractor. Now it fell in a fine mist from the spray jets of an 80-pound drone scudding 10 feet above his cash crop. Vidalia Onions are a \$150 million local industry that, like peaches, tomatoes and other specialty crops in the Southeast, have become increasingly vulnerable to climate change. Morgan has joined the vanguard of farmers who are turning away from tractors and towards drones as they adapt to the rising cost of chemicals and

millet. He spoke of steps taken by his government to promote millet production by announcing an MSP (minimum support price), facilitating online payment to farmers who sell them to the government and their inclusion in the mid-day meal programme.

Cotton crop may drop to 29.8 mn bales: CAI

Cotton Association of India (CAI) continued to reduce its cotton crop estimate for the 2022-23 season, beginning from October 1, 2022, to 298.35 lakh bales as production is expected to decline in Maharashtra, Telangana, Tamil Nadu and Odisha. The cotton crop is expected to reduce in Maharashtra and Telangana by 2 lakh bales each, in Tamil Nadu by 0.50 lakh bales and Odisha by 0.15 lakh bales. Overall cotton production during the previous season is estimated at 30.70 million bales (mb). The total cotton supply for October 2022 to April 2023 is estimated at 26.30 mb, which consists of the arrivals of 22.41 mb, imports of 7 lakh bales and the opening stock at 3.18 mb at the beginning of the season. The CAI has estimated cotton consumption from October 2022 to April 2023 at 17.9 mb, while the export shipments are estimated at 1.2 mb. Stock at the end of April 2023 is estimated at 7.20 mb including 5.20 mb with textile mills and the remaining 2 mb with the Cotton Corporation of India, Maharashtra Federation and others (MNCs, traders, ginners, among others) including cotton sold but not delivered. The cotton supply estimated till end of the season 2022-23 is 34.52 mb.

Govt. scraps levy on crude soyabean, sunflower seed oil shipments

The Centre has scrapped the customs duty and cess levied on shipments of crude soyabean oil and crude sunflower seed oil imported by firms that had been authorised for such imports under the Tariff Rate Quota regime in 2022-23. The duty exemptions will be effective till June 30, the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs said. Global edible oil prices had shot up last year after the Russia-Ukraine conflict broke out.

contend with hotter temperatures, heavier rains, heartier weeds and prolific pests. Farmers have been using drones over the past 20 years mainly for aerial imaging - scanning farms from the sky with cameras to map where crops are thriving and failing. Now drones are being designed for hands-on crop management: enabled to spray herbicides, insecticides and foliar fertilizers with precision, and even to distribute seeds in planting season. A "featherweight flying tractor" - that's how Arthur Erickson, chief executive of manufacturer Hyllo Inc., described the company's agricultural drones. The Houston-based startup has seen demand for its drones soar over the past 3 years; roughly 700 of Hyllo's drones are now at work treating 700,000 acres of cropland annually. Early adopters like Morgan are driving a major shift in the business of food and signaling a



reality that investors and leaders of industrial agriculture should heed. Drones are poised to significantly disrupt the tractor industry, and unlike many other high-tech agricultural trends, this one is actually good for small and mid-sized farmers, and a big win for the planet, to boot. In the eight months since Morgan made his \$40,000 investment it has cut his fuel costs and already reduced his agrochemical usage by about 15%.

EU norm threatens coffee, leather export

The European Union's approval this week of new deforestation regulations poses a threat to Indian exports of items like coffee, leather, paper and wooden furniture, even as the government grapples with the implications of the EU's carbon border tax. The new EU regulations will affect imports from produce grown on land where deforestation has taken place after December 2020 and will kick in for larger companies from December 2024, with smaller business required to comply by June 2025. Four levels of penalties have been planned for any violations of this norm, which include monetary fines up to 4% of a firm's annual turnover in the EU, confiscation of

products, confiscation of revenues gained from a transaction and exclusion from public procurement process. As per a research note by Global Trade Research Initiative, the rule will affect 479 tariff lines besides the 777 lines covered by the carbon tax measure, and the two norms are expected to impact almost \$10 billion of exports to Europe based on 2022 data.

International Tea Day

The International Tea Day is celebrated on May 21 every year. The celebrations are aimed to promote and foster activities which would help in the sustainable production and consumption of tea, as per the United Nations. The origins of International Tea Day can be traced back to December 2019 when the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution proposed by several tea-producing countries, including India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Vietnam and Kenya. The resolution recognised the importance of tea as a symbol of cultural heritage, sustainable development, and livelihoods for millions of people worldwide. There are several kinds of tea leaves having usage that go far wide than just a comforting brew.

MOC - SOCIAL MEDIA NEWS

In order to realize the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision of "Sahkar se Samridhhi" and with the efforts of Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah, a decision has been taken to form 1100 New Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) in Cooperative Sector.

Pacing up towards Digital Transformation the Ministry of Cooperation, on 4th May 2023, received a Website Quality Certificate from the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

Ministry of Cooperation

75 Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

G20

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These additional 1100 FPOs have been allocated to National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) under FPOs' Scheme

Under the FPO Scheme, financial assistance of Rs. 33 lakhs is provided to each FPO, Further, financial assistance of Rs. 25 lakhs per FPO is provided to the Cluster Based Business Organizations (CBBO)

PACS are primarily engaged in short-term credit and distribution of seeds, fertilizers, etc., now they will be able to undertake other economic activities including high income generating activities like bee-keeping, mushroom cultivation, etc.

This initiative will ensure remunerative prices to farmers for their produce, it would also lead to diversification in the economic activities of PACS and enable them to generate new and stable sources of income.

Various initiatives undertaken by the Ministry of Cooperation under the leadership of Shri Amit Shah will enable cooperative sector in general and PACS in particular, to generate alternative sources of revenues for their members and transforming them into viable, dynamic and financially sustainable economic entities

Posted On: 17 MAY 2023 7:31PM by PIB Delhi

In order to realize the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision of "Sahkar se Samridhhi" and with the efforts of Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah, a decision has been taken to form 1100 New Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) in Cooperative Sector. A target of these 1100 additional FPOs has been allocated to National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare under its 'Formation and Promotion of 10,000 FPOs' scheme.

Under the FPO Scheme, financial assistance of Rs. 33 lakhs is provided to each FPO. Further, financial assistance of Rs. 25 lakhs per FPO is provided to the Cluster Based Business Organizations (CBBO).

Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS), which have a member base of around 13 crore farmers and are primarily engaged in short-term credit and distribution of seeds, fertilizers, etc., will now be able to undertake other economic activities as well. Integration of PACS in the FPO scheme will enable them to expand their business in the areas of supply of production inputs; agricultural equipment like cultivator, tiller, harvester, etc. and processing, including cleaning, assaying, sorting, grading, packing, storage, transportation, etc. PACS will also be able to undertake high income generating activities like bee-keeping, mushroom cultivation, etc.

This initiative will ensure remunerative prices to farmers for their produce by providing them necessary market linkages. It would also lead to diversification in the economic activities of PACS, thus enabling them to generate new and stable sources of income.

This, along with various other initiatives undertaken by the Ministry of Cooperation under the leadership of Shri Amit Shah for strengthening of cooperative movement in the country, will enable cooperative sector in general and PACS in particular, to generate alternative sources of revenues for their members, thus transforming themselves into viable, dynamic and financially sustainable economic entities.

RR/AKS/AS

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This certificate is valid up to: 03rd May., 2026 *N1,2

STQC
CQW
CERTIFIED QUALITY WEBSITE

(Suresh Chandra)
Chief Executive Officer & Scientist 'G'

* 1. With 04 exceptions as per Annexure - I attached.



NEWS FROM MEMBER BANKS

Uttar Pradesh SGVB



On 17.05.2023, the Managing Director of the Bank met with C G M N A B A R D assuring to refinance around ₹300 crore in LTRCF in the fiscal year 2023-24.

Himachal Pradesh SCARDB (Kangra CPARDB)



The newly elected Chairman Shri. Ram Chander Pathania of Kangra PCARDB after assuming the office on 28.04.2023 had interactions with the NABCONS Study team

headed by Shri. R.K.Shrivastav, NABARD, CGM (Rtd.).

Himachal Pradesh SCARDB & J & K SCARDB



Shri Mohd. Aslam Bhat, MD/Chief Executive, J & K SCARDB along with other officials of the bank visited and interacted with the Chairman Shri Sanjay

Singh Chauhan, Board of Directors, GM and other officers of HP SCARD Bank Ltd on 18.05.2023 to discuss their Bank's NPA Recovery System, Accounting Procedures, Loan Procedures, Computerization, HRD System and other Banking related issues.

Punjab SCARDB

NABCONS Study team visited Punjab SCARDB. Discussions were held with the bank officials on 23.05.2023.



Shri Suresh Kumar Goyal, Chairman, Punjab SCADB, Chandigarh, Sh. Gulpreet Singh Aulakh IAS, MD, Punjab SCADB, Chandigarh, Shri. R K Shrivastava & Shri. A P

Dass & other Officers were present during the meeting.

Tripura CARDB



Meeting with the study team of NABCONS with the management & the officials of Tripura CARDB on 27.04.2023.

Jammu & Kashmir SCARDB



NABCONS Study team headed by Shri Rakesh Shrivastava (Rtd.) CGM NABARD along with officers from NABARD visited J&K SCARD Bank Srinagar on 29.05.2023 and 30.05.2023 respectively, for discussions

with MD/CEO and other senior officers of the Bank.

Deposit Mobilisation by Gujarat SCARDB

The Gujarat SCARDB has launched intensive deposit mobilisation to augment resources for lending. Following are the interest rates offered currently on term deposits.

Sr. No.	Category of Deposits	Interest Rate Individual/Member	Interest Rate Trust/ society/ other banks etc
1	Up to 1 Year	7.10%	7.10%
2	Upto 1 Year [From 10 lakh to 25 lakh]	7.15%	7.15%
3	Upto 1 Year [Above 25 lakh]	7.25%	7.25%
4	Upto 2 Year and Above	7.25%	7.25%

*Additional 0.50% interest to Bank Employees & Senior Citizen