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Agricultural Production and **Market Outlook**

The Rising Agriculture....

Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) rates for fertilizers for the year 2020-21

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Dr. Deep K. Patel

Publisher
Agro-Economic Research Centre
Sardar Patel University
Vallabh Vidyanagar 388120
Anand, Gujarat

Email : aerc@spuvvn.edu
director.aerc@gmail.com

Web : http://www.spuvvn.edu/academics/academic_centres/agro_economic_centre/



Government is making available fertilizers, namely Urea and 21 grades of P&K fertilizers to farmers at subsidized prices through fertilizer manufacturers/importers. The subsidy on P&K fertilizers is being governed by NBS Scheme w.e.f April, 2010. In accordance to its farmer friendly approach, the Govt. is committed to ensure the availability of P&K fertilizers to the farmers on affordable price. The subsidy would be released to fertilizer companies as per above rates so that they can make available fertilizers to farmers at a cheaper price than it would have been otherwise.

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has given its approval for fixation of Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) rates for Phosphatic and Potassic (P&K) Fertilizers for the year 2020-

21. The approved rates for NBS are as under:

Per Kg Subsidy rates (in Rs.)			
N	P	K	S
18.789	14.888	10.116	2.374

The CCEA also approved the inclusion of a complex fertilizer namely Ammonium Phosphate (NP 14:28:0:0) under the NBS Scheme. The expected expenditure for release of subsidy on P&K Fertilizers during 2020-21 will be Rs. 22,186.55 crore. The subsidy on the P&K will be provided on the subsidy rates approved by the CCEA to the fertilizer companies.

Direct Marketing' helps decongest mandis and facilitates timely marketing of farm produce during lockdown



Government of India has been making concerted efforts to facilitate farmers in direct marketing and assure better returns. At the same time the Department issued advisories to maintain social distancing in the mandis to prevent the spread of Corona Virus in the wake of COVID19 pandemic. The States have been requested to promote the concept of 'Direct marketing' to facilitate farmers/group of farmers/FPOs/Cooperatives in selling their produce to bulk buyers/big retailers/processors etc.

The Union Agriculture Minister Shri Narendra Singh Tomar sent a letter to the Chief Ministers of States reiterating the need for direct marketing through Cooperatives/ Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) etc and encouraged all the stakeholders and farmers to adopt this process. The Department also issued an advisory to the States to promote direct marketing without insisting for licensing procedures and facilitate the farmers in timely marketing of farm produce.

In order to decongest wholesale markets & to boost the supply chain, following two modules under

National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) have been introduced:

FPO Module: FPOs can directly trade with e-NAM portal. They can upload produce details from collection centers with picture/quality parameter and avail the bidding facility without physically reaching to the mandis.

Warehouse Based Trading Module: Farmers can sell their produce from Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority (WDRA) registered warehouses notified as deemed market, and do not physically bring the produce to the nearest mandis.

- Karnataka exempted Cooperative Institutions and FPOs in the State for engaging in wholesale trade of agricultural produce outside the market yards;
- Tamil Nadu exempted market fee on all notified agricultural produce;
- Uttar Pradesh allowed trading in e-NAM platform from farm gate and promoted issuance of unified licence to processors for direct purchase from farmers and also allowed FPOs to undertake procurement operations of wheat;
- Rajasthan allowed direct marketing by traders, processors and FPOs. In addition to that, Primary Agriculture Credit Societies (PACS)/ Large Area Multi-purpose Cooperative Societies (LAMPS) in Rajasthan have been declared as deemed markets.
- Apart from Individuals, firms, and processing units, Madhya Pradesh has allowed to set up private purchase centres outside the market-yard to purchase directly from farmers with an application fee of Rs. 500/- only.
- Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Gujarat have also allowed direct marketing without requirement of any licence.
- Uttarakhand has declared Warehouse/Cold storage and processing plants as sub-mandis.
- Uttar Pradesh Government has recently relaxed the rules and norms for declaring warehouses/ cold storages as Market-yards.
- Rajasthan has issued more than 1,100 direct marketing licences to processors during lockdown period where in farmers have already

started selling directly to the processors. Out of more than 550 PACS declared as market-yards in rural areas, 150 PACS have become functional for direct marketing and village traders are performing trade transactions successfully.

- Due to market fee waiver in Tamil Nadu, it was observed that traders have preferred to buy the produce from farmers from their farm gate/villages.
- In Uttar Pradesh direct linkages have been established by FPOs with farmers and traders thereby supplying their produce to consumers in cities which saved wastages and directly benefitted the farmers. Further, the State has facilitated in establishing linkages with FPOs and Zomato Food Delivery App thereby ensuring smooth distribution of veggies to consumers.

New features of e-NAM platform



The new features of National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) Platform to strengthen agriculture marketing by farmers which will reduce their need to physically come to wholesale mandis for selling their harvested produce, at a time when there is critical need to decongest mandis to effectively fight against COVID-19. These software modules are namely (i) Warehouse based trading module in e-NAM software to facilitate trade from warehouses based on e-NWR (ii) FPO trading module in e-NAM

whereby FPOs can trade their produce from their collection centre without bringing the produce to APMC. In addition to facilitate inter-mandi and inter-state trade at this juncture, enhanced version of logistic module has been released where by aggregators of transport logistic platform have on boarded which helps users to avail trackable transport facilities for transporting their produce.

The mandis play a critical role in maintaining the supply chain of Grains, Fruits & Vegetables. e-NAM is well poised to play a critical role during the period of Covid-19 to decongest mandis while helping the farmers at same time. For this purpose following 03 modules have been launched for enhancing the effectiveness of e-NAM.

Launch of “Negotiable Warehouse Receipt (e-NWRs) module in National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) software

- Warehouse (Registered with WDRA) trading module with payment feature is launched today to enable small & marginal farmers to directly trade their stored produce from selected WDRA registered warehouses which are declared deemed market by the State.
- Farmers will be able to place their produce in WDRA accredited warehouses.
- Already States of Telangana (14 warehouses) & Andhra Pradesh (23 warehouses) declared designated warehouses in the State as deemed market.

Benefits of eNWRs integration with e-NAM

- Depositor can save the Logistics expenses and will have better income.
- Farmers can sell the produce across the Nation to get better Price and at the same time can save himself from hassle of mandi.
- Farmers will be able to place their produce in WDRA accredited warehouses avail the benefit of pledged loan if required.
- Price stabilization by matching supply and demand through time and place utility.

FPO trading module

- FPO trading module is launched today to enable FPOs to upload their produce from their premise/collection centres for bidding. They can

upload the picture of the produce and quality parameters from their premises to help distant bidders to visualise the produce before bidding. FPOs have the option for delivery of produce either from their premises or by bringing to mandi premise after successful bidding. This will not only decongest the mandis but also reduce the logistics cost for the FPOs.

- b. Facility provided to FPO to upload assaying report / photo of their produce from their premise to enable traders to visualise the produce before bidding.

Benefits

- a. This will not only decongest the mandis but also reduce the hassle of FPOs to deal with mandis.
- b. This will help FPOs by reducing transaction costs (Transportation) and enhancing their bargaining power.
- c. Facilitates FPOs to avail online payment facility with ease of doing business.

Launch of Logistic Module

Presently, e-NAM provides a database of individual transporters to the traders. However, as a quantum response to logistic need by traders, provision has been made for linking large logistic aggregator platforms, which will provide choices to users. Traders would be able to use the link to navigate to the logistics provider's website and select appropriate services. With these additions, more than 3,75,000 number of trucks from large logistic providers would be added for logistic purpose.

Benefits

- a. This will help in seamless transportation of agri produce.
- b. This will promote inter-State trade under e-NAM

by providing online transport facilities for distant buyers.

These programs will help farmers to sell their produce at remunerative prices near to their farm gate without coming to mandis. States are also being encouraged to facilitate direct buying by bulk buyers/processors and big retailers without having to go through mandis to decongest them.

All India Agri Transport Call Centre launched



The Agriculture Minister along with Ministers of State (Agriculture) formally launched the All India AgriTransport Call Centre today. This Call Centre has been set up for coordination between States for inter-state movement of perishables like vegetables & fruits, agri inputs like seeds, pesticides and fertilizer etc. The Call Centre numbers are 18001804200 and 14488. These numbers are accessible from any mobile or landline phones.

Truck drivers, traders, retailers, transporters or any other stakeholders who are facing problems in inter-state movement of above commodities, may seek help by calling at the Call Centre. Call Center Executives will forward the vehicle & consignment details along with the help needed, to State Govt. officials for resolution of issues.

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Agro-Economic Research Centre

For the states of Gujarat and Rajasthan

(Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Govt. of India)

H.M. Patel Institute of Rural Development,

Opp. Nanadalaya Temple, Post Box No. 24,

Sardar Patel University

Vallabh Vidyanagar 388120, Anand, Gujarat

Ph.No. +91-2692-230106, 230799, Fax- +91-2692-233106

E-mail : director.aerc@gmail.com

Website: www.aercspu.ac.in

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