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Agricultural Production and **Market Outlook**

The Rising Agriculture....

Govt inks MoU with Microsoft to provide post-harvest solutions to farmers



Microsoft Corp will provide Indian farmers post harvest management solutions with an aim to improve efficiency and productivity across the entire farm sector value chain.

The government has entered into a pact with the technology major and such technology-driven initiatives are a step towards doubling the income of farmers. The government will partner with other technology players too to create a vibrant digital ecosystem for farmers.

Initially, Microsoft will work in 100 villages of 10 districts across states like Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh. The project is for one year and both sides inking the MoU will bear the cost on their own. This project will carry out various tasks for the betterment of farmers in the selected 100 villages, which will enhance their income. This project will reduce the input costs for farmers and make farming easy. The company will help farmers with post harvest management solutions through building a collaborative platform and capturing agriculture datasets such as crop yields, weather data, market demand and prices.

The government aims to increase the income of farmers by removing the bottleneck of inconsistent information. A number of new initiatives have been launched to achieve this goal. A major initiative, in this regard, is the creation of Agri-Funds based on the National Farmers Database. The government is preparing a farmer database by linking the land records of farmers across the country. The data related to PM Kisan, Soil Health Card and Pradhan Mantri

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Crop Insurance Scheme, available with the government, have been integrated and the process of inclusion of other data is going on. It is proposed to undertake similar pilot projects with other public and private players to create a vibrant digital agro-ecosystem in the country.

As per the memorandum of understanding (MoU), Microsoft through its local partner CropData will leverage master database of farmers to address challenges of individual or group of farmers. The government has a verified database of more than 50 million farmers along with their land records.

Madhu kranti Portal Honey Corners launched by GOI



Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Shri Narendra Singh Tomar launched “मधुक्रान्तिपोर्टल” and Honey Corners of NAFED in New Delhi.

“मधुक्रान्तिपोर्टल” is an initiative of National Bee Board (NBB), Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare under National Beekeeping & Honey Mission (NBHM). This portal is being developed for online registration to achieve traceability source of Honey and other beehive products on a digital platform. The technical and banking partner for development of this digital platform is Indian Bank. An MoU between NBB and Indian Bank was signed for this project.

Addressing the launching ceremony Shri Tomar said Honey Mission will lead to increase in income of farmers, employment generation and increase in exports. Sweet Revolution should spread all over the country and Indian honey should meet global standards.

Necessary functionalities are being developed on the Portal to create a database of all stakeholders involved in Honey and other hive products' production, sales and marketing chain. On-line Registration of beekeepers is being launched today in first phase, followed by registration of other stake-holders in Honey Trade. All sales transactions in Honey trading in country shall be captured through a mobile app in second phase to achieve desired results in the area of Honey source traceability.

Online registration/ traceability system for source of Honey & other beehive products will help in checking the quality & source of adulteration of honey. The system will also enable consumers/public to know the source of honey and assure quality of the products.

More Honey Corners will be developed by NAFED in most of the upcoming major 200 NAFED Stores to promote market support for honey & other beehive products. Online marketing options will be explored to provide a platform for marketing and promotion of Honey supplied by the FPOs.

Keeping in view the importance of beekeeping, a new Central Sector Scheme entitled National Beekeeping & Honey Mission (NBHM) was approved by Government of India for Rs. 500.00 crores allotted under Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Announcement for overall promotion and development of scientific beekeeping & to achieve the goal of “Sweet Revolution”. NBHM is implemented through National Bee Board (NBB). The scheme has three Mini Missions (MM-I, II & III) under which main thrust is given on awareness, capacity building/trainings, focus on women empowerment through beekeeping, setting up of requisite infrastructural facilities, viz.; Integrated Beekeeping Development Centres (IBDCs), Honeybees Disease Diagnostic Labs, Setting up of/upgradation of Honey Testing labs, Beekeeping Equipment Manufacturing Units, Custom Hiring Centres, Api therapy Centres, Development of Quality Nucleus Stock Centres & Bee Breeders,

etc., Digitization/online registration, etc. under MM-I, processing, value addition, market support, etc. under MM-II and R&D under MM-III.

Monsoon to be normal this year in India



India will probably experience normal monsoon rainfall this year as La Nina or El Nino weather conditions, which impact rain patterns, are likely to be absent, according to state-run forecaster India Meteorological Department. The 2021 southwest monsoon starting June is expected to be normal at 98 per cent of the Long Period Average (LPA), said IMD's forecast that has a model error of plus and minus 5 percent. The LPA of monsoon is 88 centimeters. Rainfall between 96-104 per cent of the LPA is considered a normal rainfall.

[IMD](#) said its initial forecasts show that barring India's East and Northeast, which includes Odisha, Bihar, Jharkhand, North-Chhattisgarh, East UP and Assam, rainfall in all other regions of the country is expected to be normal. [IMD](#) also said that there is very little chance of the dreaded El Nino during the monsoon season. The Indian Ocean Dipole, which is another weather system that has a direct bearing on the Indian monsoon, is also expected to be neutral this year. A good, well distributed and timely monsoon will mean another year of bumper farm production in 2021, which could have a cascading positive impact and one less reason to worry for an economy battling another wave of Covid-19 infections.

Few days back, private weather forecasting agency, Skymet had also said that the southwest monsoon in 2021 is likely to be 'normal' at 103 per cent of the Long Period Average (LPA). Skymet's forecast was also with a model error of plus and minus 5

percent. If both the two forecasts come true, it would mean that for the third consecutive year India will have a normal to above normal rainfall during the monsoon months.

In 2020, actual rainfall across India was 109 per cent of LPA, while in 2019, it was 110 per cent of the LPA. Last time, India had three consecutive years of normal monsoon, according to Skymet, was in between 1996 to 1998, more than two decades back.

Skymet also said that there is 85 per cent probability of rainfall across the country to be normal to above-normal rainfall in 2021 and just 15 per cent chance of rainfall being below normal and no chance of widespread drought in the country this year. Buoyed by the good rains, the total food grain harvest in 2020-21 is estimated to be over 300 million tonnes which was an all-time high harvest.

NDDB launches Android-based dairy surveyor app



In a move that could help policy makers formulate or review effective policies around the sector, the [National Dairy Development Board \(NDDB\)](#) has launched a Android-

based dairy surveyor application. The geographical information system (GIS) enabled Android application will benefit dairy cooperatives and producers-owned organisations in the sector by providing real-time information. The app is capable of geotagging and mapping infrastructure, real-time tracking of field projects, monitoring milk procurement and sale-related activities, even as it brings in transparency and helps in saving time, effort and cost. Among other things, the app will also be useful at the planning stage to expand marketing coverage, monitor performance and increase market share. "Dairy Surveyor application will provide a robust locational database that can be used by the

policy makers to formulate or review effective policies & programmes related to the [dairy sector](#). It can capture 'real-time' location-based information to strengthen decision-making," said Varsha Joshi, joint secretary - cattle & dairy development, department of animal husbandry & dairying under the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying of Government of India.

Modern steel silos to store foodgrains from 2025'



Centre plans to replace old system; no more approval for open sky storage

The Union Government has chalked out a plan for modernising storage of foodgrains in steel silos. By 2024-25, all foodgrains in the country will be stored in modern silos and conventional storage facilities will be phased out gradually, Food and Public Distribution Secretary Sudanshu Pandey said on Thursday.

From this year, the government has decided to not give permission to store grains in covered plinth and areas that are open to sky. The Centre has cleared an additional 20 per cent capacity to warehouses that

are capable of storing more grains. This single step has helped create an additional 160 lakh tonnes storage capacity in existing warehouses with a total capacity of 816 lakh tonnes

Procurement agencies have procured 64.7 lakh tonnes (lt) of wheat till second week of April for the current rabi marketing season that commenced on March 15. The Centre is “confident” of procuring the estimated 427.36 lt of wheat, nearly 37 lt more than previous year's record wheat procurement of 389.93 lakh tonnes.

While more than 30.1 lakh tonnes of wheat have been procured in Haryana, 20.63 lakh tonnes and 10.56 lakh tonnes of wheat have been procured in Madhya Pradesh and Punjab, respectively, so far. The total procurement during the corresponding period last year was mere 60 tonnes as the procurement operations were affected by the sudden lockdown imposed by the Union Government initially.

Pandey said so far ₹ 12,800 crore has been transferred to the bank accounts of 6,60,593 farmers in 11 States across the country. While procurement commenced in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan on March 15 and in Haryana on April 1, it started in Punjab on April 10.

According to Pandey, an additional storage capacity of 100 lakh tonnes is being created in India to improve the storage infrastructure. A steel silo of has already come up in Ahmedabad, while a pilot project is going on in Buxar in Bihar to test the viability of steel silos for long-term storage of rice.

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