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Agricultural Production and Market Outlook

The Rising Agriculture....

Sowing Area Under Kharif Crop has been Increased

Sowing Area Coverage of Kharif Crops till last week of August, 2020: The total Kharif crops has been sown on1082.22 lakh ha area against 1009.98 lakh ha area during the corresponding period of last year, thus, increase in area coverage by 7.15% compared to corresponding period of last year in the country. The crop wise area sown is as under:

- **Rice**: About 389.81 lakh ha area coverage under rice as compared to 354.41 lakh ha. duringthe corresponding period of last year. Thus 35.40 lakh ha more area has been coveredcompared to last year.
- **Pulses**: About 134.57 lakh ha area coverage under pulses as compared to 128.65 lakh ha.during the corresponding period of last year. Thus 5.91 lakh ha more area has been coveredcompared to last year.

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- **Coarse Cereals**: About 176.89 lakh ha area coverage under coarse cereals as compared to172.49 lakh ha. during the corresponding period of last year. Thus 4.40 lakh ha more area hasbeen covered compared to last year.
- **Oilseeds**: About 193.29 lakh ha area coverage under oilseeds as compared to 170.99 lakh ha.during the corresponding period of last year. Thus 22.30 lakh ha more area has been coveredcompared to last year.
- **Sugarcane**: About 52.29 lakh ha area coverage under sugarcane as compared to 51.68 lakh ha.during the corresponding period of last year. Thus 0.61 lakh ha more area has been coveredcompared to last year
- **Jute & Mesta**: About 6.97 lakh ha area coverage under jute & mesta as compared to 6.86 lakhha. during the corresponding period of last year. Thus 0.11 lakh ha more area has been coveredcompared to last year.
- **Cotton**: About 128.41 lakh ha area coverage under cotton as compared to 124.90 lakh ha. during the corresponding period of last year. Thus 3.50 lakh ha more area has been covered compared to last year.

Central Water Commission (CWC) has reported that the live water storage in 123 reservoirs indifferent parts of the country is 102% of the corresponding period of the last year.

Locust control operations have been done in more than 5.66 lakh hectares area in 10 States

Till August 2020, control operations have been done in 2,87,374 hectares area in States of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Haryana,Uttarakhand and Bihar by State Governments. Control operations were carried out during day and night time Second week of August at 10 places in 05 districts *viz.* Jaisalmer, Barmer, Bikaner, Churu and Hanumangarh of Rajasthan and 02 places in Kutch district of Gujarat against hoppers by LCOs. Presently, 104 control teams with spray vehicles are deployed in the States of Rajasthan and Gujarat, and more than 200 Central Government personnel are engaged in locust control operations. 15 drones are deployed at Barmer, Jaisalmer, Bikaner, Nagaur and Phalodi in Rajasthan for effective control of locusts on tall trees and in accessible areas through spraying of pesticides. Drones are used in hopper control also. A Bell helicopter has been deployed in Rajasthan for use in Scheduled Desert Area as per the need.

No significant crop losses have been reported in the states of Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Bihar and Haryana. However, some minor crop losses have been reported in some districts of Rajasthan. In third week of August hoppers are active in Jaisalmer, Barmer, Bikaner, Churu and Hanumangarh of Rajasthan and Kutch district of Gujarat.

As per the Food and Agriculture Organization's Locust Status Update, swarms persist in the Horn of Africa. Good rains fell in Yemen where more hopper bands and swarms are likely to form. Hopper groups and bands continue to form along the Indo-Pakistan border. Weekly virtual meeting on Desert Locust of South-West Asian countries (Afghanistan, India, Iran and Pakistan) is being organized by FAO. 22 virtual meetings of the technical officers of South West Asian countries have taken place so far.

Agriculture export 23.24 % Increased during Corona Period as compared to last year

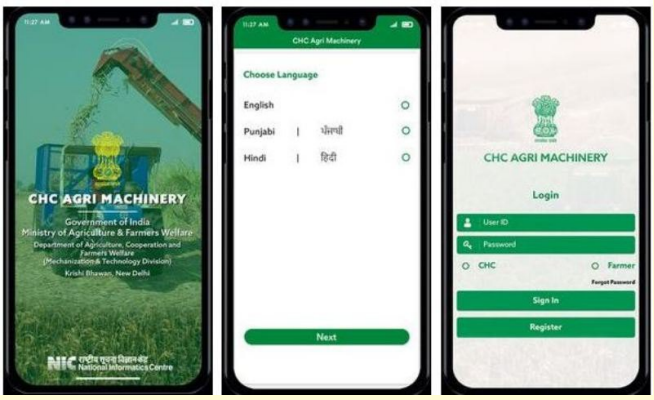
Acknowledged the information used/taken from the public domain

Self-reliant agriculture is critical for the goal of an Atmanirbhar Bharat. For this, agricultural export is extremely important as besides earning precious foreign exchange for the country, the exports help farmers/producers/exporters to take advantage of wider international market and increase their income. Export shave also resulted in increased production in agriculture sector by increasing area coverage and productivity.

As per WTO's Trade Statistics, share of India's agricultural exports and imports in the world agriculture trade in2017 was 2.27% and 1.90%, respectively. Even during the difficult time of pandemic lockdown, India took care to not to disturb the world food supply chain and continued to export. The exports of Agri commodities during March 2020 to June 2020 were Rs. 25552.7 Crore against an export of Rs. 20734.8 Crore during the same period in 2019, showing a sharp increase of 23.24%.

The agricultural exports as a percentage of India's agricultural GDP has increased from 9.4 % in 2017-18 to 9.9% in 2018-19. While the agricultural imports as a percentage of India's agricultural GDP has declined from 5.7% to 4.9 % indicating exportable surplus and decreased dependence on import of agricultural products in India.

Multi lingual Mobile App "CHC- Farm Machinery" developed



Agricultural Mechanization is one of the key drivers for sustainable development of agriculture sector which helps in increasing production by timely farm operations, reducing losses, reducing the cost of operations by ensuring better management of costly inputs. Mechanization also enhances the productivity of natural resources and reduces drudgery associated with various farm operations.

Under the hash-tag ***AtmaNirbharKrishi***, created by Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Government of India, initiatives taken by Agriculture Mechanization and Technology Division are: In order to lay special emphasis towards promotion of agricultural mechanization in the country and to bring more inclusiveness, Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM) had been initiated since April 2014. Inthe year 2020-21, budget of Rs. 1033 crores have been provided for the scheme, out of which Rs. 553 croreshave been released to the State Governments.

Paddy straw burning is one of the major problems in the Northern Region of the country causing environmental pollution. With an objective to wean away farmers of this region from Crop ResidueBurning, the scheme of CRM (Crop Residue Management) was initiated since 2018 by Ministry of Agriculture& Farmers Welfare, wherein, farmers are provided machinery for in-situ management of crop residue through establishment of CHCs (Custom Hiring Centres). Individual farmers are also provided subsidy for procurement of machinery. Total funds of Rs. 1178.47 crores were provided in the year 2018-19 & 2019-20 to the States of Punjab, Haryana, UP and NCT. In the year 2020-21, Rs. 600 crores has been provided in the budget for the Scheme and Rs.548.20 crores have been released to the states well before time to ensure they can take up the activities in advance.

Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has also developed a Multi lingual Mobile App "CHC-Farm Machinery" which connects the farmers with Custom Hiring Service Centers situated in their locality. This app is facilitating agricultural mechanization in the country by encouraging small & marginal farmers to take machines on rental basis for agriculture practices without them having to purchase the high priced such machines. The App has been further modified and now has been given the acronym of "FARMS-app" (Farm Machinery Solutions-app). The revised version is more user friendly and the scope of the app has also been enhanced.

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Start-ups under the innovation and agripreneurship component of RKVY

The Union Government accords very high priority to the agriculture sector. In order to contribute directly and indirectly to enhancing the income of farmers by providing opportunites to them and to provide employment to youth, start-ups are being encouraged. A component, Innovation and Agri-entrepreneurship Development programme has been launched under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana in order to promote innovation and agripreneurship by providing financial support and nurturing the incubation ecosystem. These start-ups are in various categories such as agro-processing, artificial intelligence, digital agriculture, farm mechanisation, waste to wealth, dairy, fisheries etc.

DAC&FW has selected 5 Knowledge Partners (KPs) as Centres of Excellence. These are -

(1) National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE), Hyderabad,

(2) National Institute of Agricultural Marketing(NIAM) Jaipur,

(3) Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) Pusa, New Delhi,

(4) University of Agriculture Science, Dharwad, Karnataka and

(5) Assam Agriculture University, Jorhat, Assam

24 RKVY-RAFTAAR Agribusiness Incubators (R-ABIs) from across the country have also been appointed. The following are the components of this scheme:

- Agripreneurship Orientation - 2 months duration with a monthly stipend of Rs. 10,000/- per month. Mentorship is provided on financial, technical, IP issues etc.
- Seed Stage Funding of R-ABI Incubatees – Funding upto Rs. 25 lakhs (85% grant & 15% contribution from the incubatee).
- Idea/Pre-Seed Stage Funding of Agripreneurs – Funding up to Rs. 5 lakhs (90% grant and 10%contribution from the incubatee).

The institutes issue calls for application for their programmes and based on a rigorous process of selection through various stages and a training of two months, the final list of start-ups that are to be funded throughgrants-in-aid are finalised. Training on technical, finance, intellectual property, statutory compliance issues etc. is provided. Mentoring of start-ups through monitoring of milestones and timelines is part of the programme. In all, a total of 346 startups in the agriculture and allied sectors are being funded for a sum of Rs. 3671.75 lakhsin this phase. This fund will be released in instalments. These start-ups were trained for two months at 29agribusiness incubation centres (KPs & RABIs) spread across India. These start-ups will lead to employment to youth. Besides, they, directly and indirectly, will contribute to enhancing the income of farmers by providing opportunities to them.

For more details on Agri-entrepreneurship, RKVY website: https://rkvy.nic.in may be visited.

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