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# *Agricultural Production and* **Market Outlook**

The Rising Agriculture....

**Government Issue Price, Demand Forecasts for 5 Crops soon**

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The government will issue price and demand forecasts for onion, potato, mustard, wheat and chana to balance demand with Supply and help distressed farmers get better prices with the help of market intelligence. It hopes to end the practice of farmers sharply increasing planting of a particular crop after prices surge, which leads to a glut and losses in the following season. The government

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government in the budget for 2018-19 to create an institutional mechanism on market intelligence for farmers. The findings of the study will come in handy in the wake of the recently launched agriculture export policy aimed at doubling the farmers' income by 2022.

### **Cabinet clears Agri-Market Infrastructure Fund**

Almost a year after announcing the plan to set up 22,000 rural markets, connecting them with nearest APMCs and e-NAM platform, the Cabinet approved a Rs.2,000 crore fund – Agri-Market Infrastructure Fund - with Nabard. The rural markets, to be named as GrAMs (Gramin Agricultural Markets), will be eligible to avail loan from this fund at cheaper interest rates for creation of necessary facilities in the market complex. The Agri-Market Infrastructure Fund was announced in 2018 Budget for developing and upgrading agricultural marketing infrastructure in the 22,000 GrAMs and 585 APMCs. About 200 GrAMs



are currently under construction from MNREGA fund and the rural development ministry has been discussing with states to scale up the number of these markets, sources said. The guidelines for GrAMs were issued in December last year after

detailed consultation with states and other concerned ministries,

### **'Budget'19 to Increase Farmers' Income**

The present government, which has been continuously working on the motto of "Sabka Saath - Sabka Vikas", has once again, with Budget 2019, reaffirmed its commitment to the all-round development of agriculture sector and enhancing the income of farmers. The budgetary allocation of the Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Ministry has been raised by around 2.5 times from Rs 58,080 crore in 2018-19 to Rs 1,41,174.37 crore in 2019-20, which is 16.6 per cent more than Rs 1.21,082 crore during UPA (2009- 14). That is why the government in accordance with its philosophy of increasing both agricultural production and farmers' income, has created history in Budget 2019 by making provision of income support and other schemes with a focus on rural India. To provide assured income support to the small and marginal farmers, the government has launched a historic programme "Pradhan Mantri Kisan



Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN)" entailing an annual expenditure of Rs 75,000 crore.

Under this programme, vulnerable landholding farmer families, having cultivable land upto 2 hectare, will be provided direct income support at the rate of Rs 6,000 per year to ensure their investment and other needs.

### **2018-19 Horticulture Output Pegged at Record 314 MT**

The production of fruits and vegetables during the current year is estimated to be 314.5 million tonnes (mt), about 1 per cent more than what the country produced in 2017-18, the first advance estimates of horticulture production released by the government said recently. Per the final estimates provided by the government, the total production of fruits and vegetables in 2017-18 was 311.7 mt. While the production of vegetables was estimated to be 187.5 mt, about 3.5 per cent more than that in 2016-17, that of fruits was 97.35 mt, up 4.8 per cent over the previous year. There is a marginal increase in the area under horticulture crops. The area in 2018-19 is estimated to be 25.87 million hectares (mh) as compared to 25.43 mh in 2017-18. In the current year, the production of staple vegetable crops - onions, potatoes and tomatoes -- is expected to be higher as compared 2017-18. While potato production is projected to go up by 6 per cent to 52.58 mt from 51.31 mt last year, that of onion is pegged at 23.62 mt, 1.5 per cent higher than the 23.26 mt in 2017-18. Tomato production on the other hand, is estimated to be 2 per cent higher at 20.51 mt.

### **PM-KISAN SCHEME**

With a view to augment the income of farmers by providing income support to all

**INTERIM BUDGET 2019 - 20**

**Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN)**

**Direct income support of ₹6,000 p.a for farmers, effective 01.12.2018**

**To benefit 12 cr small and marginal farmer families having cultivable land upto 2 ha**

**Direct transfer into the bank accounts in three equal instalments**

**First installment upto 31.03.2019, to be paid this year itself**

**₹75,000 cr in outlay for 2019-20 and ₹20,000 cr in RE 2018-19**

PM, India | PM-KISAN | PM-KISAN | PM-KISAN | PM-KISAN | PM-KISAN | PM-KISAN | PM-KISAN

Small and Marginal landholder farmers' families across the country and to enable them to take care of expenses related to agriculture and allied activities as well as domestic needs, the Central Government had started a new Scheme on 01.02.2019 namely, the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN). The Scheme aims to provide a payment of Rs.6000/- per year for the farmers' families with cultivable land holding upto 2 hectare, subject to certain

exclusions. This Rs.6000/- would be released in three 4-monthly instalments of Rs.2000/- over the year. The scheme is effective from 1.12.2018. The amount is being released by the Central Government directly into the bank accounts of the eligible farmers under Direct Benefit Transfer mode for a period of 4 months ending on 31.03.2019. Around 12.5 crore farmers across the country will be benefitted from this Scheme. Under the scheme, the

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