Swaraj Tractors launches CODE, a multi-purpose farm mechanisation solution for horticulture farming

Swaraj Tractors' CODE will initially be launched in Swaraj dealerships in Gujarat, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana and will soon roll out across other states in a phased manner.

Swaraj Tractors, part of the Mahindra Group, today launched CODE, a new multi-purpose farm mechanisation solution to transform horticulture farming in India. An indigenously designed farm mechanisation solution, CODE is conceived to eliminate the drudgery of labour involved in horticulture farming. The narrowest and the lightest ride-on machine, CODE will revolutionise horticulture farming in India allowing farmers to carry out inter-culture operations in narrow rows for various fruits and vegetable crops. Additionally, the shorter turning radius of this machine provides better manoeuvrability in smaller farms cultivating horticulture crops.

CODE by Swaraj is an innovative farm mechanisation solution that so perfectly aligns with Mahindra Farm Equipment Sector's purpose of 'Transform Farming & Enriching Lives'. The aim CODE to provide easy access to affordable and innovative
Acknowledged the information used/taken from the public domain

technology to the farming community. The horticulture segment has a huge scope for mechanisation in our country. CODE by Swaraj is a specially crafted machine developed with deep consumer insights and capturing farmers' needs in horticulture farming. Currently, there is intense involvement of manual and animal labour in this segment, and this innovative solution is a pioneering step towards bringing mechanisation to this segment. Offered with unique capabilities, CODE helps solve issues related to horticulture farming and is being termed as 'Kheti Ki Duniya Ka Sabse Pehla YES machine', while offering some industry-first features for the horticulture farmer. Some key features include:

**Dual ground clearance** – The ground clearance of the machine can be increased as the crop grows in height thus reducing the dependency on manual operations.

**Bi-directional driving** – The bi-directional feature enables operations with attachments mounted in front of the machine making it extremely suitable for reaper operation in paddy.

CODE will initially be launched in Swaraj dealerships in Gujarat, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana and will soon roll out across other states in a phased manner. The product also comes with assured service support for a hassle-free ownership experience.

**India covers 59 lakh ha area with micro irrigation under PMKSY**

The PMKSY-PDMC is a Centrally sponsored scheme and the funds under the scheme is shared between Central government and state governments in the ratio of 60:40 for all states except the North Eastern and Himalayan states wherein sharing pattern is 90:10. In the case of union territories, the funding pattern is 100 per cent grant by the Central government. The Central assistance to states under the scheme is provided based on their Annual Action Plan approved by the state-level sanctioning committees (SLSC) under the chairmanship of the chief secretaries of their respective states. Besides, operational guidelines of the scheme have been issued to support the states and farmers on various aspects for effective implementation of the scheme.

With the objective of facilitating the states in mobilising resources for expanding coverage of micro-irrigation, a **Micro Irrigation Fund (MIF)** with a corpus of Rs. 5000 crore was created with National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) during 2018-19. The states are encouraged to access MIF for innovative projects and an additional incentive to farmers for installation of micro irrigation systems by interest subvention of three per cent than the cost of funds mobilised by NABARD from the market. So far, projects with loans under MIF amounting to Rs. 3970.17 crore have been approved for 12.81 lakh hectares of micro-irrigation area.

To continue the efforts, during the current year, a budget announcement was made to double the initial corpus of MIF from Rs. 5,000 crores to Rs. 10,000 crores.

**Krishi UDAN 2.0, a scheme to synergise agri logistics with aviation**

Krishi UDAN 2.0 lays out the vision of improving value realisation through better integration and optimisation of agri-harvesting and air transportation and contributing to agri-value chain sustainability

In order to leverage air logistics for transportation of agricultural produce, Union Minister of Civil Aviation, Jyotiraditya M. Scindia launched the Krishi UDAN 2.0 scheme of the Government of India.

Krishi UDAN 2.0 lays out the vision of improving value realisation through better integration and optimisation of agri-harvesting and air transportation and contributing to
agri-value chain sustainability and resilience under different and dynamic conditions. The scheme proposes to facilitate and incentivise the movement of agri-produce by air transportation.

Krishi UDAN 2.0 is an example of this government's collaborative approach towards policymaking. This scheme will open up new avenues of growth for the agriculture sector and help attain the goal of doubling farmers' income by removing barriers in the supply chain, logistics and transportation of farm produce. The Krishi UDAN 2.0 will be implemented at 53 airports across the country mainly focusing on Northeast and tribal regions and is likely to benefit farmers, freight forwarders and airlines. The Ministry of Civil Aviation plans to be pilot the scheme for six months, and, will introduce amendments based on the results of the evaluation and consultations with other stakeholders.

Key Highlights of Krishi UDAN 2.0:
- **Facilitating and incentivising movement of agri-produce by air transportation:** Full waiver of landing, parking, TNLC and RNFC charges for Indian freighters and P2C at selected airports of Airport Authority of India, primarily focusing on northeastern region, hilly and tribal regions.
- **Strengthening cargo-related infrastructure at airports and off airports:** Facilitating the development of a hub and spoke model and a freight grid. Airside transit and transhipment infrastructure will be created at Bagdogra and Guwahati, Leh, Srinagar, Nagpur, Nashik, Ranchi, and Raipur airports as a part of focus on NER, tribal and hilly districts.
- **Concessions sought from other bodies:** Seek support and encourage states to reduce Sales Tax to 1 per cent on ATF for freighters / P2C aircraft as extended in UDAN flights.
- **Resources-pooling through establishing convergence mechanism:** Collaboration with other government departments and regulatory bodies to provide freight forwarders, airlines and other stakeholders with incentives and concessions to enhance air transportation of agri-produce.
- **Technological convergence:** Development of E-KUSHAL (Krishi UDAN for Sustainable Holistic Agri-Logistics). Platform to be developed to facilitate information dissemination to all the stakeholders. Furthermore, integration of E-KUSHAL with e-National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) is proposed.

Total 53 airports have been selected for the first phase of Krishi UDAN 2.0. – the majority of them are operated by AAI. Airports for implementation of Krishi Udan 2.0 are selected with the aim of providing benefit to the entire country. Opted airports will provide access to the regional domestic market and will also connect them to international gateways of the country.

**River Ranching Programme launched in 5 states**

River Ranching Programme is introduced as a special activity under Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) for augmenting and enhancing fish production and productivity through expansion, intensification, diversification and productive utilisation of land and water. Department of Fisheries, Government of India, has designated the National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB), Hyderabad as the nodal agency under the Central sector component of PMMSY for implementing the programme across the country. With the growing human population, the requirement of high-quality protein, the demand of fish is gradually increasing. To promote the sustainable use and conservation of fishery resources in an economical and environmentally responsible manner has become the need of the hour. The River Ranching Programme is one such activity that can achieve sustainable fisheries, reducing habitat degradation, conserving biodiversity, maximising socio-economic benefits and assessing ecosystem services. Nevertheless, river ranching also ensures the up-gradation of the traditional fishery, ecosystem sustainability, trade and social protection of inland communities.

It is programmed to address increased fish catch, improved livelihood of fishers and to maintain the cleanliness of the river as they feed on organic remnants. Primarily to uplift the depleted fish stock and to enhance the production of the ranched fish species. Under Phase –1 of the programme, NFDB during 2020-21 has targeted three major river systems namely the Ganges and its tributaries, Brahmaputra & Barak tributaries and Mahanadi rivers. Accordingly, six major inland states focusing on the length of river belt namely...
Uttar Pradesh, Tripura, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Uttarakhand and Bihar were selected along with targeted sites for releasing of fish fingerlings. NFDB sanctioned a total budget of Rs.2.81 crore to ranch 97.16 lakh fingerlings to states as a part of Action Plan 2020-21 of PMMSY. Aiming the above objectives, the states have followed the breeding protocol and standard measures that required for ranching the fingerlings of native fish species into the rivers, which will help in increasing the fish production, improve the livelihood of dependent fishers and also make a healthy environment in the riverine system. For river ranching, the suggested fingerling size is 80-100mm, as the fingerlings have reached the preferable size for Ranching Programme in the selected state. Hence, NFDB in collaboration with six states under DoF guidance launched the programme at the national level.

The contribution of food processing industries in India’s GDP

*During the last five years ending 2019-20, Gross Value Added (GVA) in Food Processing Industries (FPI) sector has been growing at an Average Annual Growth Rate (AAGR) of around 11.18 per cent.*

The GVA (at constant prices 2011-12) in the food processing sector for the last five years are as under: (Rs. in lakh crore)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2015-16</th>
<th>2016-17</th>
<th>2017-18</th>
<th>2018-19</th>
<th>2019-20</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GVA-FPI</td>
<td>1.61</td>
<td>1.79</td>
<td>1.93</td>
<td>2.32</td>
<td>2.24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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*Source: National Accounts Division, Central Statistics Office*

Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) publishes data for the registered manufacturing sector including food processing. As per the latest Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) 2018-19, there were 40,579 food processing units in the registered sector. The ASI data do not give segregated data for big, medium, small, tiny units or details of multi-national corporations (MNCs). The MoSPI, through a national survey, collected data for unincorporated (unregistered) enterprises for the year 2015-16. As per this latest National Sample Survey (NSS 73rd, Round 2015-16), there were 24.59 lakh food processing enterprises in the unregistered segment out of which 93.6 per cent were in the micro category, 5.7 per cent in the small category and the remaining 0.7 per cent in the medium category.

The Ministry of Food Processing Industries is implementing a Central sector scheme – Pradhan Mantri Kisan SAMPADA Yojana (PMKSY) for the overall development of the food processing sector including increasing the processing capacity, reducing wastage of agricultural produce, creating off-farm employment, ensuring better returns to farmers among other components. Major component schemes under PMKSY include Mega Food Park, Agro-Processing Clusters, Integrated Cold Chain, Creation/Expansion of Food Processing and Preservation Capacities (CEFPPC) and Backward & Forward Linkages. Similarly, for upgrading/formalising unorganised micro sector units, the PM Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PM-FME) scheme is being implemented since June 2020. A Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme has also been rolled out for creating global food champions.