



# **BASAI News Updates**

**Oct. 9, 2022**

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CBC 16101/13/0003/2223

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# Tardy paddy procurement worries farmers

**SAMEER SINGH**  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**BATHINDA, OCTOBER 8**

Tardy paddy procurement across mandis in the district has left farmers in a quandary. With clouds hovering in the sky and heaps of grains lying at village-level procurement centres, farmers are quite disturbed. Even bardanas (gunny bags) have not even been supplied to many mandis till now.

The paddy procurement had officially began in mandis all across the state on October 1.

Sources said paddy purchase was taking place only at the main procurement centres, not village-level centres.

Weather is another cause for concern. The Meteorology Department has forecast cloudy weather with chances of rain in some areas of the Malwa region.

The produce has started coming at village-level centres in Balluana, Daan Singhwala, Jandanwala, Ganga, Kothe Natha Singhwala, Ablu, Khemuana, Virk Kalan, Buladhewala, Behman Diwana, Sivian and many other villages. However, no procurement



Farmers wait for their produce to be lifted in Goniana on Saturday.

## NO BUYERS SO FAR

“ I have brought my produce to the mandi, but no one has come to buy it till now. Surjit Singh, A FARMER

has started here yet.

Karnail Singh, a farmer from Daan Singhwala village, said, “What to talk about procurement, even gunny bags have not been supplied to the mandi. Agencies such as Punsup, Markfed and FCI have started procurement in main mandis of the district.”

On the other hand, Mandi Board and DFSC offi-

cialists claimed to have made elaborate arrangements for paddy procurement in the district.

Rajnish Goyal, District Mandi Officer, Bathinda, said, “At 10 procurement centres of the district, 1,401 MT of paddy has arrived in mandis. Of this, 719 MT has been procured by different agencies so far.”

## Provide relief to manage crop residue: Sukhbir

**CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 8**

Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) president Sukhbir Singh Badal on Saturday asked the AAP government to stop penalising farmers by indulging in ‘draconian’ acts like making red entries in their revenue record for stubble-burning.

Sukhbir also urged Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann to compensate farmers for the cost incurred in managing paddy stubble as promised by him.

In a statement issued here, the SAD chief said the Punjab Government had moved a proposal to give cash incentives at the rate of Rs 2,500 per acre to the farmers to encourage them not to burn paddy straw.

“It was proposed by the CM that both Punjab and Delhi as well as the Centre should contribute to make this incentive a reality. The CM should tell why both the AAP governments have refused to release a single rupee for this initiative,” he said. — IANS



# 'Proxy' procurement of paddy through fake gate passes in Karnal grain markets

Authorities of market committees deny charges, police say complaints received

PARVEEN ARORA  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

KARNAL, OCTOBER 8

The grain markets in Karnal district are once again in the limelight over alleged proxy procurement of paddy by generating fake entry gate passes. As per sources, fake gate passes are being issued to traders so that they can manage to adjust the already procured paddy and the paddy brought from Uttar Pradesh and other states into the PR-114 variety, commonly known as PR-14, and the PR-126 variety, which are being procured by the government.



Labourers load sacks of paddy on a truck at grain market in Karnal on Saturday. TRIBUNE PHOTO SAYEED AHMED

## NO ACTION AGAINST WRONGDOERS

“Every year, fake gate passes are issued, but no action is taken against the wrongdoers. The Chief Administrator of the HSAMB has appointed eight officials to remain at the entry gates of eight grain markets to look after every incoming and outgoing gate pass, but the officials are rarely present.

A commission agent

committees have denied the charges, on the other hand, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anish Yadav said he had received a complaint regarding the malpractice and inquiry was underway. “SDMs are keeping eyes on all grain markets and purchase centres,” the DC added.

Pawan Chopra, secretary, Karnal and Jundla market committees, said the allegations were baseless and no such passes were issued.

Rajnish Chaudhary, president, Karnal Arhtiyas' Association, raised question on the registration of crops on the MFMB portal and said there should be proper verification of crops being cultivated by the farmers, as in some cases, it was noticed that production was shown on empty fields.

Sujan Singh, Chief Administrator of the HSAMB, said he would get the issue investigated in all grain markets of Karnal, adding that he had appointed eight teams to keep a vigil in grain markets.

Singh said a complaint regarding the issue had come to his notice, for which he had told the District Marketing Enforcement Officer, Kaithal, to inquire into the issue and submit a report.

quintal per acre “Dwarf disease and untimely rainfall had already reduced the production of farmers and were getting yield between 15 quintal per acre and 25 quintal per acre in comparison to 30-32 quintal per acre last year,” the sources said.

Sources said the gap between the actual production and the average production fixed by the government was being used to adjust the already procured paddy and the paddy brought from neighbouring states by traders with the help of fake gate passes.

“It is a common practice and is being done by traders in connivance with the officials of the

Haryana State Agricultural Marketing Board (HSAMB) every year,” the sources said.

On the condition of anonymity, a commission agent said: “Every year, fake gate passes are issued, but no action is taken against the wrongdoers. Even the Chief Administrator of the HSAMB has appointed eight officials to remain at the entry gates with their staff at eight grain markets — Gharaunda, Karnal, Assandh, Taraori, Nissing, Kunjpura, Indri and Nigdhu — to look after every incoming and outgoing gate pass, but the officials are rarely available on the gates.

The appointment of these

officials at the entry gates shows that the higher authorities have an apprehension of such malpractice.”

Another commission agent said that PR varieties from Uttar Pradesh were officially not allowed, but these were coming frequently in various grain markets of the district without any gate pass.

“These vehicles come either early in the morning or late in the evening in the grain markets. Every year, we have raised the issue of this malpractice with the authorities, but no action is taken,” the agent added.

While on one hand, the authorities of the market

# New distribution system okayed to end pilferage

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 8

The J&K administration on Saturday approved the Targeted Public Distribution System Order which will help put an end to pilferage, an official spokesperson said. The new policy is a result of the reformation of the existing system and permits diversification of commodities and services other than those distributed under the TPDS at fair price shops (FPS), he said.

It will also make FPS economically viable, which will help in putting an end to pilferage, the spokesperson added. The Administrative

Council (AC) that met here under the chairmanship of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha approved the J&K Targeted Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2022, the spokesperson said.

The policy will revise the existing provisions pertaining to opening of new fair price shops and their licensing. It will ensure at least one FPS in each panchayat/municipal ward, so new FPS will be also established. The number shall be based on the population of the panchayat/municipal ward. — PTI