



INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF
MILLETS
2023



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BASAI WEEKLY NEWS UPDATES

FEBRUARY 12-18, 2023

Indore is ready to host the 1st Agriculture Deputies Meeting (ADM) of Agriculture Working Group (AWG) under India's G20 Presidency

Posted On: 12 FEB 2023 3:04PM by PIB Delhi

The 1st ADM, a three-day event, will be held at Indore during 13-15 February 2023. Around a hundred delegates from G20 member countries, guest countries and International Organizations are expected to participate in the meeting.

Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan will inaugurate the exhibition on the first day of the three-day meeting. Millets and its value-added food products along with stalls from Animal Husbandry and Fisheries will be a major attraction of this exhibition.

During the 1st ADM of Agriculture Working Group, two side events have been scheduled on Day One to deliberate on agriculture related matters. Day Two will witness the esteemed presence of the Union Civil Aviation Minister Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia following which there will be general discussion among the participating members and International Organizations.

Day Three will be dedicated to the deliberations on the key deliverables of the AWG. It will be a technical session with round about discussions and participation from all concerned members and international organizations.

During the event, the delegates will get to experience the rich Indian history through heritage walk to Rajwada Palace and excursion to Mandu Fort. Gala dinners and cultural performances will provide a taste of Indian cuisine and culture.

SNC/PK/MS

(Release ID: 1898485)

India projects record food output

HT Correspondent

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: India's foodgrain production is projected to be a record 323.55 million tonnes in 2022-23, driven by rice and wheat output, according to the second of the four quarterly estimates, the agriculture ministry said on Tuesday.

Total foodgrain production is likely to be 7.93 million tonnes higher against the previous year's output. Wheat production is estimated at record 112.18 mil-

lion tonnes in the 2022-23 crop year (July-June), up 4.44 million tonnes from the previous year.

In 2020-21, the country produced 109.59 million tonnes of wheat. The following year, the winter staple's output had fallen 2.5% due to a heatwave, prompting a ban on export in May 2022.

Rice production is estimated at 130.83 million tonnes in 2022-23 crop year, up 1.36 million tonnes from the previous year, an official statement said. Yet, the government had curbed

export of non-premium rice in Sept 2022 due to rising exports, fearing domestic shortage.

Despite the robust output estimates, food inflation came in at 6.1% in January on the back of higher wheat prices.

The output of coarse cereals has been pegged at 52.72 million tonnes in the current crop year, up 1.62 million tonnes from the previous year. Pulse production is estimated at 27.81 million tonnes in 2022-23 as against 27.3 million tonnes in the previous year.

Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council

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Last date for submission of proposals: **31st March, 2023** (up to 5:30 pm)

For queries, please contact: GM & Head - Investment, BIRAC Email: investment.birac@gov.in

Make farming climate proof

Inflation targeting won't be very effective if agriculture can't deal with climate vagaries

At 6.5%, retail inflation in January surprised everyone on the upside. With inflation once again going above the 6% upper limit of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)'s threshold, the consensus about the central bank's February 25 basis point rate hike being the last in the current cycle has begun to fray. To be sure, the April meeting of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) will have the benefit of having February's Consumer Price Index (CPI) data and, more importantly, a better idea about this year's wheat harvest. The former will pretty much ascertain the validity of the MPC's inflation forecast of 5.7% for the quarter ending March and the latter will be crucial for future trajectory of wheat and, therefore, cereal inflation. Wheat inflation stood at 25% in January while cereals, as a whole, saw inflation of 16%. Things can go in two directions as of now.

First, the better-case scenario. A bumper wheat crop and (possibility of) a normal monsoon eases cereal prices even as the anticipated weakening of overall economic momentum reduces some pressure on core inflation numbers. Here, economic policy will have to pivot towards growth at some point, which intuition suggests will happen around the middle of the year as the 2024 general election comes closer. The only unknown in this scenario is the economic situation and monetary policy direction in advanced economies, especially the US. Second, the not-so-good scenario. A premature heatwave — it is too early to rule this out — leads to sub-par yields for wheat, El Nino weakens the monsoon, and hurts the *kharif* output. Cereal prices continue to increase and trigger a wage-price spiral in the economy. This will put pressure on the government to reverse its food subsidy reduction and may well impact the capex spending in the Budget. Any aggressive tightening of interest rates by RBI will only add to the growth problem.

Either is possible, but a caveat on inflation targeting may be relevant here. Inflation targeting is hailed as the gold standard of prudent macroeconomic policy where the central bank manages the balance between prices and growth without the government's intervention. The reality, as the cereal price driven inflationary spike shows, is that this is often beyond the abilities of monetary policy. Interest rates, in this specific case, may not be able to deflate demand for cereals — not that such an end is even desirable. As the climate crisis increases uncertainty in agricultural production, India must invest in making its farming more resilient. Not doing this will make inflation targeting more an exercise in cloud-gazing than anything else.

Coop export house inaugurated

KARNAL, FEBRUARY 14

Union Home and Cooperative Minister Amit Shah today inaugurated a cooperative export house, which was earlier an Agro Mall constructed during the previous Congress government in 2014.

Addressing the gathering, country's first Union Cooperative Minister Shah appreciated the ML Khattar-led government for establishing the cooperative export house, which would be beneficial for farmers and traders.

"I am happy that Khattar has established the export house in a mall. It is a sophisticated place, where producers have to bring their produce and the rest of the work such as testing, packaging and exports will be done from here," Shah added.

He appreciated the Khattar government for various initiatives — becoming the first state in the country to have educated panchayats, first kerosene-free state, getting

OTHER PROJECTS

- Sanjhi Dairy scheme to provide the facility of fodder, vax & vet consultancy to landless farmers
- Internet radio, 'Sahakarita Vani', for farmers & cooperatives to provide info on farming, animal breeding
- Stone of a ₹150-cr ethanol plant at the Panipat Cooperative Sugar Mill laid
- Stone of a ₹200-cr coop milk plant at Bidwas in Rewari district laid

the status of maximum ODF-plus villages and pioneer in opening of startups. The Union Minister further said the day was not far when besides basmati, vegetables from the state would also be exported to the Gulf countries.

Shah also started the Sanjhi Dairy scheme, which will provide the facility of fodder, vaccination and veterinary consultancy to landless farmers.

On the occasion, Shah inau-

gurated an Internet radio, 'Sahakarita Vani', for farmers and cooperative institutions. It will provide them scientific information regarding farming and animal breeding.

Shah also laid the stone of a Rs 150 crore ethanol plant at the Panipat Cooperative Sugar Mill. It will have a capacity of 90 kilo litre per day.

He also laid the foundation stone of a Rs 200 crore cooperative milk plant at Bidwas in Rewari district having a capacity of 5 lakh litre per day. It will meet the requirement of milk in the NCR.

Meanwhile, the National Cooperative Development Corporation presented a letter of acceptance of Rs 10,000 crore to the state's Cooperative Institutions, which will provide easy loan on less interest to cooperatives.

Speaking on the occasion, CM Khattar said they had been making efforts to increase exports in the cooperative sector. — TNS

Assured compensation within week, farmers call off protest

DEEPENDER DESWAL

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

HISAR, FEBRUARY 14

Farmers called off their agitation following a discussion with the Deputy Commissioner regarding their demands of the release of the pending compensation for the crop loss and to drain out water from the fields in various villages of the district today.

The farmers said DC Uttam Singh had assured them that the compensation for cotton and other kharif crops for the year 2021 would be disbursed to the affected farmers within a week.

Earlier, farmers, hailing from 17 villages, under the banner of farmers' organisations Samyukta Kisan Morcha, Pagri Sambhal Jatta, Bhartiya Kisan Union (Bhagat Singh) and Bhartiya Kisan Mazdoor Union, staged a protest at the Mini



Farmers stage a protest outside the Mini Secretariat in Hisar. ASHOK KUNDU

CROPS DAMAGED IN 2021

■ The farmers said DC Uttam Singh had assured that the compensation for the cotton and other kharif crops for the year 2021 will be disbursed to the affected farmers within a week

■ Earlier, farmers hailing from 17 villages staged a protest at the Mini Secretariat. The police blocked the entry of protesters at the main gate after which they raised anti-government slogans

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Later, the administration invited a farmers' delegation to hold talks with the DC. An 11-member committee, including Suresh Koth,

Dharmapal Badala, Amarjeet Modi, Jagdeep Aulakh, Kaptaan Chahal, Mandeep Nathwan, Sandeep Nada, Sandeep Kapro, Balwan Lohan, Ramniwas Khedi Jalab and Ranbir Singh Malik, called on the DC and submitted a memorandum to him.

Suresh Koth, a farmer leader, said the DC had assured them that the compensation would be disbursed to them within a week. He said the government had also been carrying out girdawri of the frost-affected mustard fields and appropriate compensation would be given to the affected farmers.

"The DC told the delegation that the issue of waterlogging will also be tackled as a number of villages are affected due to the problem. The drainage system will be put in place before the next monsoon," said Koth.



Wholesale inflation eases to two-year low of 4.73% in Jan

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 14

The wholesale price-based inflation declined to 2-year low of 4.73% in January on easing prices of manufactured items, fuel and power, even though food articles turned expensive.

This is the eight straight month of decline in the rate of wholesale price-index (WPI) based inflation. It was 4.95% in December 2022 and 13.68% in January last year.

"Decline in the rate of inflation in January, 2023 is primarily contributed by mineral oils, chemicals & chemical products, textiles, crude petroleum & natural gas, textiles, and food products," the Commerce and Industry Ministry said on Tuesday.

The decline in the rate of price rise was mainly due to a favourable base effect, economists said, adding that going forward, softening commodity prices would help ease WPI inflation further.

Although inflation in manufactured items softened, in the case of food articles it rose to 2.38% in January, from (-) 1.25% in

INFLATION IN FOOD ARTICLES UP AT 2.38%

- Although inflation in manufactured items softened, in the case of food articles it rose to 2.38% in January, from (-) 1.25% in December, 2022
- Inflation in pulses was 2.41%, while in vegetables it was (-) 26.48%. Inflation in oil seeds was (-) 4.22% in January, 2023
- Fuel and power basket inflation eased to 15.15%, from 18.09% in December 2022. In manufactured products, it was 2.99%, against 3.37% in December, 2022

December, 2022.

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Fuel and power basket inflation eased to 15.15%, from 18.09% in December 2022. In manufactured products, it was 2.99%, against 3.37% in December, 2022. — PTI

SECONDARY STEEL SCRAP RECYCLING **INDUSTRY IN CRISIS**

**Dear Hon'ble Finance Minister,
Government of India,**

The industry association seeks an urgent intervention from you to save the Steel Scrap Recycle industry from business disruption caused by GST malpractices by unorganized suppliers.



Issues faced by the industry:

1. Local scrap dealers or traders are billing scrap on fraudulent GST bills, collecting GST from manufacturers along with the material bill, but not depositing the funds with the department. There is currently no mechanism available on the GST portal to verify the deposit of GST or the authenticity of bills. As a result of which frequent raids and notices from tax authorities are being sent to manufacturers seeking details of scrap purchased from scrap dealers.
2. This is also followed by a disallowance in GST credits to manufacturers on an assumption that the credit distributed by the scrap dealers is irregular.
3. Disruption in supply chain by restriction of entry of goods supplied by scrap dealers into the factory premises of the manufacturers. At times, the manufacturers are directed to not deal with certain scrap dealers leading to disruptions in the production cycle.

Proposed solution under reverse charge mechanism on sales to manufacturers:

- **Kindly notify metal scrap under reverse charge mechanism on sales to manufacturers**

Exempting the supply of metal scrap from GST when it is sold by various scrap dealers, except for the last leg of the chain when it is sold to manufacturers. In that case, the GST would be collected from the manufacturers through a reverse charge mechanism. The implementation of RCM is expected to increase tax collection from manufactures by approximately INR 6,800 Crores. A notable scenario on similar fact pattern is that of Goods Transport Agency's (GTA) Services.

- **Create distinct entries in the GST schedules, preferably with distinct Harmonized System of Nomenclature (HSN) codes or sub code and notify old scrap under reverse charge mechanism on sales to manufacturers**

Introduce separate entries in the GST schedules and HSN codes or Sub Code for the old scrap and new scrap. The association requests if the proposal cannot be applied to both scraps, it should at least be considered for old scrap as it contributes to a cleaner environment and decarbonisation with net zero carbon emission and sustainable development, making it deserving of a beneficial consideration under GST.

About the industry:

The Steel Scrap Industry in India is a significant contributor to the total steel production, accounting for around 35%. It also contributes 2% to the national GDP, providing ample employment opportunities. Steel Scrap processing is backbone for "Mission Green Steel". In line with the National Steel Policy 2017 (NSP 17), it is projected that the contribution from ferrous scrap to the Goods and Services Tax (GST) will increase to INR 35,000 crores by 2030.

NOTE : ALL THE DETAILS HAVE BEEN SHARED WITH RESPECTIVE GST STAKEHOLDERS ON A 1:1 BASIS BY ALL INDIA INDUCTION FURNACE ASSOCIATION, INDUCTION FURNACE ASSOCIATION MANDI GOBINDGARH, INDUCTION FURNACE ASSOCIATION OF NORTH INDIA, STEEL MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION OF MAHARASHTRA, AND INDUCTION FURNACE ASSOCIATION OF UTTAR PRADESH, IRON AND STEEL REROLLERS ASSOCIATION MADHYA PRADESH, COLLECTIVELY.

OUTPUT OF FOOD GRAIN SET TO HIT RECORD 323.5MN TONNES: CENTRE

NEW DELHI: India's food grain production is projected to be a record 323.55 million tonnes in 2022-23, driven by rice and wheat output, according to the second of the four quarterly estimates, the agriculture ministry said on Tuesday. Total food grain production is likely to be 7.93 million tonnes higher against the previous year's output. Wheat production is estimated at record 112.18 million tonnes in the 2022-23 crop year (July-June), up 4.44 million tonnes from the previous year.

Highlighting menace, farm activists take stray cattle to Ambala DC's office

AMBALA, FEBRUARY 14

To highlight the stray cattle menace, farm activists, under the banner of the BKU (Shaheed Bhagat Singh), today reached outside the DC's office with hundreds of animals in their tractor-trailers.

The farmers brought a large number of cattle in tractor-trailers from across the district and gathered near the city grain market. They took out a march, raised anti-government slogans and reached outside the DC's office with the stray cattle.

Sukhvinder Singh, block-1 chief of the union, said "The farmers are struggling to protect their 'fasal' and 'nasal'. The cattle are not only damaging the crops, but people are losing their lives too, as these cattle have become a cause of accidents. Despite repeated requests, the administration and the government have failed to shift the animals."

The farmers parked their

tractor-trailers, carrying the cattle, on the main road near the DC office, where several major offices, police stations and district court are situated.

Farm leader Tejveer Singh said, "When the government is imposing taxes and the BJP obtains votes in the name of cows, why the same cows are being forced to live on roads and eat polythene? We are here to observe 'cow hug

day'...we aim to make Ambala stray cattle-free and later, we will run similar drives in other districts too."

Later, a delegation of farmers held a meeting with DC Priyanka Soni and lifted their dharna after she gave them the assurance of shifting the cattle to gaushalas.

BKU (SBS) district chief Gurmeet Singh said, "We didn't want any confrontation

**INVITE MLAs TO
HUG THE COWS**

“The farmers have brought cattle from across the district and we invite the BJP MLAs and leaders to come and hug the cattle. They can even take the cattle to their respective homes. Tejveer Singh, FARMERS' LEADER

◀ A tractor-trailer laden with stray cattle in Ambala.



Cabinet nod for 2 lakh agri credit, dairy cooperative societies in 5 yrs

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 15

Seeking to strengthen the cooperative movement in the country, the Union Cabinet today approved setting up of 2 lakh primary agriculture credit societies (PACS) and dairy-fishery cooperatives in left-out villages and panchayats over the next five years.

Briefing the media after a Union Cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur said of the nearly 99,000 PACS across the country, 63,000 were functional. There still were 1.6 lakh panchayats without PACS and nearly 2 lakh without any dairy cooperative society, he said. The Cabinet approved steps to strengthen the cooperative movement in the country and deepen its reach at the grassroots level.

The Union Ministry of Cooperation has formulated a plan to establish viable PACS in each uncovered panchayat, viable dairy cooperatives in each uncovered panchayat or village and viable fishery cooperatives in each coastal panchayat or village, the government said in a statement.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9



BOOSTING COOP MOVEMENT

99,000
CREDIT SOCIETIES

63,000
FUNCTIONAL

1.6L
PANCHAYATS
WITHOUT
CREDIT SOCIETIES

2L
PANCHAYATS
WITHOUT DAIRY
COOPERATIVES

REACHING GRASSROOTS

- Farmers to get linkages to market produce
- Their income will be enhanced
- Credit facilities at village level



7 new ITBP battalions for LAC

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 15

In a major push to counter Chinese manoeuvres on the border, the government today sanctioned a proposal to hire 9,400 personnel to raise seven

₹4,800 CR PLAN FOR VILLAGES ALONG LAC **BACK PAGE**

new battalions for the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), a force that guards the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

The Cabinet also approved a new operational base for the ITBP and the construction of the 4.1-km Shinkun La tun-



TUNNEL TO LADAKH

Nod for construction of Shinkun La tunnel for all-weather connectivity to Ladakh

4.1-km-long tunnel will be built at a cost of ₹1,681 cr by Dec 2025



nel on the Nimu-Padam-Darcha road to provide all-weather connectivity to the frontier

areas of Ladakh. Briefing the media, Union Minister Anurag Thakur said the decision on the new battalions was taken at a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS), chaired by the PM.

The ITBP, having a strength of 90,000 personnel, was raised in the aftermath of the 1962 Chinese aggression and it is tasked with guarding the 3,488-km-long LAC. The force is working along with the Army even as the Indian and Chinese militaries have been engaged in a standoff in Ladakh since 2020.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

Cabinet nod for 2 lakh agri credit, dairy...

"Initially, 2 lakh PACS, dairy or fishery cooperatives would be established over the next five years. The action plan for implementation of the project shall be prepared by NABARD, National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) and National Fishery Development Board (NFDB)," it said.

The government also said there were a number of schemes that had been identified for convergence under the new plan. These include National Programme for Dairy Development (NPDD), and Dairy Processing & Infrastructure Development Fund (DIDF) under the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying; Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada

Yojana (PMMSY), and Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development (FIDF) under the Department of Fisheries.

The Cabinet decision would help in providing people with requisite forward and backward linkages to market their produce, enhance their income and obtain credit facilities and other services at the village level itself, it said.

Primary cooperative societies that cannot be revived will be identified for winding up and new ones would be established in their area of operation, the government said, adding that the establishment of new PACS, dairy or fishery cooperative societies would generate

employment opportunities in rural areas.

The I&B Minister said a high-level inter-ministerial committee (IMC) under the chairmanship of Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah was being constituted, which would also include the ministers of Agriculture, Fisheries and Animal Husbandry and Dairying. The secretaries concerned of the ministries will also be on the panel.

Committees at national, state and district levels had also been envisaged to ensure focused and effective execution of the action plan, the minister added. "To increase the viability of PACS and diversify their business activities, the model bylaws

of PACS have already been prepared by the Ministry of Cooperation," Thakur said, adding these had been circulated to all states and UTs on January 5 for their adoption after making suitable changes in their respective state cooperative Acts.

These model bylaws will enable them to undertake more than 25 business activities, which include dairy, fishery, setting up of godowns, procurement of foodgrains, fertilisers, seeds, LPG/CNG/petrol/diesel distributorship, short-term and long-term credit, custom hiring centres, common service centres, fair price shops, community irrigation, business correspondent activities, common service centres, etc.



Farmers hold a protest in Ferozepur on Wednesday. TRIBUNE PHOTO

Not allowed to till land across fence, farmers block road

OUR CORRESPONDENT

FEROZEPUR, FEBRUARY 15

Hundreds of farmers belonging to Dona Telu Mal and surrounding villages along the Indo-Pakistan border continued their dharna on the second consecutive day today in front of the District Administrative Complex (DAC) here.

The agitated farmers blocked the national highway while protesting against the move to prevent them from tilling the fields across the fence. The protest was led by members of the Bharti Kisan Union (Ekta Sidhupur).

Gurmeet Singh, district president, BKU (Ekta Sidhupur), said farmers belonging to the DT Mall area had been tilling the government land along the border for the past several decades. "Now, some people have started cultivating the land allegedly in the connivance with the some bigwigs, who have prevented our entry into the fields," alleged Gurmeet Singh, adding that they would not lift the dharna until they were allowed to cultivate their land.

Ranjit Singh, farmer union leader, said around 60 farm-

THEIR COMPLAINT

“In 1989, the fence was erected following the instructions of the Centre. On a request of the BSF, farmers cleared the land of wild growth and started farming. Now, they are not being allowed to enter the fields by the BSF and the administration. Ranjit, a VILLAGER

ers belonging to DT Mall and surrounding villages had been stopped to till the land.

"In 1989, the fence was erected following the instructions of the central government. On the request of the BSF, the farmers cleared the land of wild growth and started farming. And now they are not being allowed to enter the fields," said Ranjit. Around 2,500 acres are situated across the fence of which around 1,100 acres are under the possession of the administration.

Gursewak Singh, block president, said earlier also, the government had tried to take away the land but they had approached the court. "We are left with no other option but to sit on a dharna for our right," said Gursewak.

CENTRE GIVES ₹48CR TO DELHI TO RESTORE MCD WATER BODIES

Paras Singh

paras@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The central government has sanctioned funds worth ₹47.7 crore for restoration of Delhi's water bodies maintained by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) with large-scale landscaping and rejuvenation work to be taken up at three major lakes, senior MCD officials associated with the project have said.

A major part of the funds will be used to restore Roshanara lake (₹11 crore), Naini Lake (₹10.7 crore) in Model Town, and Welcome Jheel in Shahdara (₹10.2 crore), a senior official from the engineering department said on Tuesday. "Rest of the funds worth ₹16 crore will be spent on rejuvenation work of 18 smaller ponds located in the rural belt in Najafgarh, Narela and South zone," the official added.

At the Naini Lake, the restoration work will mostly consist of supplying treated wastewater and development of public space around it, officials said. Currently, the lake is being fed by groundwater using pumps. "The restoration project will involve utilisation of treated wastewater to recharge the lake. We will also be setting up a pipeline network to bring treated wastewater from the Coronation Pillar sewage treatment plant while large-scale landscaping for development of public space around it is also on cards," a second MCD official said.

A few kilometres away is the historic Roshanara Bagh where, the MCD official said, that the restoration work will focus on the development of the lake bed, creation of a 4m-high bund around the periphery, walkways and landscaping of the Mughal era garden. "The Delhi Jal Board has already developed a wastewater treatment plant with a capacity of cleaning 2.25 million liters of drain water everyday which will be fed to the lake," the official said.

For east Delhi's Welcome lake, the revival project will focus on the landscaping work, the official said.

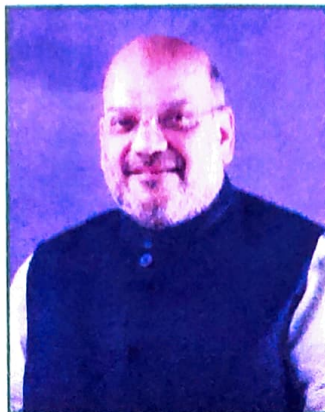
"₹10.22 crore have been sanctioned for this project under the Amrit project of the central government. The total area of this Jheel Park is 30.74 acres," the official explained.

The Centre's project will also take up 18 other water bodies for revival.

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF COOPERATIVE SUGAR FACTORIES LTD.



"This Budget will make cooperatives a fulcrum of development of the rural economy"
Shri Narendra Modi
Hon'ble Prime Minister



"The budget will be a big boost for the vital Cooperative Sector"
Shri Amit Shah
Hon'ble Minister for Home and Cooperation



"I propose to provide an opportunity to sugar co-operatives to claim payments made to sugarcane farmers for the period prior to assessment year 2016-17 as expenditure. This is expected to provide them with a relief of almost ₹ 10,000 crore"
Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman
Hon'ble Finance Minister

WE EXPRESS OUR SINCERE GRATITUDE FOR PROPOSING RELIEF FROM THE INCOME TAX CLAIMS TO THE COOPERATIVE SUGAR FACTORIES ACROSS THE COUNTRY!



BIG THANK YOU



The landmark proposal in the Union Budget 2023-24 provided the much needed relief from financial, legal and emotional distress being faced over last 30 years by millions of small and marginal sugarcane farmers and hundreds of cooperative sugar factories across the country.

This booster dose has given a new lease of life to the Indian Cooperative Sugar Factories and will help transform them into vibrant business enterprises.

Prakash Naiknavare
Managing Director

Ketanbhai Patel
Vice-President

Jaiprakash Dandegaonkar
President

& BOARD OF DIRECTORS



National Federation of Cooperative Sugar Factories Ltd.
New Delhi: www.coopsugar.org

The Tribune

ESTABLISHED IN 1881

Agri credit societies

Indispensable lifeline for small and marginal farmers

THE Union Cabinet has approved the setting up of two lakh Primary Agriculture Credit Societies (PACS) and dairy-fishery cooperatives over the next five years. The move, which comes a year and a half after the Centre formed the Ministry of Cooperation, is aimed at bolstering the cooperative movement and generating job opportunities in rural areas. PACS provide short-term loans to farmers, who have to meet their requirement of seeds, fertilisers, pesticides and other inputs at the start of every cropping season. Farmers need to repay these crop loans at a very low rate of interest as both the Central and state governments chip in with their contributions. Timely repayment of loans entitles them to an incentive in the form of interest subvention.

With around 1.6 lakh panchayats still without PACS and about two lakh panchayats having no dairy cooperative society, the Cabinet's decision will help in ensuring last-mile coverage of these societies, which have crores of farmers as their members. The ground situation, however, is not very encouraging. More than one-third of the nearly one lakh existing PACS in the country are non-functional. According to an RBI report released last year, one-fourth of the 63,000-odd functional societies are running into losses, with the PACS's non-performing assets amounting to over Rs 72,000 crore. These sobering figures indicate that all is not well with the functioning of agriculture credit societies. With farmers being a major vote bank, political and electoral considerations adversely impact the recovery of loans. Lending societies remain under pressure to go soft on the defaulters or write off debts.

Last year, the Centre had initiated the computerisation of PACS in a bid to enhance their efficiency and bring transparency and accountability in their operations. There is also a dire need to strike a balance between sustaining credit flow in the agriculture sector and maintaining the financial health of the PACS. Plugging the gaps in the loan repayment mechanism is a must for strengthening the time-tested cooperative model and ensuring the viability of the credit societies, which are an indispensable lifeline particularly for small and marginal farmers.



Department of Science Technology
& Environment, Govt of Punjab



Punjab State Council for
Science Technology



National Innovation
Foundation

GRIP - GRASSROOT INNOVATORS OF PUNJAB

Fostering Transformation through Empowering GRIP

Punjab State Council for Science & Technology, Department of Science Technology & Environment, Govt of Punjab in collaboration with National Innovation Foundation of Department of Science & Technology, Govt. of India is taking a pioneering initiative to strengthen the grassroot innovations of Punjab.

Applications are invited for Innovations pertaining to novel products & processes that can solve unmet needs or challenges of individuals or communities

Who can apply:

The innovators such as artisans, farmers, students, self employed entrepreneurs and individuals in rural & urban areas.

Prizes

Prizes from Rs. 5000/- to 50,000/- to selected innovators

LAST DATE
07.03.2023

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Further information, corrigendum etc., if any, in this regard will be uploaded on our website and no separate notice will be published in the newspapers.

Punjab State Council for Science & Technology
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