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Launch of National Mission on Edible Oils –Oil Palm (NMEO-OP)



The Cabinet approved the launch of the 'National Mission on Edible Oils – Oil Palm' (NMEO-OP) as a new Centrally Sponsored Scheme with a financial outlay of Rs 11,040 crore with a special focus on the Northeast region and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

a. Key Points:

i. Objective: To reduce the edible oil import dependence and make the country self-sufficient in cooking oils.

ii. Financial Outlay: Out of the Rs 11,040 financial outlay, Rs 8,844 crore will be the Centre's share and Rs 2,196 crore as State share. It also includes the viability gap funding.

iii. The mission targets to cover 10 lakh hectares (ha) for oil palm. Now the government (govt) plans to cover the area of 6.5 lakh ha within 2025-26.

iv. The production of Crude Palm Oil (CPO) is expected to go up to 11.20 lakh tons by 2025-26 and up to 28 lakh tons by 2029-30.

v. Through the govt's effort, oilseeds production was increased from 275 lakh tons in 2014-15 to 365.65 lakh tons in 2020-21.

b. Pricing:

I. The oil palm farmers produce Fresh Fruit Bunches (FFBs) from which oil is extracted by the industry.

ii.For the 1st time, the govt plans to give price assurance to the oil palm farmers for the FFBs through Viability Price (VP).

• Currently, the prices of those FFBs are linked to the international CPO prices fluctuations.

• The VP will be the annual average CPO price of the last 5 years adjusted with the wholesale price index to be multiplied by 14.3 percent.

• VP will be fixed yearly for the oil palm year from 1st November to 31st October. It will protect the COP price fluctuations.

c. assistance for Planting and Seed Garden:

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I. The govt has increased the assistance to oil palm growers for planting material from Rs 12,000 per ha to Rs 29000 per ha.

ii. For seed gardens, the assistance of up to Rs 80 lakhs for 15 ha (in the Rest of India) and Rs 100 lakhs for 15 ha (in the North-East and Andaman regions) will also be provided under the mission.

Revival of North-eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation Ltd

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved a revival package of Rs 77.45 crore for the revival of North-eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation (NERAMAC) Limited.

• NERAMAC is a central Public Section Enterprises under the administrative control of the Ministry of Development of North-eastern Regional (MDoNER).

Key Points on Revival Package:

i. Out of the revival package, Rs 17 crore was towards fund based support and Rs 60.45 crore was towards non- fund-based support.

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ii. It will help NERAMAC implement different plans such as providing better farming facilities, organic seeds and fertilizer, post-harvesting facilities, etc to promote the products of North-East farmers in the world market.

iii. The implementation of the revival package will generate employment for around 33,000 people. It will also promote the registration of GI (Geographical Indications) products of NER.

iv. Additional Info:

The NER could also be benefitted from the other govt schemes and initiatives such as,

•PM Kisan SAMPADA (Scheme for Agro-Marine Processing and Development of Agro-Processing Clusters) Yojana.

• Agriculture Infrastructure Fund under AatmaNirbhar Bharat, Krishi Udaan and Kisan Rail.

• Retail outlets under its own brands like 'NE Fresh' and 'ONE' (Organic North East) and through NAFED (National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India), TRIFED (Tribal Cooperative Marketing Federation of India).

Government approves highest FRP of sugarcane at 290/quintal for season 2021-22



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The Union Cabinet has approved the highest ever fair and remunerative price (FRP) of Rs 290 per quintal (qtl) at a recovery rate of 10% for sugarcane farmers for sugar season 2021-22 (October – September).

The information for the same was provided by minister Piyush Vedprakash Goyal, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.

• FRP is the minimum price that mills have to pay to cane growers.

• Notably, this FRP is higher by 87.1% overproduction cost (Rs. 155 per quintal), therefore farmers get a
return of much more than 50% over their cost.

• The FRP will be applicable from October 1, 2021.

PM Launched NMEO-OP Mission to Achieve Self-Reliance in Edible Oils; PM Released 9th Instalment of PM-KISAN

On August 09, 2021, Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi launched the National Mission on Edible Oil-Oil Palm (NMEO-OP) to make India self-sufficient in edible oil production.

• Objective: To boost domestic oilseed production and make the country self-sufficient in cooking oils.

• The government plans to invest Rs 11,000 crore under NMEO-OP for a 5-year. The mission was launched on the anniversary day of the Quit India Movement.

• India is the world's biggest vegetable oil importer.

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IMD to install 200 Agro-Automatic Weather Stations for Farmers' Benefit

In order to provide weather forecasts for farmers, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) is all set to install Agro-Automatic Weather Stations (AWS) at 200 District Agromet Units (DAMUs) located in Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) network.

• These AWSs will be used for augmenting block level Agromet Advisory Services (AAS) under Gramin Krishi Mausam Sewa (GKMS) scheme.

• This information was given by Minister of State (MoS) Dr Jitendra Singh, Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) in a written reply to Rajya Sabha.

About GKMS:

It is implemented jointly by IMD, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and State Agricultural Universities to provide weather-based crop and livestock management strategies for the benefit of the farmers

• Under this medium-range weather forecast at district and block level is generated. Based on the forecast, Agromet Advisories are prepared and communicated by the Agromet Field Units (AMFUs) co-located with State Agricultural Universities, and DAMUs at KVKs to farmers on every Tuesday and Friday.

• This helps farmers to make decisions on day-to-day agricultural operations resulting in reduction of monetary loss and maximization of

crop yield.
Points to be noted:

i. At present, 43.37 million farmers receive AAS through SMS (Short Message Service),
• AAS also provided through multi-channel dissemination systems like print and electronic media, Doordarshan, radio, internet, Kisan Portal launched by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare (MoAFW) and also through private companies under Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model.

Earlier, mobile app 'Meghdoot' was launched by MoES to provide weather information including alerts and related AAS specific to farmer's districts.

India's Tea Output Drops 9.7% in 2020 Due to Flood & COVID Restriction; Lifts Average Prices to Record High

The production of tea in India dropped by **9.7%** in 2020 due to the flood and movement restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The reduction in the tea production increased the price of tea by **31%** from the price of 2019, to a record price of **Rs.184.69 per Kg.**
This increase in price has supported the Indian tea industry which was under severe stress due to the rising production cost.

Production of tea in India:
i.India has produced around 1255.60 million kilogram of tea in 2020, which is around 9.7% lesser than the production in 2019.
ii. The production dropped since the flood has damaged the tea gardens in Assam, which produces around 50% of India's tea production and the output also reduced due to the lack of labour movement due to the lockdown imposed due to COVID-19.
iii. The north-eastern parts of the country are expected to produce a higher output in 2021 due to high rainfall in that region.

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Export of Tea:

i.India exports CTC(Crush-tear-curl) grade tea to Egypt and Britain and orthodox varieties tea to Iraq, Iran and Russia.

ii. The Tea export of India during the first 11 months of 2020 has fallen to 18.2% from the previous years 187.92 million Kg.

iii. The price of tea in Sri Lanka and Kenya didn't rise.

Recent Related News:

On May 15, 2020 According to Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare's 3rd Advance Estimates of production of major crops for 2019-20, the total food grain production in the country is estimated to achieve a record of all-time high 295.67 million tonnes in 2019-20 for the 4th consecutive year since 2016-17 crop year (July-June).

About Tea Board India:

Chairman- Prabhat Kamal Bezboruah

Headquarters- Kolkata, West Bengal

Where was the National Tribal Festival 'Aadi Mahotsav' 2021 held?

1) New Delhi
2) Mumbai, Maharashtra
3) Jaisalmer, Rajasthan
4) Indore, Madhya Pradesh
5) In TRIFED's Virtual Platform

Answer- **1) New Delhi**

Explanation:

On February 1, 2021, Vice President of India, Venkaiah Naidu inaugurated the National Tribal Festival 'Aadi Mahotsav' 2021 at Dilli Haat, New Delhi.

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The festival will be held from February 1-15, 2021 will showcase Tribal art, crafts, medicine, cuisine & folk performances from Tribal Artists and chefs from more than 20 states of India.

The festival is a joint initiative of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs & Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED).

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