



Measures for Farmers' Welfare

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Why in News

The Government has taken up measures to protect farmers facing obstacles during the **lockdown** due to **Covid-19**.

Measures for Fruit and Vegetable Farmers

- Fruit and Vegetable Farmers have been **among the hardest hit by the lockdown**. They are facing major losses due to **obstacles in harvesting and marketing their perishable produce**.
- The Central Government has directed all the States and Union Territories to implement the **Market Intervention Scheme** to ensure remunerative prices to farmers for perishable crops.
- It has also begun a **train service to transport perishable agricultural and horticultural commodities** to markets due to the obstacles in road transport.
According to the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare **50 trains have been deployed for this purpose**.

Market Intervention Scheme

- Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) is implemented by the **Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare**.
- The objective of MIS is to provide **remunerative prices to the farmers in case of excess of production and fall in prices**.
- The MIS is an ad-hoc scheme under which include **horticultural commodities and other agricultural commodities**.
These commodities are perishable in nature and which are **not covered under the minimum price support scheme**.
- Further, the MIS is implemented on the specific requests of the **State Government/UT Administrations willing to share the loss with the Central Government on a 50:50 basis** (75:25 in case of North-Eastern States).

Measures for Pulses and Oilseeds Farmers

- Farmers, mostly in dry-land areas, have been complaining that **market prices** for toor and urad dal, chickpeas and soybean are **far below the Minimum Support Prices (MSP)** in many mandis, with trading disrupted by the lockdown.
 - The **MSP** is the **rate at which the government buys grains from farmers**.
 - It is fixed on the recommendations of the **Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP)**.
- The Centre has extended the procurement window for its **Price Support Scheme (PSS)** up to 90 days from the date of commencement of the scheme in each State.
- The **PSS** is operationalised on the State governments' request when the prices fall **below the minimum support price (MSP)**.
- The **National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited (NAFED)** and other agencies procure pulses and oilseeds under the scheme at the MSP.

The procurement of pulses will also aid in the implementation of the Centre's promise to provide one kg of pulses per month to all families with ration cards for the three months as part of a **Covid-19 relief package (Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana)**.

National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd

- NAFED is registered under the **Multi State Cooperative Societies Act, 2002**.
- It was set up in 1958 with the objective **to promote Cooperative marketing of Agricultural Produce to benefit the farmers**.
- **Agricultural farmers are the members** of the General Body of NAFED, who participate in the decision making process of NAFED.

Source: TH