



## Centre Aims 7-fold Jump in Wheat Procurement | Bihar | 05 Apr 2024

### Why in News?

Recently, the Centre has announced plans to significantly increase **wheat purchase from non-traditional states of Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Bihar** and set a target of seven-fold jump in procurement to 50 lakh tonnes in 2024-25.

### Key Points

- Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Bihar contributed only 6.7 lakh tonnes to the central reserve during 2023-24.
  - The Union Food Ministry has decided to procure 16% of the total wheat procurement target of 310 lakh tonnes set for 2024-25.
- Wheat procurement at **Minimum Support Price (MSP)** is normally undertaken by the Centre's nodal agency **Food Corporation of India (FCI)** and state agencies.
- **National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED)** and **National Co-operative Consumers' Federation of India Ltd. (NCCF)** have also been included in the procurement target of 5 lakh each in 2024.
  - Wheat MSP has been fixed at Rs 2,275 per quintal for 2024.
- According to the sources, wheat procurement from non-traditional states will help restore allocation of wheat under the **Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana** and other welfare schemes.
- **Steps taken to strengthen wheat procurement** in non-traditional states:
  - The procurement window has been **extended to April instead of March**, and set up a dedicated **farmer helpline** to address procurement-related queries.
  - The government has decided to ensure **transfer of MSP to bank accounts of farmers within 48 hours**, streamlined procurement incidental burden for farmers, smoothed banking-related issues such as **Aadhaar integration with bank accounts**.
  - The government has also opened more procurement centres targeting production hotspots, set up mobile procurement centres, and decided to leverage **Self Help Groups, Panchayats, Farmer Producer Organisations**.
  - A **central control room** has been set up in the **FCI headquarters in Delhi** for real-time monitoring.
- According to the food ministry, six lakh tonnes of wheat have already been procured so far this year from **Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Bihar**.
- The **government has banned wheat exports since May 2022** to boost domestic availability and check prices.
  - The wheat production is estimated to be a record 112 million tonnes during 2023-24, compared to 2022's 110 million tonnes, as per the agriculture ministry.

### National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd (NAFED)

- It is an **apex organization of marketing cooperatives** for **agricultural produce** in India.
- It was founded on **2nd October 1958** and is registered under the **Multi-State Co-operative Societies Act, 2002**.
- NAFED is now one of the largest procurement as well as marketing agencies for agricultural products in India.

