

Now, APMCs can access agri infra fund

Higher farm credit
on the cards

SAGAR KULKARNI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

With the government facing flak from farmers over fears of shutting down APMCs, the finance minister, in her Budget, allowed such markets to access resources from the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF).

She also announced extension

of Operation Greens, focused on organised marketing of tomatoes, onions and potatoes, to 22 more perishable products.

“The Agriculture Infrastructure Fund would be made available to APMCs (Agricultural Produce Marketing Committees) for augmenting their infrastructure,” the minister said, seeking to allay fears that the new farm laws would sound the death knell for APMC markets.

Last year, the government had announced the Rs one-lakh crore AIF to finance projects at subsidised rates for development of post-harvest infrastructure facilities.



Last year, the government had announced the Rs 1-lakh crore Agriculture Infrastructure Fund to finance projects at subsidised rates for development of post-harvest infrastructure facilities. DH FILE PHOTO

New cess

She also announced an Agriculture Infrastructure Development Cess on certain items such as petrol, diesel, gold and imported agricultural products, for creating post-harvest infrastructure.

The Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Ministry has got a 5.63% increase in budgetary allocation at Rs 1,31,531 crore for 2021-22, while Rs 8,513.62 crore has been earmarked for the Department of Agricultural Research and Education.

PM-KISAN

Among the key central schemes,

a major allocation of Rs 65,000 crore has been made for PM-KISAN, under which the government provides Rs 6,000 in three equal instalments to registered farmers.

“I have enhanced the agricultural credit target to Rs 16.5 lakh crore in FY'22. We will focus on ensuring increased credit flows to animal husbandry, dairy, and fisheries,” Nirmala said.

The minister said around 1.68 crore farmers were registered with e-National Agriculture Market (eNAM) and the value of the produce traded on the platform was Rs 1.14 lakh crore.

“Keeping in view the trans-

parency and competitiveness that e-NAM has brought into the agricultural market, 1,000 more mandis will be integrated with e-NAM,” the minister said.

“The setting up of 1,000 mandis integrated with e-NAM and the change in MSP regime will ensure increased credit flows, increase farmer's sustainability and help agriculture business value chain in a big way,” Malini Saba, founder and chairman of Saba Group, said.

Nirmala also nixed the allocation for formation and promotion of 10,000 farmer producer organisations from Rs 250 crore to Rs 700 crore.

Publication: Deccan Herald | Date: 2nd February 2021 | PR Tool: Industry Story | Readership: 12.43 Lakhs

Edition: Delhi(NCR), Bengaluru, Hubballi, Davanagere, Hosapete, Mysuru, Mangaluru and Kalburgi