

F. No. 18-3/2020-MIDH
Government of India
Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare
Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare
Horticulture Division-MIDH

Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi
Dated the 9th April, 2020

To

- (i) The Additional Chief Secretary/APC/Principal Secretary/Secretary (Agriculture/Horticulture) (as per list) and
- (ii) State Mission Directors under MIDH (as per list)

Subject: - Measures taken by DAC & FW for providing relief to farmers engaged in agriculture and horticulture activities on account of conditions arising out of nationwide lockdown in view of COVID 19 pandemic – reg.

Sir,

As you are aware that the DAC & FW, Government of India has taken proactive actions for obtaining relaxation for agricultural activities and movement of farmers and farm workers during the period of lockdown.

2. All possible measures are being taken by Government of India so that the agriculture operations are not hampered in the country and supply chains of essential commodities including horticulture produce are not disrupted. You are kindly requested to ensure that the instructions regarding these exemptions reach to all ground functionaries for effective implementation.

3. Secretary (DAC & FW) vide his D.O. letter dated 04/04/2020 addressed to Chief Secretaries of all States/UTs, has apprised about action taken by Government of India for direct marketing of agricultural produce through e-NAM module which will help the farmers/FPOs/Cooperatives to sell their produce by uploading the produce on e-NAM portal without necessarily coming to Mandis. This will also ease out the logistic issues and help in maintaining social distancing.

You are kindly requested to popularize and promote maximum direct marketing as per provisions mentioned in D.O. letter referred above.

4. DAC & FW is implementing Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for procurement of agricultural and horticultural commodity which are perishable and not covered under Price Support Scheme (PSS). The scheme is implemented at the request of State/UT Governments who are ready to bear 50% of loss (25% in case of NER) if any, is incurred in its implementation. A copy of MIS Guidelines can be downloaded from web link of <http://www.agricoop.nic.in/guidelines/cooperation>.

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You are requested to take advantage of this scheme particularly for procurement of perishable horticultural commodities to prevent losses to the growers in the present prevailing conditions on account of very poor demand in Mandis.

5. Several States are adopting various best practices such as waiver of Mandi Cess, allowing storage of perishable commodities in cold storages free of cost, direct marketing of fruits and vegetables by FPOs, door to door distribution of fruits and vegetables in major cities etc. You are requested to keep in touch with your counterparts in other States for such innovative practices which may be adopted in your State for benefit of farming community.

6. The State Government may also coordinate with processing industry for fruits and vegetables in the State for supply of raw material through Farmer Groups/FPOs/APMC to prevent situation of glut of perishable commodity and facilitate farmers in selling fruits and vegetables during this peak harvesting season.

7. You are requested to kindly take all possible measures to facilitate procurement, inter and intra-State transport and marketing of perishable horticulture commodities as far as possible while maintaining the social distancing and other advisories issued by Government of India from time to time in this regard.

Yours faithfully,



(Rajbir Singh)

Joint Secretary to the Government of India

Copy to:

- (i) Sr. PPS to Secretary (AC & FW)
- (ii) PPS to Spl. Secy (VM)