



Publication	Deccan Herald	Language	English
Edition	Bangalore	Journalist	Bureau
Date	06/06/2023	Page no	8
CCM	47.23		

A welcome plan for grains storage

The government's decision to make big improvements in the grain storage capacity is welcome, as a good part of the food grains harvested in the country has been going waste for various reasons. The Union cabinet has approved a new programme worth Rs 1 lakh crore to augment the country's grain storage capacity from the current 145 million tonnes to 215 million tonnes. When completed, it will be the "world's largest grain storage plan". The plan is to build storage facilities in every block, which will have a capacity of between 500-2,000 tonnes. There will be a pilot project in 10 districts before the programme is scaled up. The entire plan will be overseen by an inter-ministerial team. The government has said that it will address the shortage of grain storage facilities, create decentralised storage capacity, prevent food wastage, and generate employment.

If the programme is successfully implemented, it will mean a major leap for the country's agricultural economy. Setting up modern storage facilities at the block level through Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) will help farmers to get a fair price for their produce and for a larger portion of it than currently. At present, the country's storage capacity is less than half of its grain production of over 320 million tonnes. As the godowns are unable to store more food grains, a good part of the produce is exposed to pest attacks and inclement weather. The government told the Lok Sabha in December last year that post-harvest losses were in the range of 4-6% for cereals and 5-8% for pulses. It is estimated that this amounts to Rs 50,000 crore, or about 1% of the GDP. The country cannot afford such large wastage when millions of people go hungry every day. Inadequate storage facilities also force farmers to resort to distress sale of their produce. There will be considerable savings in other ways, too, as the programme will help to reduce the cost of food transportation to the Food Corporation of India's (FCI) procurement centres and from warehouses to fair price shops. It is also necessary to ensure that there is no wastage of grains when climate change is feared to pose a challenge to food production in the coming years.

According to the plan, the credit societies will be enabled to diversify their activities. They will also function as procurement centres for State agencies or the FCI and as fair price shops for farmers. Steps will also be taken to computerise them and to make them more efficient. Financial allocations have been made for this. But a large number of PACS in the country are dysfunctional and they need to be revived first.

The programme will build storage for an additional 70 million tonnes



Publication	Financial Express	Language	English
Edition	New Delhi	Journalist	PTI
Date	06/06/2023	Page no	2
CCM	6.45		

Panel to prepare revised draft of co-op policy



A 49-MEMBER COMMITTEE headed by former minister Suresh Prabhu on Monday submitted the draft new national cooperation policy to cooperation minister Amit Shah. A revised draft will be prepared based on Shah's inputs.

PTI

नई राष्ट्रीय सहकारिता नीति जुलाई तक

नई दिल्ली। नई सहकारिता नीति जुलाई तक आ सकती है। सहकारिता नीति बनाने के लिए गठित कमेटी ने सोमवार को केंद्रीय सहकारिता मंत्री अमित शाह को नई नीति का मसौदा सौंपा। शाह के मार्गदर्शन के बाद समिति एक संशोधित मसौदा तैयार करेगी।



इसमें राज्य सरकार, केंद्रीय मंत्रालय, विभिन्न विभाग, राष्ट्रीय सहकारी समिति और सभी हितधारकों से विचार-विमर्श

सहकारिता नीति तैयार करने के लिए गठित समिति ने शाह को सौंपा मसौदा

किया जाएगा। नई राष्ट्रीय सहकारिता नीति का मसौदा तैयार करने के लिए पूर्व केंद्रीय मंत्री सुरेश प्रभु के नेतृत्व में 49 सदस्यीय राष्ट्रीय समिति का गठन 2 सितंबर, 2022 को किया गया था।

सदस्यों में राज्य सहकारिता विभाग, केंद्रीय मंत्रालयों के विभाग, राष्ट्रीय सहकारिता महासंघ और विभिन्न सहकारी समितियों के प्रतिनिधि, शिक्षाविद और विशेषज्ञ शामिल हैं। ब्यूरो
