

Publication	The Pioneer	Language	English
Edition	New Delhi	Journalist	Biswajeet Banerjee
Date	14/05/2025	Page no	2
CCM	50.72		

Multi-district paddy purchase scam uncovered in UP

Multi-district paddy purchase scam uncovered in UP

BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■ Lucknow

A massive paddy procurement scam has rocked the Pradeshik Cooperative Federation Limited (PCF) in Uttar Pradesh. The scam revealed that a single farmer allegedly sold paddy 63 times using the same bank account. Fraudsters manipulated the system by using different mobile numbers to bypass OTP verification, highlighting deep-rooted corruption involving officials across several districts.

The scam, which spans Basti, Siddharthnagar, Sant Kabir Nagar and other districts, was initially probed by a Special Investigation Team (SIT). With strong evidence of financial misconduct, the case has now been handed over to the Economic Offences Wing (EOW) for a deeper and more extensive probe.

The scam has left thousands of genuine

farmers outraged, many of whom stood in long queues at procurement centers only to be turned away under the pretext of “quota full” or “verification pending.”

“They told me my land records were not verified properly. But now I know why—someone else was selling fake paddy using a system that should’ve worked for us,” said Rampratap Yadav, a marginal farmer from Basti who owns just two hectares of land.

“We grow the crops, and they steal our names. This is nothing but betrayal.” Another farmer, Savitri Devi from Siddharthnagar, expressed her frustration: “We wait for the government’s MSP scheme all year. If these procurement centers are run by corrupt officers and fake farmers, what is the point of growing food?” According to SIT findings, 37 procurement centers were directly involved in data manipulation. District Manager Amit

Chaudhary, Accountant Parmanand Upadhyay, six procurement center in-charges, and several transport contractors have been named in the case.

The fraudulent system used the same bank account for multiple fake transactions. OTPs required for authentication were bypassed by registering multiple mobile numbers. Over 4,200 farmer accounts were analysed, revealing systematic and repeated misuse of identities.

The verification process for farmers—handled by Lekhpals, SDMs, and ADMs—has come under intense scrutiny. Under normal procedures, small farmers are verified by SDMs, while large landholders fall under ADM supervision.

“We submitted all documents and waited for days. Still, many of us never got a procurement slip,” said Mohammad Akhtar, a farmer from Sant Kabir Nagar. “Now we learn that verification officers

were helping middlemen? This is government-backed looting.” Shockingly, the probe also found that transport contractors were paid lakhs of rupees even when no paddy was actually moved. Ten contractors were hired, two of whom have been arrested. In total, six procurement center in-charges have been jailed so far.

Accountant Parmanand Upadhyay is absconding. Police have raided his Lucknow residence but are yet to locate him. Cooperation Minister J.P.S. Rathore stated: “This is a serious breach of trust. The district manager has already been dismissed. All those involved—no matter how senior—will face strict departmental and legal action.” But for farmers like Rampratap and Savitri, these words bring little comfort. “Will the government give us the missed payments now? Will they punish those who denied us our rightful earnings?” Rampratap asked.

Publication	Financial Express	Language	English
Edition	New Delhi	Journalist	Bureau
Date	14/05/2025	Page no	2
CCM	8.04		

IFFCO initiates production of nano liquid DAP

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COOPERATIVE IFFCO, ONE of the major fertiliser firms in the country, has commenced commercial production of nano liquid DAP (di-ammonium phosphate) at two new plants in Uttar Pradesh, each having a capacity of 200,000 bottles per day. The total capacity of five IFFCO nano fertiliser plants is 950,000 bottles per day which includes both nano urea and nano DAP.

Production started in two new plants of IFFCO

इफको के दो नए संयंत्रों में उत्पादन शुरू



नई दिल्ली (एजेंसी)। देश की प्रमुख उर्वरक कंपनियों में से एक सहकारी संस्था इफको ने उत्तर प्रदेश में दो नए संयंत्रों में नैनो लिक्विड डीएपी (डाय-अमोनियम फॉस्फेट) का वाणिज्यिक उत्पादन शुरू किया है, जिनमें से प्रत्येक की क्षमता दो लाख बोतल प्रतिदिन की है। एक सोशल मीडिया पोस्ट में इफको ने कहा कि उसने “उत्तर प्रदेश में आंवला, बरेली और फूलपुर, प्रयागराज में अपने दो और नैनो संयंत्रों में इफको नैनो डीएपी लिक्विड का वाणिज्यिक उत्पादन शुरू कर दिया है।” इसमें कहा गया कि दोनों नैनो उर्वरक संयंत्रों की क्षमता दो लाख बोतल (500 मिली) प्रतिदिन उत्पादन करने की है। इफको ने कहा, “उत्पादन में इस वृद्धि से देश में नैनो डीएपी लिक्विड की आपूर्ति बढ़ेगी और यह देश भर के हमारे किसानों को आसानी से उपलब्ध होगा।” पांच इफको नैनो उर्वरक संयंत्रों की कुल क्षमता प्रतिदिन 9.5 लाख बोतल है, जिसमें नैनो यूरिया और नैनो डीएपी दोनों शामिल हैं। इफको ने दावा किया, “नैनो डीएपी लिक्विड पारंपरिक डीएपी की तुलना में बेहतर विकल्प है क्योंकि नैनो डीएपी में 100 नैनोमीटर से कम कण होते हैं, जो इसे अधिक प्रभावी बनाते हैं। यह पारंपरिक उर्वरकों की तुलना में मिट्टी के पोषक तत्वों को बढ़ाता है। यह बेहतर फसल वृद्धि और अधिक पैदावार को भी बढ़ावा देता है।”
