

Report on the Conference
on
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL MARKET
organized by
CCS National Institute of Agricultural Marketing, Jaipur,
Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Government of Gujarat
&
Gujarat State Agricultural Marketing Board

The secretary, DAC, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare in one of the review meetings on the scheme emphasized on the importance of organizing interaction programmes with the stakeholders to develop appropriate environment for the implementation and acceptability of the Scheme on National Agricultural Market. Accordingly, CCS National Institute of Agricultural Marketing, Jaipur proposed a series of programmes in the leading states identified by the Ministry.

In this series, the first conference on National Agricultural Market was organized in Vasna, Ahmedabad (Gujarat) on 9th September 2015. It was a collaborative programme on National Agricultural Market organized by NIAM, Jaipur; Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Government of Gujarat and; Gujarat State Agricultural Marketing Board.

The programme was attended by the following:

1. Ms Irina Garg, Director General, NIAM Jaipur
2. Ms Mona Khandhar, Secretary, Department of Cooperation, Government of Gujarat
3. Mr M D Chauhan, Managing Director, Gujarat State Agricultural Marketing Board, Gandhi Nagar
4. Mr Jitendra Pandya, Director, Cooperation, Government of Gujarat
5. Col (Retd) A K Nath, Centre for Development of Advanced Computing, Kolkata
6. Dr Nabuttachrya, Centre for Development of Advanced Computing, Kolkata
7. Dr Amitabh, Centre for Development of Advanced Computing, Kolkata
8. Dr Shalendra, NIAM Jaipur
9. Secretaries (26 APMCs)
10. Other Staff
11. Traders/Commission Agents
12. Farmers

Ms Irina Garg, Director General, NIAM, Jaipur who was invited to deliver the keynote address in the conference, informed participants about the importance of change and need on bringing required changes in the agricultural market system to modernize the same. She opined that the changes envisaged through National Agricultural Market in the system are inevitable considering the impact of technology on trade and commerce and the linking of market at national level already being attempted by harmonization of tax structure through GST.

Ms Mona Khandhar, the Secretary, Department of Cooperation also emphasized on the need for development oriented change and positive approach of the state in accepting development oriented changes. She informed that Gujarat has been one of the few states that have adopted all the leading provisions of reforms suggested by the Central Government and has done the same for national market which can be seen from its response to the scheme. The state has already submitted a proposal for 26 APMCs to be integrated under NAM Scheme.

The participants were exposed to various other issues during the conference related to the concept and benefits accruing from the National Agricultural Marketing and also on the legal pre-requisites and preparation required for its successful implementation.

Dr Shalendra from NIAM explained the concept of NAM to the participants, its various components and benefits to wide range of stakeholders and how the State may take advantage from the scheme in strengthening its agricultural marketing system. The example of similar initiative by Karnataka was discussed along with the importance of reform in relation to implementation of NAM.

Col (Retd) A K Nath from CDAC, Kolkata made a presentation on the importance of assaying for integrated markets where trade will happen on an electronic platform based on the grade specifications. He also informed about the electronic technology developed by CDAC to take care of assaying needs of national market. Dr Bhattacharyya and Dr Amitabh from CDAC demonstrated the technology. The participants suggested improving the technology by integrating features on moisture assessment, oil content, etc.

The major perceived hindrances in implementation of the scheme of NAM would be lack of consensus amongst states on acceptance of the standards of different commodities likely to be traded in NAM.

During the intense brainstorming session in Gujarat with CDAC and wide range of participants like traders, commission agents and staff of Mandies, it transpired that this handicap can be overcome. CDAC is capable of developing parameters for testing the commodity much like a blood report. These parameters would remain uniform for all states and the traders of any mandi could bid according to these parameters.

CDAC may be facilitated in developing specifications of various parameters of different commodities likely to be traded on NAM by organizing a workshop of traders and other stakeholders from participating States.

The cleaning and sorting facilities would further facilitate the implementation of the scheme and improve income realization by the farmers. A presentation was made on the equipments available for grading and sorting foodgrains.

The conference was concluded by the Secretary Cooperation with an appeal to participate in the Scheme so that benefits of the Scheme may be availed by the farming community.
