

'Over 5 lakh farmers have traded produce worth ₹3,841 cr via e-NAM'

OUR BUREAU

New Delhi, November 24

Over five lakh farmers had traded farm produce worth ₹3,841 crore through the electronic-National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) — the online portal for trading in agriculture commodities — up to last week, said Agriculture Minister Radha Mohan Singh.

The transactions took place at 250 wholesale markets connected to the online platform, where 54,000 traders made purchases. As many as 28,000 commission agents have reg-

istered themselves so far, the Minister said while inaugurating an Assocham conference on 'Linking farmers with the market' on Thursday.

"We had started it (in April) on a pilot project basis and have tried to remove all the anomalies related to both hardware and software and it is now moving very fast towards empowering farmers to allow them to sell their produce," Singh said.

The Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Ministry is working towards setting up hubs to



Union Agriculture Minister Radha Mohan Singh addressing an Assocham meet 'Linking Farmers with Market', in New Delhi, on Thursday. PTI

provide milk, eggs, fruits, vegetables, flowers, etc near metro cities as part of the on-

line trading platform. "We are going to make relevant provisions under the

mandi laws. We have conducted three-four meetings to make Gurgaon a hub for flowers, while Sonepat and Panipat will be made hubs for vegetables and Karnal for indigenous cow's milk. We are also in talks with Uttar Pradesh in this regard," the minister added.

Singh said that laboratories are being set up in electronic wholesale markets to check the quality of farmers' produce so that any trader or farmer can purchase or sell it across India.

"These facilities are already available within the states but

now we are working towards making it feasible inter-state and the GST (goods and services tax) will play a significant role in this regard," informed Singh.

He said that the government would also work towards improving the mandi laws and try to establish them in the private sector by improving marketing related laws.

"We have made amendments in marketing related laws in about 22 States and licenses are being issued to set up mandis in the private sector," said the Agriculture Minister.

Centre to set up agri-production hubs near metros

New Delhi, Nov 24

THE Centre is working on a proposal to set up 'production hubs' for cow milk, vegetables and other agri-produce near metro cities to boost supply, Union agriculture minister Radha Mohan Singh said on Thursday.

To start with, the agriculture ministry is in talks with the Delhi government as well as neighbouring states on this issue, he said.

"The government is working towards setting up production hubs near metros for milk, eggs, fruits, vegetables, flowers and other such things as part of the online trading platform," Singh said, addressing an *Assocham* event here. "The Chinese capital has population twice as much that of Delhi, but everything is available within a radius of 150 km, while in Delhi milk comes from Andhra Pradesh and vegetables from Kolkata," a statement quoted him as saying.

The ministry has conducted three-four meetings in NCR to make Gurugram, formerly Gurgaon, a hub for flowers while Sonapat and Panipat will be made hub for vegetables and Karnal for indigenous cow milk.

The ministry is also in talks with the Uttar Pradesh government on this issue, he added.

On the newly launched electronic National Agriculture Market (e-NAM), the minister said farm produce worth ₹3,841 crore has been traded so far in 250 wholesale markets linked to this platform.

In April, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had launched the e-NAM scheme



Agriculture minister
Radha Mohan Singh

in 21 mandis of eight states. The government has kept a total target of 585 by March 2018.

"We had started it on a pilot project basis and have tried to remove all the anomalies related to both hardware and software and it is now moving very fast towards empowering farmers to allow them to sell their produce," Singh said.

On steps taken to improve e-NAM, the minister said laboratories are being set up in electronic wholesale markets to check quality of farm produce so that any trader or farmer can purchase or sell the same across India. "These facilities are already available within the states, but now we are working towards making it feasible inter-state and GST (goods and services tax) will play a significant role in this regard," he said.

Singh further mentioned that the government will also work towards improving the mandi laws and try to establish them in the private sector by improving marketing laws. "We have made amendments in marketing-related laws in about 22 states and licences are being issued to set up mandis in the private sector," he said.

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Farmers should be ensured markets within reach, no middlemen: Govt

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: To make the income of the farmers double, the Centre is trying tooth and nail to enhance the production of food grain, to reduce the cost, to find out the new means and ways for the incomes related to farmers and to give them better return of their produces in appropriate marketing system.

While addressing the pertinent issue, Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Radha Mohan Singh said, "The markets must be within the reach of farmers and there must not be any middle man between them and consumers. The prices of yield should be discovered in a transparent way and the farmers must be paid the price of their yield



without any delay."

Singh further added that the Centre is raising such an infrastructure throughout the country through which market will be linked directly with the farmers and consumers will be capable to buy the agricultural products from farms of farmers directly. Stressing on online trading platforms,

Singh said, "Farmers can sale their produces through online trading from anywhere and they can obtain better prices of their produces as per its quality. If farmer is not satisfied with the price, he can reject even the highest bid. Option of online payment system is also available to farmers."

The e-NAM (National

Agricultural Market) is in operation since April 2016 and by the year 2018, total 585 mandis are proposed to be linked with e-NAM portal, Singh said at an event which was organized by ASSOCHAM. According to Agriculture Ministry report, by September, 2016, 250 mandis have been linked with e-NAM against a target of 200 mandis.

The states which have made three mandatory amendments to their APMC Act can join the e-NAM platform. The amendments are provision of e-trading, single point levy of mandi fee and single trading licence valid throughout the states. Two major states like Bihar and Kerala don't have APMC Act at present and are not on the e-NAM portal.



The Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Radha Mohan Singh lighting the lamp to inaugurate the conference on Linking Farmers with Market, in New Delhi on Thursday.

