

## National Agriculture Market (NAM) through Agri-Tech Infrastructure Fund (ATIF)

Following the Budget announcements in July 2014 and 2015, the scheme for setting up of National Agriculture Market (NAM) through Agri-Tech Infrastructure Fund (ATIF) was approved by Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) on 01.07.2015 with a budget of Rs.200 crore and to be implemented during 2015-16 to 2017-18.

The revised scheme envisages implementation of the National Agriculture Market(NAM) by setting up of an appropriate common e-market platform that would be deployable in selected 585 regulated wholesale markets in States/UTs desirous of joining the e-platform. Small Farmers Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC) will implement the national e-platform and will cover 250, 200 and 135 mandis during 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18 respectively. Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW) will meet expenses on software and its customisation for the States and provide it free of cost to the States and UTs. DAC&FW will also give grant as one time fixed cost subject to the ceiling of Rs.30.00 lakhs per Mandi (other than to the private mandis) for related equipment / infrastructure in 585 regulated mandis, for installation of the e-market platform. State Governments will suggest names of APMCs where this project would be initiated.

Integration of State APMC's with NAM requires certain pre-requisites in the State AMPC Acts, namely- (i) a single license to be valid across the State, (ii) single point levy of market fee and (iii) provision for electronic auction as a mode for price discovery. Only those States/UTs that have completed these three pre-requisites will be eligible for assistance under the scheme.

SFAC has constituted a dedicated Project Monitoring Agency to oversee the implementation of the Scheme. A Transaction Adviser was selected and on 06.10.15 the Request for Proposal (RFP) had been floated for selection of Strategic Partner (SP), who will develop the platform. The process is now on to finalise the Strategic Partner.

As on date, Rs. 5.00 crores has been released to SFAC under the Scheme towards administrative expenses and proposals from following States have been considered for integration of their mandis with NAM:

### APPROVED PROPOSALS

State /UT	No. of Mandis	Proposal Cost (Rs. in crore)	Maximum Admissible assistance (Rs. in crore)	Funding from State /UT own resources (Rs. in crore)	Sanction / Release status
Gujarat	40	27.86	12.00	15.86	Released Rs.12.00 crore on 20.11.15.
Maharashtra	30	16.74	9.0	7.74	Approved on 18.11.15
Telangana	44	13.264	12.165	1.099	Approved on 18.11.15
Jharkhand	19	5.92	5.70	0.22	Approved on 9.12.15
Chhattisgarh	05	2.58	01.50	1.08	Approved on 9.12.15

Meanwhile, many other States like Andhra Pradesh Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, UT of Chandigarh, UT of Puducherry, Haryana, Administration of Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Assam, Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh Nagaland and Mizoram have expressed their willingness to join the NAM and together have proposed integration of around 400 mandis at this stage. Detailed DPRs for integration of mandis with NAM including for setting up Soil Testing Laboratories are awaited from the States.

Meanwhile, this Department is also pursuing with other State Governments to complete the pre-requisite reforms in their APMC Acts which will enable them to join NAM.