## VAIKUNTH MEHTA NATIONAL INSIITUTE OF CO-OPERATIVE MANAGEMENT PUNE

### Newspapers Article (20.3.2024)

| Sr.No. | Headline | Newspaper | Language | Date | Page No |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | RBI fines TMB, DCB for violating lending rate norms | Business line | English | 20.3.2024 | 4 |
| 2 | Basmati exports set to top record 5 – b mark this fiscal | Business line | English | 20.3.2024 | 10 |
| 3 | Cotton exports gather pace, may touch 22-25 lakh bales for 2023-24 | Business line | English | 20.3.2024 | 10 |
| 4 | HC notice to TN govt on plea to cancel Feb 13 pulses tender | Business line | English | 20.3.2024 | 10 |
| 5 | Aadhaar proof made mandatory for oil palm farmers to claim Central subsidy | Business line | English | 20.3.2024 | 10 |
| 6 | Non – Basmati Rice Prices Down 10% in March | Economic Times | English | 20.3.2024 | 9 |
| 7 | Agri – exports rebound | Financial Express | English | 20.3.2024 | 3 |
| 8 | Farmers demand lifting of ban on onion exports | Financial Express | English | 20.3.2024 | 3 |
| 9 | Guaranteed MSP is an ethical imperative | The Hindu | Englsih | 20.3.2024 | 7 |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Date | 20.3.2024 | | |
| Newspaper Name | Business line | Page No | 4 |

Business Line 20-3-2024 Pg No.-4

# RBI fines TMB, DCB for violating lending rate norms

**Our Bureau**
Mumbai

Reserve Bank of India, on March 13, imposed a penalty of ₹1.3 crore on Tamilnad Mercantile Bank for non-compliance with directions on 'Interest Rate on Advances' and 'Central Repository of Information on Large Credits (CRILC) - Revision in Reporting'.

The supervisory inspection for FY22 showed that the bank had failed to benchmark interest rates on certain floating rate loans to MSMEs to an external benchmark lending rate; had adopted multiple benchmarks within the same loan category, and failed to price certain floating rate loans with reference to the actual benchmark rate applicable.

It also wrongly reported external rating of certain borrowers to CRILC.

The central bank also fined DCB Bank ₹63.6 lakh for breach of norms on 'Interest Rate on Advances', it said in a separate release.

RBI said that the inspection for FY22 revealed that the bank failed to reset the interest rates at the prescribed periodicity in certain MCLR linked floating rate advances.

It also failed to benchmark the interest rate of certain floating rate retail and MSME loans to an external benchmark lending rate.

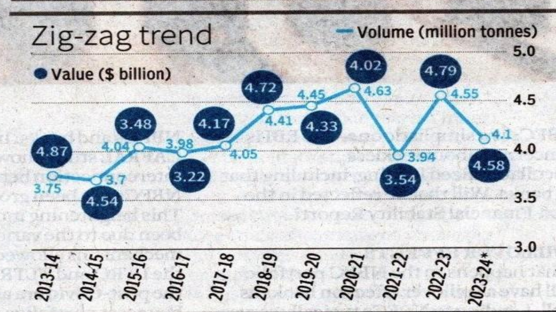
| Date | 20.3.2024 | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Newspaper Name | Business line | Page No | 10 |

Business Line 20-3-2024 Pg No. 10

# Basmati exports set to top record $5-b mark this fiscal

**GAINING STEAM.** Good demand from Middle-East ahead of Ramadan, UK and US shipments help

Vishwanath Kulkarni
Bengaluru




Source: APEDA
*April-Jan period

India's basmati shipments are set to cross the $5 billion-mark during the current financial year on robust demand from traditional markets in Middle East and other markets such as the United States and the United Kingdom.

Basmati shipments have maintained a growth rate of about 20 per cent in the first ten months of the financial year 2023-24 (April-January) with the export value touching $4.586 billion.

With shipments gathering pace in February, ahead of the Ramadan festival season, trade sources expect the value to exceed $5 billion for the current fiscal.

"Demand has been good from the traditional buyers in the Middle East. Despatches ahead of Ramadan have been good," sources at the All India Rice Exporters Association said, adding that the value of the shipments could touch a new record surpassing the $5-billion mark.

**2013-14 RECORD**

India's basmati exports had touched a record $4.87 billion during 2013-14 on high prices and have been fluctuating in the subsequent years, despite gains in shipment volumes.

"The consumption of basmati rice in the various export markets has consistently grown from 0.5 million tonnes (mt) to 4 mt between 1995 and 2023. The share of basmati rice in the global rice trade is 8 per cent. The growth story of basmati could be bifurcated into three stages such as WTO implementation period benefitting in the European market, consumers in the Iranian market adapting Pusa-1121 and growing non-resident Indian population across world.

"An important fact is that our basmati rice export to Europe has fallen during last 6 years. If such situation could have prevented, our exports would have crossed the $5-billion mark much earlier," said S Chandrasekaran, trade analyst and author of the book Basmati Rice: The Natural History Geographical Indication.

**VALUE REALISATION**

"Basmati rice has grown in volume terms but the price growth in real terms is paltry. If the export price realisation is analysed in real terms during the last 30 years, the price realisation has been inconsistent and commodification of basmati could be witnessed.

"The consistently higher prices of scotch whisky and champagne are an example of value realisation and branding strategy. Exporters and the government need to make consistent efforts on price stabilisation, imbibe premium in the price and bring permanent narrative to keep valuation above a particular threshold. Basmati rice reforms and marketing 2.0 is essential for this," said Chandrasekaran.

**KEY BUYERS**

Top five buyers of the Indian basmati accounted for about 58.43 per cent of the volumes of 3.54 million tonnes during April-December period of 2023-24.

Also these top five buyers accounted for 57.72 per cent of the total value of $4.586 billion.

Saudi Arabia continues to be the largest buyer this year with volumes of 6.75 lakh tonnes and value of $780 million, followed by Iraq with volumes of 5.01 lakh tonnes and value of $544 million during April-December period.

Iran has been the third largest buyer with volumes of 5.16 lakh tonnes and value of $519 million.

Interestingly, the US has displaced the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to emerge as the fourth largest buyer during the April-December period.

The US has bought 1.75 lakh tonnes of basmati valued at $228 million. It would be interesting to watch whether the US would figure among the top five buyers when the final figures for the fiscal 2023-24 are compiled in the days ahead.

USA was the sixth largest buyer of Indian basmati during 2022-23.

| Date | 20.3.2024 | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Newspaper Name | Business line | Page No | 10 |

Business Line 20-4-2024 Pg No. 10

# Cotton exports gather pace, may touch 22-25 lakh bales for 2023-24

**Vishwanath Kulkarni**
Bengaluru

With Indian cotton prices staying attractive for global buyers, exports of the fibre crop have picked up over the past three months to countries such as Bangladesh, China and Vietnam among others. Exports during the first five months of the 2023-24 season starting October were 15 lakh bales (170 kg), at par with 15.5 lakh bales during the entire 2022-23 marketing season.

The surge in shipments has forced the Cotton Association of India (CAI), the apex trade body, to raise its export projections for the 2023-24 season to 22 lakh bales. "Shipments could, possibly, touch 25 lakh bales for the 2023-24 season," Atul Ganatra, President, CAI, told *businessline*.

"Indian cotton prices were lower by about ₹4,000-5,000 a candy (356 kg) compared to the international prices during the December-February period making it attractive for overseas buyers. About 10 lakh bales were shipped during January-February. Though our prices are at par now with the international, we expect another 2.5-3 lakh bales to be shipped out this month," Ganatra said.

**DESPITE HIGHER CROP**

Based on the latest pressing data received from various stakeholders, CAI has revised upwards the production estimates of the fibre crop for the ongoing marketing season of 2023-24 by about 5 per cent at 309.70 lakh bales, up from the previous projections of 294.10 lakh bales made during January-end. Despite this upward revision, the crop estimates for the 2023-24 season starting October are still lower than the 2022-23 production of 318.9 lakh bales.

Per the cotton balance sheet for the period Oct-Feb in the current 2023-24 season, arrivals till the end-Feb were estimated at 226.82 lakh bales. "About 10-12 lakh bales of *kapas* from the previous season, which was held back anticipating higher prices, found its way to the markets during September-October leading to the revision in crop estimates," Ganatra said.

Cotton imports into the country till end-Feb stood at 4 lakh bales and the consumption during this period stood at 137.50 lakh bales. Stock with mills till end-Feb is projected at 42 lakh bales, while those with CCI, Maharashtra Federation, MNCs, ginners, traders and exporters is pegged at 65.22 lakh bales.

| Date | 20.3.2024 | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Newspaper Name | Business line | Page No | 10 |

Business Line 20-3-2024 Pg No. 10

# HC notice to TN govt on plea to cancel Feb 13 pulses tender

**Subramani Ra Mancombu**
Chennai

The Madras High Court has issued a notice to the Tamil Nadu government on a writ plea to cancel a tender it floated on February 13 to procure tur dal and Canadian yellow lentil for supply through ration shops and not considering masoor dal (red lentils) for the procurement.

Admitting the writ filed by M Arumugam of Sri Sai Impex, justice Anita Sumanth asked the Tamil Nadu Government and the Civil Supplies Department to file their counters before the next hearing on April 10.

The writ has been filed after the Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Department rejected a plea from Sri Sai Impex, an empanelled supplier of pulses and a lentil importer, to include red lentils among the pulses distributed through ration shops. The department was asked to consider the importer's plea by Justice Anita Sumanth while disposing of a petition filed earlier by Sri Sai Impex.

**The Court** has asked TN govt to file its counter affidavit before the next hearing (April 10)

One of the reasons pointed out by Sri Sai Impex for cancelling the tender and considering its plea is the argument put forth by the Civil Supplies Department to reject its request to consider including red lentils.

In his response to Arumugam, the State's additional chief secretary said the State government had taken a decision to procure red lentil in 2017 but it was challenged in the High Court.

"An attempt made by the Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation/Government to procure masoor dal without mixture of kesari dal. The said process being Herculean, the Government as a policy decision to ensure the safety and welfare of its people had decided to only procure tur dal for supply to its special public distribution system," said the additional chief secretary.

Referring to the mixture of kesari dal, Sri Sai Impex, in its current petition, argued that the State government had in its 2017 order allowed the procurement of red lentils by the Civil Supplies Department.

**WHAT TN SAID IN 2017**

When the decision was challenged in the Madurai bench of the High Court, the State Government contested it, saying: ".. Masoor Dal as such is having high protein nutritive value. Masoor Dal has good source of cholesterol lowering fibre. It cooks quickly resulting in saving fuel cost. Masoor Dal is most economical when compared with other dal. Consumption of Masoor Dal reduces breast cancer. Thus, Masoor Dal has more nutritive value and is widely consumed in various States. The total consumption of Masoor dal in the country is of the order of 10 lakh tonnes.

"The Madurai Bench in 2017 ruled "In view of the apprehension raised by the petitioner, we deem it fit and proper to issue the following directions to the respondents to ensure that masoor dhal is supplied without any mixture of kesari dal."

The dal should be free from colour and presence of kesari dal, the court said, adding that samples of the pulses should be sent to accredited food analytical laboratories and then sent for distribution through ration shops.

**CENTRE'S SUGGESTION**

Arumugam argued that when the Tamil Nadu government had argued in favour of red lentils in 2017, it should consider including it given its health and financial benefits.

Stating that the State government floated a tender on February 13 to procure tur dal and Canadian yellow lentil, the importer said it had issued the tender despite being well aware of the court ruling ordering that Sri Sai Impex plea be considered.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Date | 20.3.2024 | | |
| Newspaper Name | Business line | Page No | 10 |

Business Line 20-3-2024 Pg No. 10

# Aadhaar proof made mandatory for oil palm farmers to claim Central subsidy

Our Bureau
New Delhi

The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has made Aadhaar mandatory for oil palm farmers to claim government subsidy, which will be directly transferred into their bank accounts.

However, while advising State governments to facilitate Aadhaar cards made for those who do not possess it yet, the Centre has for the time being made some relaxations by allowing the farmers to submit alternative identity proofs.

The Government launched the National Mission for Edible Oils - Oil Palm (NMEO-OP) in August 2021 under which there is a target to raise crude palm oil production to 11.20 lakh tonnes by 2025-26. The scheme is operational in 15 States, covering a potential area of 21.75 lakh hectares.

Under NMEO-OP, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, there is a provision of Viability Gap Payment (VGP) to insulate farmers from the volatility in Crude Palm Oil prices.

**DIFFERENTIAL AMOUNT**

The VGP is paid directly through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), when the industry's payable price (based on the average market rate for a particular period) falls below the government-set rate, which is declared by for every Oil Palm Year (November-October).

The differential amount paid by the government to ensure that farmers get a minimum assured price, irrespective of fluctuations in market rates.

In a notification issued last week by joint secretary Ajeet Kumar Sahu, the agriculture ministry said any eligible beneficiary desirous of availing the benefits under the scheme is required to furnish proof of possession of Aadhaar number or has to undergo Aadhaar authentication.

However, if the beneficiary does not possess the Aadhaar number or, has not yet enrolled for Aadhaar, shall have to apply for Aadhaar enrolment, it said. Further, concerned department in the State governments are asked to offer Aadhaar enrolment facilities at convenient locations for the beneficiaries who are not yet enrolled in coordination with Unique Identification Authority of India.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Date | 20.3.2024 | | |
| Newspaper Name | Economic Times | Page No | 9 |

Economic Times 20-3-2024 Pg No. 9

THE RICE MATH

# Non-Basmati Rice Prices Down 10% in March

## After govt's move to introduce Bharat rice; traders told to declare rice stock every week

**Sutanuka.Ghosal**
@timesgroup.com

**Taking Stock**

**Retail prices of** non-basmati rice shot up by **15%** in last one year

**Centre puts an** export duty of **20%** on non-basmati rice in July 2023 to ensure adequate supply in domestic market

**RESTRICTIONS IMPOSED ARE EFFECTIVE TILL MARCH 31, 2024**

**In February 2024,** Centre launched Bharat rice for **₹29 per kg** to alleviate the impact of price rise

**Traders say that** the restrictions will not be lifted until the **Lok Sabha** results are out


**Kolkata:** Non-basmati rice prices have fallen about 10% in March following the government's move to sell cheaper rice under its 'Bharat' label and asked traders to declare stock of rice every week to ensure there's no hoarding of the most consumed staple in the country, said traders.

There is an apprehension among traders that the government could be stricter ahead of the general election, they said, adding that they do not expect the restrictions to be eased before the election results are declared.

"The price of non-basmati rice has fallen by 10% after the government took the twin measures of introducing Bharat rice and declaration of rice and paddy stock for all stakeholders in the rice industry every Friday of the week," said Suraj Agarwal, managing director of RiceVilla, a rice exporting and marketing company.

He said the market sentiment dampened after the government announced the measures in February. Bharat rice is being sold in 5 kg and 10 kg packs, at a price of ₹29 per kg, through the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd, the National Cooperative Consumers' Federation of India and retail chain Kendriya Bhandar.

On Sunday, the consumer affairs, food and public distribution ministry announced that the government would also sell Bharat atta and Bharat rice at subsidised rates through mobile vans at different railway stations across the country ahead of the general election. To counter the Centre's move of launching Bharat rice, the Kerala government has launched 'Sabari K rice', which will be sold through state-run SupplyCO outlets at ₹29 and ₹30 per kg.

Agarwal said the price of the aromatic Gobindobhog rice, which was selling at ₹65 per kg, has fallen to ₹55 per kg at the wholesale level. "Exports of non-basmati rice too have suffered because of the government restrictions that were introduced last year," Agarwal said. The supply side is strong, while the demand is less from the export markets, he said.

Jeethu CD, managing partner of Thrissur-based Malagha Traders, said, "Prices generally go up during this time of the year. But this year we are seeing a price drop. Lesser export demand has resulted in higher supply of rice. This has pushed down prices."

In July 2023, the government had banned exports of non-basmati white rice to curb inflationary pressure primarily due to increased food prices, imposing a 20% export duty on parboiled rice, and set a minimum export price (MEP) of $1,200 per tonne for basmati rice the next month. Later the government reduced the MEP on basmati rice to $950 per tonne.

| Date | 20.3.2024 | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Newspaper Name | Financial Express | Page No | 3 |

Financial Express 20-3-2024 Pg No. 3

# Agri exports rebound

## Meat, dairy, fruits & vegetable shipments see sharp jump

SANDIP DAS
New Delhi, March 19

**INDIA'S EXPORTS OF** agricultural and processed food products, after slowing down in the first three quarters of the current fiscal due to restriction on rice exports, have recovered, aided by a sharp spike in shipments of meat and daily products, and fruits & vegetables.

Exports of these items under the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) basket were just above the previous year level at $21.6 billion during the April-February period of the current fiscal.

According to quick estimate by the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, rice exports in the first eleven months of 2023-24 dropped 7% to $9.32 billion on year because of the ban on white and broken rice exports, shipment duties on parboiled rice and the ban on wheat exports imposed in May last year.

Sources said that decline in the value of rice exports is attributed to decline in shipment of non-basmati rice due to several restrictions such as ban on white rice shipment and 20% export duty on part-boiled rice exports imposed last year.

However, livestock products — buffalo meat, dairy and poultry, a key item in the APEDA basket — rose by close to 13% on year during April-February period of this fiscal to $ 4.1 billion compared to the previous fiscal. The exports of fresh fruits and vegetables have risen by 15% in the first eleven months of FY24 to $3.22 billion on year.

### THE FARM FACTOR

($ billion, April- February, FY24) % change, y-o-y

| | Rice | Meat, dairy & poultry products | Fruits & vegetables | Cereals preparations & processed items |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| $ billion | 9.32 | 4.11 | 3.22 | 2.58 |
| % change, y-o-y | ▼6.94 | ▲12.72 | ▲15.38 | ▲9.03 |

Total* $21.6 bn | Change 0.04%

*including items such as other cereals, cashew, oilmeals

The shipment of cereals preparations and processed items, rose by 9% to 2.5 billion on year in the current fiscal. Oil meals shipments in the current fiscal rose by 17% to 1.5 billion in April-February 2023-24 on year.

The rice exports in the last fiscal rose by more than 15% year-on-year to a record $ 11.1 billion from $9.6 billion in FY22. In terms of volume, rice shipment grew by 5% to a record 22.34 million tonne (MT) last fiscal. In the current fiscal, rice shipment is likely to be around 17 MT.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Date | 20.3.2024 | | |
| Newspaper Name | Financial Express | Page No | 3 |

Financial Express 20-3-2024 Pg No. 3

# Farmers demand lifting of ban on onion exports

**SANDIP DAS**
**New Delhi, March 19**

**STATING THAT RABI** crop arrivals have improved supplies, farmers have demanded lifting of the ban on onion exports imposed till March 31, 2024.

"Since the imposition of exports ban last year, the mandi prices have declined to ₹1,500 per quintal on Tuesday from around ₹4,500 prior to the imposition of ban last year," Jaydutt Holkar, director, Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC), Lasalgaon, Nashik, Maharashtra, the hub of the country's wholesale trade told *FE*.

**Onion prices are expected to fall further with arrivals of rabi crops set to peak in the next few weeks**

Holkar said that prices are expected to fall further with arrivals of rabi crops set to peak in the next few weeks. Official sources said the government is yet to take a call on extending a ban on onion exports beyond March 31, 2024.

"Current prices of ₹1,500 a quintal does not even cover the cost of the production of onion," Balasaheb Misal, former director, Manmard (Maharashtra) mandi board and an onion farmer said.

"The rabi harvest is likely to peak in April," an official said, adding that rabi harvest constitutes about 60% of the total output and is stored for supplies till October.

According to the department of consumer affairs, modal retail prices of onion declined to ₹30/kg on Tuesday from ₹60/kg prior to the imposition of ban on shipments in December 2023.

Retail inflation of onion was 22.1% in February, while prices rose by 29.69% in January 2024 on year. In December 2023, the government had banned exports of onion till March 31, 2024, after the modal retail prices of the key agricultural commodities doubled to ₹60/kg from ₹30/kg reported in September last year.

Recently, the government has allowed 50,000 tonne and 14,400 tonne of onion exports to Bangladesh and the United Arab Emirates, respectively.

| Date | 20.3.2024 | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Newspaper Name | The Hindu | Page No | 7 |

The Hindu 20-3-2024 Pg No.-7

# Guaranteed MSP is an ethical imperative


**T.N. Prakash Kammardi**

is an agricultural economist and former chairman, Karnataka Agricultural Prices Commission, Government of Karnataka


As the general elections draw closer, agrarian concerns have once again taken centre stage. Farmers from the heartland of the Green Revolution have travelled to the border of the capital to not only voice their distress, but also to shape the electoral discourse. The ruling dispensation, sensing adverse electoral implications, attempted to reach out to the farmers. It said it was ready to procure pulses, maize, and cotton at MSP, but this was contingent upon farmers guaranteeing crop diversification. However, these efforts were rejected as the core issues were not addressed, say farm leaders.

The perennial issue of fair pricing of farm produce reigns supreme, now coupled with calls for legal assurances of Minimum Support Price (MSP). However, beyond mere legal mandates lies the pressing concern of maintaining self-sufficiency in food production and addressing the ongoing challenge of distribution. This underscores the ethical imperative of anchoring a legal guarantee for MSP.

The MSP regime was a vital instrument for ensuring food security in India. Given the unique nature of agriculture, farmers lack the ability to exert significant influence, let alone determine the price of their produce. This constitutes a 'market failure.' Thus, MSP ensures that agricultural commodity prices remain above a predetermined benchmark to facilitate remunerative price discovery.

**Produce and perish trap**

The MSP is announced annually for 23 crops covering both the kharif and rabi seasons, well in advance of sowing, with 21 of them being food crops. However, despite the announcements, the implementation of MSP remains poor. Only 6% of farmers, primarily those cultivating paddy and wheat in States such as Punjab, benefit from MSP. Most transactions involving these essential food commodities occur below the MSP, rendering farming economically unviable for the majority of producers in India. As a result, farmers are trapped in a dangerous cycle of produce and perish, leading to crippling debt and deaths by suicide. All these emphasise the pressing need to ensure MSP, including the one recommended by the eminent agricultural scientist M.S. Swaminathan (with a 50% profit margin).

Several articles under the Constitution, as well as the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants, support the legal recourse to guaranteeing MSP. According to a recent opinion survey by an English TV channel, 83% of landowners and 77% of farm labourers expressed solidarity with the agitating farmers. Notably, 64% of the public also endorsed the farmers' demand for a legal right to MSP.

Sugarcane growers already benefit from a 'statutory' MSP, which sugar factories strictly adhere to when purchasing cane from farmers. A few years ago, Maharashtra attempted to amend its Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) Act to prevent the purchase of agricultural produce below MSP, but the effort failed due to a lack of political will and a comprehensive strategy. The Karnataka Agricultural Price Commission has laid out a clear roadmap, including potential financial commitments, to ensure a legally binding MSP for crops cultivated in the State. A private member bill on The Farmers' Right to Guaranteed Remunerative MSP for Agricultural Commodities was tabled in Parliament in 2018. The Andhra Pradesh government unveiled a draft bill last year aimed at guaranteeing MSP for crops grown in the State. These efforts show that the objective of establishing a legal recourse to MSP has not emerged suddenly, nor is it impossible to attain.

> Farmers hardly get 30% of the price paid by the consumers. This will increase if MSP is guaranteed

**The solution**

A minor amendment to respective State APMC Acts or the Centre's Essential Commodities Act would suffice to introduce a law ensuring that no transactions of farmers' produce occur at prices below the MSP. The budget outlay will not be as large as projected if legal recourse to MSP is accompanied by essential backward and forward linkages. Crop planning, market intelligence (including price forecasts), and other pre-sowing measures, along with the establishment of post-harvest infrastructure for efficient storage, transportation, and processing of farm commodities, greatly assist in managing the post-harvest glut in the market. Therefore, a legal route to MSP, complemented by the development of such linkages, would provide protection against "market failures" in addressing the surplus, rather than leading to "market distortion," as claimed by some mainstream economists.

Even enhancing MSP to provide a 50% profit margin over total cost is not challenging, considering that current margins already stand at around 22%. Finally, effective procurement and distribution, as envisaged under the National Food Security Act, 2013, is the most appropriate means to not only ensure MSP but also address hunger and malnutrition.

The PM-AASHA comprises schemes for price support and price deficiency payment, along with incentives to private traders to ensure MSP. While it possessed all the necessary elements as precursors to guarantee the MSP, its side-lining in policy circles highlights how political expediency rules the roost.

At present, farmers hardly get 30% of the price paid by the consumers; this will increase if MSP is guaranteed. Establishing a legally binding MSP will anger intermediaries as their share will get reduced. Often, government intervention, and particularly a legally binding MSP, is deemed a problem. It is this adherence to free market dogma that is preventing a just solution to the ongoing crisis in farmer incomes.