

Sanjay Agarwal, IAS  
Secretary



भारत सरकार  
कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्रालय  
कृषि सहकारिता एवं किसान कल्याण विभाग  
Government of India  
Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare  
Department of Agriculture, Cooperation  
& Farmers Welfare

D.O. No. 22016/23/2017-M-II (Part File)

Dated: 4<sup>th</sup> April, 2020

Dear Chief Secretary,

Agricultural Produce Market Committee markets (mandis) across the country have been playing a major role in maintaining supplies of essential commodities through physical aggregation and linkage to buyers. Mandis operations need to be done through proper coordination and planning while maintaining surveillance, social distancing, avoiding overcrowding and proper hygiene for stake holders therein. Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs vide his D.O. Letter No.40-3/2020-DM-I (A) dated 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2020 addressed to you, has already provided that the services of 'Direct Marketing' directly from farmers/group of farmers, FPOs, Cooperatives are exempted from the lockdown measures.

2. In the present challenging time due to COVID 19, there is utmost need to allow free direct marketing outside the mandis as this shall not only decongest mandis but also facilitate the farmers in selling their produce near to farm gate at remunerative prices. As harvest season has started, there is immediate need to facilitate the process of direct marketing of all kinds by farmers/group of farmers, FPOs, and Cooperatives. This can be facilitated by the States/UTs by limiting the regulation under State APMC Act to within physical premise of notified markets only, while freeing the direct buying facility by bulk buyers/processors/big retailers etc outside mandi premises with minimum or without any requirement of any Licensing or Registration process as decided by States/UTs. This will facilitate farmers to sell their produce near to harvest centers and simultaneously decongest mandis in the present circumstances.

3. I would also like to bring to your knowledge that Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Govt. of India has also released special e-NAM modules on

e-NAM platform on 2.4.2020 to enable e-trading of stored produce of farmers from WDRA registered warehouse notified as deemed market and also enabling the FPOs to upload their produce for their collection centers for bidding through e-NAM, without the necessity to bring produce to the mandis.

4. Therefore, in the prevailing situation, I would request you to kindly consider adoption of the following emergent measures up to an appropriate time preferably for at least 3 months:-

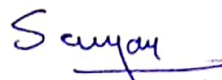
(i) To facilitate the process of direct marketing of all kinds of farmers/group of farmers, FPOs and Cooperatives by limiting the regulation under State APMC Act to within physical premises of the notified markets only, while allowing the direct buying facility by bulk buyers/ processors/ big retailers etc outside mandi premises with minimum or without requirement of any Licensing or Registration process or as decided by States/UTs.

(ii) To consider notifying WDRA registered warehouses in the State as deemed markets to facilitate e-NAM operation therein.

5. I would request to consider the above measures to facilitate farmers in selling their produce at their door steps, ensuring availability of produce at consumption centers and decongesting mandis.

With kind regards.

Yours sincerely,

  
(Sanjay Agarwal) 4/7

Chief Secretaries of all States/UTs