

SFAC ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN FOR FPOs **DURING COVID-19 LOCKDOWN PERIOD IN THE COUNTRY**

The Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) are well poised to play a critical role in maintaining the supply chain of Grains, Fruits & Vegetables to the consumers. During the pandemic attack of Corona Virus Covid-19 and lockdown condition in the country, in order to enhance the effectiveness of the FPOs and strengthen their agriculture produce supply chain across the country, SFAC assisted the FPOs in various ways in linking up them with various buyers to sustain livelihood of the farmers.

In the existent challenging time due to COVID-19, there is utmost need of direct marketing of farm produce through FPOs and facilitation of technical support by the Government. In view of the above, SFAC has attempted several initiatives as under:

- Collated data on surplus produces available with FPOs with the help of Resource Institutions (RIs) who have been promoting the FPOs across country. The information covers type of commodity, variety, quantity, collection center, place of delivery, possibilities of procuring produce from nearby catchment area and compiled on daily basis. Considering the surplus produces, so far 242 FPOs have offered their different commodities for commercial markets.
- Sensitising FPOs for establishing direct market linkages with buyers focusing on Retailers through Delhi Kisan Mandi (DKM) or direct marketing of the produces in association with Synergy its Strategic Management Partner.
- SFAC has been able to onboard more than 1000 FPOs on eNAM platform and FPOs have also started trading through the platform.
- Creation of WhatsApp group with Pan India buyers and the SFAC Resource Institutes to have regular interaction on demand and supply sides and solving the various issues of the buyers as well sellers (FPOs).
- SFAC has been successfully tying up FPOs with number of big buyers / retailers in and around major Cities mainly Lucknow, Mumbai and Kolkata. Linkages have also been created with housing societies / RWAs for direct retailing by FPOs.
- NAFED and Retailer Association of India are also connecting FPOs with their associated retailers / buyers.
- SFAC have also been able to directly link non-SFAC promoted FPOs/Farmers Groups with buyers and create successful business transactions.

- SFAC Resource Institutions being a support system for FPOs at the Covid-19 Situation have taken up the business transaction of produces in local markets and supply to big retailers. The summary details are as under:

State-wise business details carried out RIs) during lockdown period				
S.No.	State	No. of FPOs	Quantity (in MT)	Amount (in lakh)
1	Uttar Pradesh	6	102	12.57
2	West Bengal	14	1480	148.06
3	Chhattisgarh	3	8.7	10.89
5	Maharashtra	20	1317.17	679.22
6	Haryana	4	106	16.95
7	Telangana	5	360	208.8
8	Sikkim	8	23.0	8.95
Total		60	3397	1085.44

- In Delhi Kisan Mandi under SFAC management, during the COVID-19 lockdown period **438 MT of perishable fruits and vegetables produces of FPOs have been transacted with a value of Rs. 79 lakh** for Delhi-NCR region.

Few Interventions taken at FPOs level:

- All the active FPOs had extended its outreach for procurement of agri. commodities from outside farmers also to meet the huge demand arising out of the COVID-19 situation.
- All the active FPOs are taking full care for maintaining and adhering to the measures and safe channel for procurement and movement of produce from one place to another.
- FPOs have also prepared a route chart in order to manage the supply of produce in the market. The farmers are provided the best price available in the market via FPOs during this period.
- FPOs are also providing COVID-19 related technical and advisory services to farmers by asking them to wear masks and hand gloves, maintain social distancing and sanitizing the hands of the customer before entering the store/shop. Also, all the precautionary measures are being followed during procurement and sale of produce.
- Some of the FPCs have distributed relief packages, sanitizer and masks to the farmers and needy through the support from RIs.