

Weekly Agri Policy & Trends Update, July 31- August 06, 2015

1. India's real skilling challenge: 263 million farm workers, Business Standard, August 04, 2015

The Prime Minister's Skill Development Mission (Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana, PMKVY) has been launched to ensure many of India's 231 million young people under 25 are equipped with skills that the economy needs and jobs are created for the 12 million who seek them every year.

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2. Policy with a farmer's face, The Indian Express, August 03, 2015

There is seldom any Independence Day speech where the prime minister, from the ramparts of the Red Fort, does not thank the jawans and kisans for their heroic role in securing our borders and ensuring food security. This year is unlikely to be different. Recall Lal Bahadur Shastri's famous slogan, "Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan", which was later extended to include "Jai Vigyan" by Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Prime Minister Narendra Modi may put his own stamp with another twist, but the message is not going to change too much.

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3. Docs, farmers, scientists promote organic farming, The Times of India, August 02, 2015

Environment activist and author Vandana Shiva kick-started a nationwide campaign, Anna Swaraj Andolan, from Meerut on Sunday. The campaign is meant to make farmers aware of the benefits of organic farming and also inform them of the hidden agenda of multi-national companies, which allegedly attempt to control the national agronomy by introducing genetically-altered seeds.

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4. KCR: Agriculture Department should aid the farmers, The Hans India, August 05, 2015

According to a Telangana state government release, Rao, who attended a review meeting on agriculture said that the agriculture department and the agriculture university here should provide information to farmers on soil health and crops to be cultivated. The state government is ready to provide adequate funds in the endeavour, he said. Noting that Telangana's climatic conditions are conducive for production of seeds, he favoured the agriculture department playing an active role to make the state what he called the seed bowl of India, the release stated.

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5. Land acquisition: Karnataka eases norms for people not engaged in agriculture, The Indian Express, August

02, 2015

The Congress government in Karnataka has brought a new legislation that eases land acquisition rules for people not engaged in agriculture. The Karnataka Land Reforms (Amendment) Bill, 2015, which was passed by the state legislature on Friday, raises the annual income limit for acquiring land by persons not engaged in agriculture from Rs 2 lakh to Rs 25 lakh.

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6. MLAs demand resumption of harvester subsidy, The Times of India, August 06, 2015

Members of the Goa legislative assembly on Wednesday urged the government to boost contract farming, to resume harvester subsidy and for greater awareness of agricultural subsidies. Speaking during discussions on the demand of agriculture, Porvorim independent MLA Rohan Khaunte said that though agriculture should have grown with the ban on mining, it has actually declined, especially paddy. He also lamented that it takes almost a year for farmers to get their Krishi cards.

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7. Onion prices soar, NAFED and AAP govt in blame game, The Indian Express, August 06, 2015

As onion prices in the capital spiralled beyond the reach of the common man, the Delhi government and the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd (NAFED) blamed each other over the tear-inducing rates. On Tuesday, the Delhi government had declared that it would sell onions at Rs 40 per kg at mobile locations across the city, till the prices of the vegetable stabilised in the open market.

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8. Poor stock, but kharif crops gets water, The Times of India, August 06, 2015

Even as water level in four city dams is yet to reach the halfway mark, the irrigation department has started releasing water from Khadakwasla dam for kharif crops. As per the department, around 2.5-3 TMC of water will be released through Mutha canal for agriculture which will also fill up ponds that supply drinking water to rural parts of the city. The rotation was started about 10 days ago and is likely to continue for the next two weeks.

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