



COVID-19 PR No-88

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PRESS RELEASE

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Dr. Sourabh Garg, Principal Secretary, Agriculture & Farmers' Empowerment Department and Sri Vir Vikram Yadav, Commissioner-cum-Secretary, Food Supplies & Consumer Welfare and Cooperation Department briefed the Press on measures taken by State Government in COVID-19 situation.

- Hon'ble Chief Minister Sri Naveen Patnaik has announced a special package of Rs. 200 Crore covering 25 Lakh farmers to boost agricultural and horticultural activities in the extraordinary situation of COVID-19. This includes distribution of quality certified seeds at subsidized rate, supply of vegetable mini-kits, incentives for hybrid vegetable seeds, supply of mixed fruit plants for backyard plantation, supply of mango grafts, special assistance for high value vegetables (creeper crops), support for betel vine, flower and mushroom cultivation, supply of plastic crates and demonstration programme of different crops.
- Apart from the above the following activities are undertaken by Agriculture & Farmers' Empowerment Department-
 1. This Kharif programme has been taken up in 61.80 Lakh Hectare with a target of producing 96 Lakh MT of food grains. Major thrust has been given on crop diversification by diverting area under rice and increasing area under pulses, oil seeds and other remunerative crops.
 2. It has been planned to construct 1,03,000 numbers of farm ponds in convergence with MGNREGA Programme to provide gainful employment to migrant workers.
 3. Plantation activities in 19,900 Hectare have been taken for boosting production of foods and engagement of rural workforce.
 4. 'Agricultural Advisories' are being sent through 'Ama Krushi' Helpline Service. 8.05 Lakh farmers have been on boarded in the system. Farmers can call to avail this service. The Toll Free Help Line 1800-102-5166. 25-30 Lakh voice messages per month are being sent to registered farmers.

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5. As risk mitigation measure during Kharif 2020, it has been planned to cover 30 Lakh farmers including 10 lakh non-loanee farmers under PMFBY.
 6. VAWs are attending in Gram Panchyat Office on each Monday to address the farmers' issues.
 7. 30 Nodal Officers have been engaged to oversee implementation of various schemes/agricultural programmes.
- As per direction of Hon'ble Chief Minister Sri Naveen Patnaik, to expedite Kharif loan to more farmers through cooperative institutions during COVID-19 situation, disbursement of loan has started from 25th April. Credit to the tune of Rs. 2649 Crore has been provided as on 31st May compared to Rs. 1218 Crore which is 117% more than that period last year.
- Credit to the tune of Rs. 9000 Crores will be disbursed to the farmers through Cooperative Institutions during Kharif compared to Rs. 7500 Crore last year.
 - 6,19,000 farmers have been provided Kharif loan as on 31st May compared to 3,05,000 farmers which is 103% more than that period last year.
 - Rs. 10.78 Crore and Rs. 23.38 Crore have been provided as loan to 750 SHGs and 4026 Joint Liability Groups respectively.
 - 171 numbers of Primary Agriculture Cooperative Societies(PACS) are engaged to procure pulses and oil-seeds this year in comparison to 55 PACS engaged last year. 16,816 farmers have been registered this year in comparison to 8856 farmers last year to this period for the purpose. Pulses and oil-seeds of Rs. 18.43 Crore have been purchased this year in comparison Rs. 1.83 Crore last year.
 - Paddy procurement for Rabi Season is going on in 17 districts i.e. Balasore, Baragarh, Bolangir, Boudh, Cuttack, Jajpur, Jharsuguda, Kalahandi, Khordha, Koraput, Mayurbhanj, Nabarangpur, Nuapara, Puri, Rayagada, Sambalpur and Sonepur. 2.57 Lakh number of farmers have registered their names for such procurement, which was 2.16 Lakh last year.
 - So far 10.51 lakh MT paddy have been procured. It is 40% more than the last year's procurement (7.97 Lakh MT). As per the direction of Hon'ble Chief Minister, payment to the farmers within 24 to 48 hours is being ensured. Rs. 1381 Crore has been credited to the farmers' account for such procurement and it will continue till 30th June.

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- State Government is committed to bring home the stranded migrant workers safely from different parts of the country. More than 600 people have been airlifted from Jammu, Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Manipur, Nagaland and Tripura. Air evacuation is being done where rail or road travel is not possible. Odisha officials coordinated with the concerned States and completed COVID-19 formalities before bringing the migrants to Airport from different places. The mission to bring home all stranded people safely is being continued.
- Schools may be closed during lock down for COVID-19 situation but learning has not. To ensure continued education during pandemic, ST&SC Development Department has introduced alternate learning and mentorship programs to benefit more than 6 lakh tribal students in the State-run residential hostels.
- Ward level COVID Sachetak Committees have been formed in all 67 Wards of Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation. 1596 volunteers designated as COVID Sachetak have been included in the committees. The Sachetaks are being supported by 338 mentors selected from the local intelligentsia.
- All the Government Departments/Offices of the State have been advised to meticulously enforce precautionary measures with prime importance to social distancing so as to restrain the spread of COVID-19.
 - Emphasis has been given for maintaining social distance of 2 metres between 2 persons, prohibiting unnecessary gathering / crowding in common passages /corridors and ensuring frequent hand washing by the employees. Official meetings and gatherings shall be restricted to minimum and organised preferably through video-conferencing. Proper sanitisation of the Office buildings / common space should be done at regular intervals. Adequate cleaning & sanitation materials are to be procured by the respective office establishment. All the rooms of the offices, stairs, washrooms etc. are to be cleaned / sanitized regularly.
 - Spitting inside the office premises is strictly prohibited. Officials feeling physical discomfort and suffering should be advised to seek proper medical care. Older employees/employees having underlying medical conditions and pregnant lady employees may not be exposed to direct public contact. General Administration & Public Grievance Department has issued order in this regard.
- 16,811 Temporary Medical Centres/Camps have been readied in 6798 Gram Panchayats of the State. In all these Centres, total no. of 7,62,310 beds have been arranged to provide COVID-19 health services in rural areas.

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- From 8th June morning to 9th June morning, 5 no of cases have been registered by the Police in the state for violation of different regulations and guidelines related to COVID-19 out of which 4 no. of cases for violation of lock down and 1 case for violation of Home Quarantine. 21 persons have been arrested by police for different violations.

Health Update

- Up to midnight of 8th June, 1,82,384 samples have been tested.
- Number of Positive Cases stands 3140.
- 2133 persons have already recovered/ discharged.
- No. of Death case 9.
- No of active cases are 996.
- 1393 persons are hospital isolation.

Surya Mishra
Information Officer

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