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21 wholesale mandis to be integrated from April 14

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New Delhi, 9 April

Bhopal, Kota and Sirsa are among the 21 major wholesale markets that will be integrated electronically by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on April 14 as the National Agriculture Market (NAM).

The NAM is a unified market where farm goods will be sold without any *mandi* tax. If completed successfully, it could moderate inflation and do away with the ill-effects of the Agriculture Produce Marketing Committee (APMC) Act.

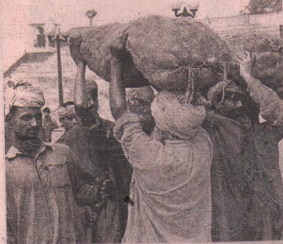
Officials said the 21 *mandis* that had been selected were significant trading platforms for one or more commodities. Bhopal deals in black *chana*, mustard is traded in Sirsa, wheat in Karnal, and castor seed in Pattan.

India has 2,477 principal *mandis* and 4,843 sub-markets set up by the APMCs. With ₹200 crore to be spent over three years, the plan is to link 585 major *mandis* in the first phase of the NAM over the next three years.

Mandis that want to participate in the electronic platform need to put in place e-auction and offer a single licence valid across the state and a single point levy of the market fee.

A major objective of the NAM is to kill price differentials across the country to moderate food inflation.

The integration could also curb malpractices as APMCs, through which state governments exercise control over wholesale markets. APMCs were established to provide an organised marketplace to farmers for better price dis-



SPRUCING UP

- Markets to be integrated electronically by Prime Minister Narendra Modi as part of National Agriculture Market (NAM)
- The 21 *mandis* are located in Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Telengana, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh.
- A major objective of the common market is to iron out the price differentials by curbing the tendency to hoard, thus curbing food inflation
- With ₹200 crore to be spent over three years, the plan is to link 585 major *mandis* in the first phase of the NAM over the next three years

covery. The management of most APMCs is in the hands of political parties which enjoy a cosy relationship with commission agents.

The Tribune, P-7- 10-4-16

Crop damage tops govt's kharif meet agenda

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TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, APRIL 9

The Centre's kharif conference next week will deliberate on crop damages due to moisture stress caused by deficit, uneven and untimely rain, hail-storm and other natural calamities in the country.

It will chalk out a strategy for sowing summer crops, keeping in mind 2016 monsoon and El Nino forecasts.

The country reported a 14 per cent rain deficit during the last kharif season. Subsequently, rabi crops were affected due to less post-monsoon and winter rain, resulting in a low level of

soil moisture. Soaring temperatures and a dip in reservoirs and groundwater resources are adding to the problems of planners.

While the monsoon is expected to render a much-better performance this year after two consecutive drought years due to "weakening" El Nino conditions, the water storage in 91 major reservoirs is currently running at low levels—25 per cent of the total storage capacity.

Officials said they would chalk out a strategy taking into account the monsoon situation and the government's plan to double farmers' income in six years.

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