

Daily News Monitor: 3 April 2020

1. New features added to eNAM to boost supply chains

Source: Financial Express ([Link](#))

In a move aimed at decongesting mandis and maintaining supply chains of fruits and vegetables, the Centre on 3 March added two new features on the electronic national agriculture market (e-NAM) platform to make it more convenient for farmers to sell their produce at warehouses and collection centres set up by farmer producer organisations (FPOs). Agriculture minister Narendra Singh Tomar launched the new features of e-NAM which will strengthen agriculture marketing and reduce the need for farmers to physically come to mandis for selling their produce. The warehouse-based trading module in e-NAM software will facilitate trading from the premises of warehouses based on negotiable warehouse receipts in electronic form (e-NWR), while the other module will allow farmers get access to the e-NAM platform from collection centers of FPOs.

2. India to WTO: Used peace clause to provide excess support to rice farmers

Source: Financial Express ([Link](#))

India has used the peace clause of the WTO to provide excess support measures to rice farmers for marketing year 2018-19 in order to meet the domestic food security needs of its poor population. Under the Peace Clause, WTO members refrain from challenging any breach in prescribed subsidy ceiling given by a developing nation at the dispute settlement forum of the Geneva-based organisation. Subsidies over and above the prescribed ceiling are seen as trade distorting. The limit is fixed at 10 per cent of the value of food production for developing countries like India. In a notification, India has informed the World Trade Organisation (WTO) that the value of its rice production was USD 43.67 billion in 2018-19 and for that it provided subsidies worth USD 5 billion, which is in excess of prescribed 10 per cent ceiling.

3. Coronavirus: World Bank approves \$1 billion emergency fund for India

Source: Livemint ([Link](#))

The World Bank has approved \$1 billion fund to help India prevent, detect, and respond to the covid-19 outbreak and strengthen its public health preparedness. This is the largest ever health sector support from the multilateral lending institution to India. The fund will be managed by the National Health Mission (NHM), National Center for Disease Control (NCDC) and Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and will cover all states and union territories (UTs). It will address the needs of infected people, at-

risk populations, medical and emergency personnel and service providers, medical and testing facilities, and national and animal health agencies.

4. Govt mulls a phased unwinding of lockdown, general guidelines likely today

Source: Livemint ([Link](#))

The Union government is looking at a phased unwinding of the 21-day lockdown that has shuttered businesses and brought life to a standstill and has sought suggestions from states to evolve a common approach to lift the curbs gradually. The decision to involve states to evolve a strategy to end the restrictions was articulated during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's video conference with state chief ministers on 3 March. States were asked to set up task forces to make suggestions for a gradual lifting of lockdown in the meeting that lasted for around two-and-a-half hours. The Centre will issue a so-called standard operating protocol to states on 4 April, providing rough guidelines on how to lift the restrictions.

5. Bengaluru startup Bione launches rapid covid-19 home screening test kit

Source: Livemint ([Link](#))

Bengaluru-based biotech startup Bione said on 3 April that it has launched a rapid covid-19 at-home screening test kit. The company claims that the kit, priced between ₹2,000 and ₹3,000 depending on global supply, is easy to use and displays accurate results within minutes. A statement from the company said that the screening kit is available for sale on its platform bione.in after approval from the requisite medical regulatory authorities. It added that, under normal circumstances, the kits can be received within 2-3 days of placing the order via their platform. Bione said it is equipped to supply 20,000 kits a week and intends to build its manufacturing facilities in the next few months.

6. ITC ties up with Jubilant FoodWorks to deliver food items via Domino's app

Source: Business Standard ([Link](#))

In a first-of-its-kind partnership between a quick service restaurant and a fast-moving consumer goods company, Jubilant FoodWorks, the master franchisee of the Domino's brand in India, is partnering with ITC to deliver essential commodities at the consumers doorstep. The partnership follows ITC's and Jubilant FoodWork's aim to maximise sales and distribution channels while encouraging consumers to stay at home and receive essentials during the Covid-19 outbreak. According to the partnership, a combo pack of ITC-owned Aashirvaad atta and spices such as chilli, coriander and turmeric powder will be available on Domino's app starting on 2 April. Buyers can log into the app under the Domino's Essentials menu and order the

items. While ITC will provide the items, Domino's will be delivering the products. As of December 31, 2019, Domino's had 1,325 restaurants in the country across 282 cities and towns.

7. Covid-19 lockdown: Uber, BigBasket partner for essential service delivery

Source: Business Standard ([Link](#))

Uber and BigBasket have partnered to deliver everyday essentials to people amid the ongoing nationwide Covid-19 lockdown. A business-to-business partnership, Uber's driver partners will help BigBasket with last-mile delivery in four cities to begin with- Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Chandigarh and Noida. More cities will be added with time. "We are looking at similar partnerships with other e-commerce players and supermarkets to help with last mile delivery. Uber is not charging any commissions for these trips. The commission shared with the partners will be passed on fully to the driver partner, helping them to have additional earnings during these hard times," said Prabhjeet Singh, Director-Operations and Head of Cities, Uber India & South Asia, Uber India.

8. Govt considering import restrictions on tyres

Source: Money Control ([Link](#))

The government is considering a proposal to put import of tyres under the restricted category to promote domestic manufacturing, according to sources. Currently, there are no restrictions on tyre imports. Putting restrictions will mean the importer will have to seek a licence for inbound shipments. In the third week of March, the Directorate General of Foreign Trade had sought the views of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) on the matter as domestic tyre manufacturers have long been demanding restrictions on imports, the sources said. The industry has time and again raised concerns over rising imports of tyres from countries like China.

9. ADB expects India's economic growth to slow down to 4% in FY21 on global pandemic

Source: Money Control ([Link](#))

India's economic growth is likely to slow down to 4 percent this fiscal on the back of the current global health emergency, Asian Development Bank said in its outlook for FY21 on April 3. Growth in India will remain subdued after the country suffered a sharp slowdown last year, from 6.1 percent in fiscal 2019 to 5 percent, as a credit crunch that originated in the non-banking financial sector severely hampered bank lending, the Manila-based lender said. "We face extraordinarily challenging times. The outbreak of coronavirus (COVID-19) is disrupting

people's lives and interrupting business and other economic activities around the world," said Masatsugu Asakawa, President of Asian Development Bank.