Agriculture Export Policy

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Agri Export Policy of India:

- The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the Agriculture Export Policy, 2018.
- The Cabinet has also approved the proposal for establishment of Monitoring Framework at Centre with Commerce as the nodal Department with representation from various line Ministries/Departments and Agencies and representatives of concerned State Governments, to oversee the implementation of Agriculture Export Policy.

Key facts:

- The Government has come out with a policy to double farmers’ income by 2022.
- Exports of agricultural products would play a pivotal role in achieving this goal.
- The policy aims to boost exports of agriculture commodities such as tea, coffee and rice and increase the country’s share in global agri-trade.
- The comprehensive “Agriculture Export Policy” focused on doubling the agricultural exports and also aimed to integrate Indian farmers and agricultural products with the global value chains.
- The policy is aimed at helping India step up exports of an array of farm goods but also seeks to avoid ad hoc, knee-jerk policy decisions often aimed at keeping a lid on food inflation.
- It will also seek to remove all kinds of export restrictions on organic products.
- It has also pitched for greater involvement of states, improvement in infrastructure and logistics and promotion of research and development (R&D) activities for new product development for the upcoming markets.
- The policy focused on all aspects of agricultural exports including modernising infrastructure, standardisation of products, streamlining regulations, curtailing knee-jerk decisions, focusing on research and development activities, setting up of an agency in line with the
European Food Safety Authority for framing, regulating and implementing rules related to both production and trade.

**Vision:**

- “Harness export potential of Indian agriculture, through suitable policy instruments, to make India global power in agriculture and raise farmers’ income.”

**Objective:**

- The policy aims at doubling agricultural shipments to over $60 billion by 2022 and reach US$ 100 Billion in the next few years thereafter, with a stable trade policy regime.
- To diversify our export basket, destinations and boost high value and value added agricultural exports including focus on perishables.
- To promote novel, indigenous, organic, ethnic, traditional and non-traditional Agri products exports.
- To provide an institutional mechanism for pursuing market access, tackling barriers and deal with sanitary and phyto-sanitary issues.
- To strive to double India’s share in world agri exports by integrating with global value chain at the earliest.
- Enable farmers to get benefit of export opportunities in overseas market.

**Framework and Mechanism:**

- The Cabinet has also approved the proposal for establishment of monitoring framework at Centre with Ministry of Commerce as the nodal department with representation from various line
Ministries/Departments and Agencies and representatives of concerned State Governments, to oversee the implementation of agriculture export policy.

- According to the Ministry, total outlay for the implementation of the policy would ₹1,400 crore, which exists already under different schemes.
- Besides, the Centre would work closely with the State governments to help them make good use of the policy.
- The policy seeks to diversify the country export basket and destinations, by boosting high value and value-added agricultural exports, including focus on perishables. Currently, rice, meat and marine products account for more than 50 per cent of Indian agri exports.

**Mechanism:**

- To achieve objective, Union government plans to provide an institutional mechanism that would pursue market access, tackle barriers and deal with sanitary and phytosanitary issues that come up from time to time.
- The emphasis would also be given to promote the export of novel, indigenous, organic, ethnic, traditional and non-traditional agri products, the Minister said.
- It would provide infrastructure and logistics support to exporters.
- The States would be urged their Agricultural Produce Market Committee acts and remove mandi taxes applicable on export-oriented goods.
- On the infrastructure front, the government would identify ports that are handling agri exports.
- Stress would be given to follow cluster-based models and efforts would be made to attract private investments into production and processing.
Source: PIB, FE, THB