

APMR Reforms are counterproductive

Union government in recent months taken several steps to liberalise Agriculture sector and raise private participation, which can turn the agri-economy in either way.

The recent reforms include: - easing APMC act and essential commodity Act through presidential ordinances. Government has also forwarded contract farming scheme. Though it is anticipated that it will raise investment in farming and give freedom to farmers to sale its produce anywhere, some of the major concerns with these reforms are :-

(i) limited success - As Shanta Kumar committee noted, only 6% farmers come under MSP rest 94% have freedom related to trade since only 22 crops are covered under MSP.

~~There~~ Also Shanta Kumar highlighted lack of infrastructure to stockpile and transport

the grains and perishable products.

Thus, these reforms does not address these issues.

→ Further about 17 states ~~the~~ have either reformed version of APMC or altogether different version like Apni mandi of Punjab and Raitu Samithi of AP. Thus done away with APMC will not affect these states.

→ Also Odisha's study shows that eliminating APMC has not attracted private investment instead made farmers more vulnerable without state support.

(ii) Doing away with APMC will affect food stock which government maintains for crisis like this, thus endangering food security.

(iii) Environment and ecology are vital for agriculture and private players are known to damage them. Thus active government support is needed in this regard.

Thus, instead of throwing throwing farmers and agriculture at the hands of private players, A REFORMED APMC with active government support and Andhra Pradesh community managed farming regulation is needed. model should be considered for this.