

# FARMER'S EXPECTATIONS FROM AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE MARKET COMMITTEES (APMCs)

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## ABSTRACT

*Farmers in Maharashtra have been expected to get the proper price for their produce after harvesting from traders and agriculture produce market committees in each taluka and district, but they did not. Some farmers require quick cash to repay loans and plan for the subsequent season; during this time, farmers sell their produce at cheaper prices; this is known as a distress sale or forced sale. Farmers expect a lot from government autonomous authorities and Maharashtra state agricultural produce market committees that are actively engaged in agricultural marketing operations to avoid exploitations as well as distress sales circumstances in order to avoid such conditions. The study is based on secondary sources and random farmer interactions in the market yard. This research aims to discover farmer's expectations from market committees.*

**Key Words:** Agriculture Produce Market Committee, Market Yard, Minimum Support Price, MSAMB.

## INTRODUCTION

Agricultural Produce Market Committees (APMC) are marketing boards established by state governments to reduce farmer exploitation by middlemen, in which farmers are forced to sell their produce at excessively cheap prices. All agricultural commodities must be brought to market, and transactions are conducted through auction. Mandi, the market place, is put up in various locations around the states. These markets divide the state geographically. Traders are granted license to run in a market. Mall owners, wholesale dealers, and retail traders are not permitted to acquire directly from farmers. Producer-sellers experienced a high marketing cost and suffered from illegal deductions of marketing charges, as well as the prevalence of different malpractices, under the conventional system of agricultural product marketing. Increased negotiating power of producer-sellers was seen as the most significant prerequisite of orderly marketing in order to improve marketing conditions and create fair competitive conditions. The Market Committee's responsibility in the market area is to carry out the provisions of the Maharashtra Agricultural Produce Marketing (Regulation) Act 1963, as well as any rules and bye-laws made thereunder, and to provide such agricultural produce marketing facilities as the Director may direct from time to time. The Market Committee must also do any other activities necessary for market monitoring, direction, and control, as well as agricultural produce marketing. Market Committees may be created in the state under the terms of the Act. These Market Committees are building market yards for farmers and customers. The Act governs several agricultural output commodities. Currently, there are 306 APMCs, each with 623 market segments.

The exercise of public control over markets, i.e. the formation of regulated marketplaces in the country, has removed most of the flaws and malpractices in the previous agricultural marketing system. The National Agriculture Market (NAM) is a pan-India electronic trading system that connects the existing Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) mandis across the country to develop a unified national market for agricultural commodities. The e-NAM portal provides a one-stop shop for all APMC-related information and services, including: Arrivals and pricing of commodities, Offers to buy and sell Provision for responding to trade offers, as well as other services Even when agricultural produce continues to flow through the mandis, the NAM minimises transaction costs and information irregularity.

**National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) Scheme:** In 2016, the Government of India established the National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) Scheme to build an online transparent, competitive agriculture market. Competitive bidding system is used to ensure that farmers receive fair rates for their produce. The government gives free software and help of 75 lakh per APMC mandi for relevant hardware, including quality assaying equipment and the building of infrastructure such as cleaning, grading, sorting, packaging, compost unit, and so on, under the e-NAM Scheme. More than 1.7 crore farmers and 2.3 lakh dealers had enrolled on the e-NAM portal as of December 31, 2022.

**Current Status:**

Currently, 1260 markets from 25 states and 3 UTs are connected to the e-NAM network.

The following APMC Act amendments must be made by States (State Agriculture Marketing Boards) interested in integrating their APMCs/mandis with NAM.

A single, state-wide trading licence that is unified

B) State-wide market fees collected in one location;

C) e-auction/e-trading provisions as a method of price discovery.

The market helps exporters and merchants in producing high-quality goods in large quantities at a single location and guarantees fair financial dealings. There are currently 203 commodities on e-NAM, up from 10 recently. Commodities can be found on the e-NAM portal Platform of Platforms (POP), which was introduced as part of the e-NAM (National Agriculture Market) on July 14, 2022, during the National Conference on Agriculture & Horticulture Ministers in Bangalore. Farmers can benefit from the option of receiving a portion of their payment in cash (up to the restrictions imposed by the relevant states) and keeping the remainder in their bank account for e-NAM exchange. This serves to reinforce the prime minister's commitment to the ease of doing business.

**The advantages of e-NAM for an APMC include:**

- Free System Integration Software.
- Transaction recording automation.
- Detailed knowledge on commerce.
- Recording of arrivals in real time.
- Examine trade, arrival, and price trend data.
- An automated database for financial data.
- A decrease in the amount of labour needed.

**Conclusion:**

The loss of agricultural goods due to their perishability is caused mostly by inadequate storage facilities and a lack of proper infrastructure, which includes roads, transportation, and storage. Farmers demand a lot from government autonomous agencies involved in agricultural marketing to help them solve these challenges, particularly merchants and agricultural produce market committees. Farmers have the following primary expectations:

**1. Fair and competitive prices:** Farmers expect the Agriculture Produce Market Committee (APMC) to ensure fair and competitive prices for their produce. This can be done through setting up regulated markets and by guaranteeing that the farmers get a fair and competitive price for their products.

**2. Support in storage and transportation facilities:** Farmers also expect the APMC to provide them with necessary storage and transportation facilities in order to ensure that their produce is not damaged due to lack of proper infrastructure.

**3. Protection from middlemen:** Many farmers are exploited by middlemen who buy their produce at lower prices and then sell it at higher prices. The APMC should provide farmers

with protection from such middlemen and ensure that the farmers get a fair price for their produce.

4. Access to credit: Farmers also expect the APMC to provide them with access to credit facilities. This can be done through arranging for loans from banks and other financial institutions as well as providing subsidies for agricultural inputs.

**5. Access to market information:** Farmers also expect the APMC to provide them with market information such as current market prices, quality standards, etc. This would help them in making better decisions and in getting the best prices for their produce.

6. To display Price information of arrival commodities in electronic way or board at the entrance of market committee.

7. The Chairperson of the Market Committee should convene quarterly farmer meetings in each taluka to discuss their difficulties.

8. The market committee secretariat should meet with farmers to examine price fluctuations in agricultural commodities.

9. To communicate or display of annual expenditure and profit of market committee to farmers by arranging meetings.

10. To provide information on minimum support prices for agricultural commodities.

11. Farmers anticipate receiving the correct price for their produce at auction.

12. APMC conducts transparent auctions.

13. Prevent farmers from being exploited by traders during the auction process.

14. Implement numerous programmes to help farmers.

15. To provide guidance to farmers in the event of price changes.

16. Show farmers how to check online prices on MSAMB websites.

17. To provide information on e-NAM.

18. To educate farmers on MSAMB Apps.

19. Establish suitable warehousing and cold storage facilities.

20. Farmers expecting to follow strict rules and regulations of MSAMB to each APMC in district.

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