

Press Release on New Farm Bill

Krishi Vigyan Kendra Poonch conducted an awareness programme on New Farm acts in the campus. Dr. Ajay Gupta, Sr. scientist and Head, KVK Poonch, presented the benefits of New Farm Bills/Reforms to the farming community. The government of India has enacted the farm laws in the interest of farming community with the motto of putting Farmers First. While discussing the benefits of Farmers Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act 2020, he maintained that the main aim of this act is to create an ecosystem where farmers and traders enjoy freedom to sell and purchase farm produce outside registered 'Mandis' under states APMCs and to reduce Marketing/Transportation costs and help farmers in getting better prices. This act provides efficient transparent and barrier free inter and intra-state trade and commerce outside physical premises of APMCs. It will have no bearing on MSP.

Dr. Muneeshwar Sharma, SMS Plant Protection, KVK Poonch apprised the farmers about Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm services Act, 2020 in which he explained that the farmers can enter into a contract with agribusiness firms, Processors, wholesalers, exporters or large retailers for sale of future farming produce at a pre-agreed price, he told the farmers that the act is particularly beneficial to the marginal and small farmers, with land less than five hectares, to gain via aggregation and Contract (Marginal and Small farmers account for 86 % of total farmers in India). This act will protect the rights of both farmers and buyers.

Dr. Muzaffar Mir, SMS Fruit Science, KVK Poonch elaborated the farmers regarding the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020. He highlighted that the main benefits of this act is to remove commodities like cereals, pulses, oilseeds, onion and potatoes from the list of essential commodities. It will do away with the imposition of the stockholding limits on such items except under "Extraordinary circumstances" like war which will in turn end the monopoly of some traders on these items and discourage the black marketing. He also told the farmers that this provision will attract private sector/FDI into farm sector as it will remove the fears of the private investors of the excessive regulatory interference in business operations and also it will bring investment for farm infrastructure like cold storages and modernizing of food supply chain.

Dr. S S Jamwal at the end explained that these reforms were needed to end the disparity between Agriculture and other sectors despite economic liberalization.