

## **Implementation of Agri Export Policy & Cluster development**

Since the announcement of the Agri Export Policy (AEP) in December, 2018, APEDA has facilitated the progress for implementation of AEP. In order to ensure greater involvement of State Governments in agricultural exports, APEDA has been regularly interacting with the State Govts. and pursuing them for effective implementation of AEP. Institutional mechanism has been set up at Union, State and cluster level to support exports by formation of export monitoring committees at each level.

A **State Nodal agency and Nodal officer** has been identified and nominated in **28 States & 4UT's** till now. The **State/UT level export monitoring committee** has been set up in 25 States and 3UTs, chaired by the Chief Secretary and supported by the Regional Authorities of DGFT, autonomous bodies/EPCs under Department of Commerce, Customs, Plant/ animal Quarantine at the State level.

State Govts. have been pursued to finalise the State specific agri export plan as per the template provided by APEDA for implementation of Agri export policy. **Seventeen States** & 1 UT (Ladakh) viz. Maharashtra, U.P., Kerala, Nagaland, Tamil Nadu, Assam, Punjab, Karnataka, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Manipur, Sikkim, Uttarakhand, M.P. and Mizoram have finalized the State specific Action Plan as the other States are in the process of finalization.

Similarly at the Cluster level, the Cluster Facilitation cell/Committee is to be headed by District Collector /District Magistrate or Director-Agriculture/Horticulture and other stakeholders. **Twenty nine Cluster Level Committees** have been formed in the cluster district(s) across several States so far. Exports of horticulture produce took place by air/sea mode from the Clusters of Varanasi (Fresh fruits/vegetables), Lucknow (Mango), Nagpur (Oranges), Anantpur and Theni (Banana) to Middle East and London. APEDA is closely working with DAC&FW and MoFPI for taking the AEP clusters in their cluster development schemes.

In the AEP clusters of Varanasi, Lucknow, Theni, Anantpur and Nagpur, efforts made have resulted in sending **Export shipments from these clusters:**

1. **Varanasi, U.P.:** The first Trial Sea shipment of 14MT Fresh vegetables (green chillies) export to Dubai was made on 20December, 2019 after the procurement and sorting, grading, packing of produce took place at the Concor perishable cargo facility, Rajatalab at Varanasi cluster region. As an outcome of this export promotion activity, farmers in the region received reasonably good prices for their Fresh produce, which was almost double than what they used to get from the local market earlier.

During Covid period, three shipments have been sent from the Fresh vegetables cluster in Varanasi.

- A consignment of 2.7MT of Fresh vegetables was dispatched from Varanasi to London by air via Delhi on 23April, 2020.
- The first air shipment of 3 MT of Fresh mangoes (Dasheri/Langra) routed through multimodal mode from Varanasi-Lucknow-Delhi to Dubai was shipped on 30May, 2020 via Air India flight.
- Another similar shipment of 1.2MT of Fresh mangoes (Chausa /Langra/Ramkheda) routed through multimodal mode from Varanasi-Lucknow-Delhi to London shipped on 16June, 2020 via Air India flight.

Around 532MT of Black rice was exported to Oman and Qatar on 16December, 2020 as the consignment was aggregated from the farmers of Chandauli district of the cluster.

On 07 January, 2021 around 30MT of mixed vegetables consignments of chilli and peas was dispatched to Bangladesh (via Malda district) and Nepal (via Raxaul) from Pataganga in Ghazipur district of Varanasi Division.

Further 1MT of fresh vegetables air consignment was sent from Ghazipur district of Varanasi to Dubai via Lucknow airport on 21 January, 2021.

Direct connectivity of air shipments from LBSI airport, Varanasi to Middle East destinations has been developed. As a result, five air shipments of 1MT each of fresh vegetables have been sent from Varanasi to Sharjah.

**2. Lucknow, U.P.:** The first Export trial sea shipment of 26.25MT of mangoes (Dasheri,Langra) to Oman was followed by two consignments (each upto 27MT) of Fresh mango (Dasheri, Langra, Bombay green) dispatched from Lucknow packhouse facility to Dubai via JNPT in coordination with UP Mandi Parishad. The trial was successful and the mangoes were displayed in the biggest mall in Oman after reaching the destination as the quality was maintained by sending the produce in crates.

46.38 MT of mangoes and 16.79 MT of fresh vegetables have been sent by Air. On 15October, 2020 an air consignment of 1.10MT of Fresh vegetables procured from Lucknow and Varanasi region was shipped to Dubai.

**3. Theni, Tamil Nadu:** Sea shipment of 20' reefer container of Cavendish banana was sent to Maldives through Tuticorin port followed by further 450 MT of G9 banana supplied by a FPO, was exported to Middle East.

During the last one year till March 2021, more than 110 containers of G9 and Nendran banana have been exported to Dubai, Saudi Arabia, Maldives from Theni and Pollachi. Also four trial shipments of Red banana of 120kg each was made to Europe by air by exporter Greener Agro.

**4. Anantpur, Andhra Pradesh:** With the support of APEDA, State Govt. of Andhra Pradesh and CONCOR, 9790MT of banana from the cluster district has been

dispatched through 11reefer rail movements for export to Middle East, thereby covering 600Ha of cultivation land and benefiting around 15,000 farmers and many FPOs in the region.

Recently, 8150MT of banana from the cluster district has been dispatched through 9reefer rail movements via JNPT for export. In the current season, **30,291 MTs of banana** (Dec 2020 -10.04.21) has been exported from the district so far.

5. **Nagpur, Maharashtra:** Oranges were directly procured from Nagpur cluster farmers and brought to Mumbai for container stuffing. Till date, more than 100MT of oranges have been exported to UAE and supplied to top supermarkets viz. Lulu Super mart, Safari Mall, Nesto.

Three containers of Ambiyabahar season Oranges (15MT each) were dispatched from VHT facility at Navi Mumbai to Dubai during October-December, 2020 after procuring the produce from the farmers in the cluster.

6. During 2020-21, so far, 6797 containers of 91,762 MT of fresh grapes have been exported to EU from **Nasik** cluster district. 1013 containers of 13,884 MT and one container of Raisin have been exported from the cluster district of **Sangli** to EU and other countries.

7. Till date, 6198.26 MT of fresh banana has been exported to Middle East countries viz. Bahrain, Dubai, Georgia, Iran, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, UAE, Iraq etc. from the cluster comprising **Surat, Narmada & Bharuch**.

8. So far (upto 15.02.21), 3278, 280 & 90 containers of Banana has been exported from **Solapur, Jalgaon and Kolhapur** respectively.

9. Export of Pomegranates from **Solapur** cluster district was 32,315 MT (approx.) during the year 2020-21.

10. During January-15March 2021, 3210 MT of Onions has been exported from **Nasik** cluster to multiple destinations.

During 2019-20, **Fourteen BSM cum Workshops** (between Exporter & FPOs) were organised in the notified/identified Cluster of eleven States in association with the State Nodal agencies, to provide a common platform to FPOs to interact with the trade and provide handholding for initiating export activities further.