



KAMARAJ IAS ACADEMY
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Multi-State Cooperative Organic Society

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Why is in news? Cabinet approves setting up of a national level multi-state cooperative organic society under Multi State Cooperative Societies (MSCS) Act, 2002

The Union Cabinet has approved a historic decision of **setting up and promoting a national level cooperative society for organic products** under the Multi State Cooperative Societies (MSCS) Act, 2002.

Which will **act as an apex organization** for production, procurement, processing, branding, labelling, packaging, storage, marketing and distribution of quality seeds; strategic research & development; and to develop a system for preservation and promotion of indigenous natural seeds; through various cooperative societies across the country with support from relevant ministries especially Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR) and National Seed Corporation (NSC) through their schemes and agencies following the **‘Whole of the Government Approach’**.

The Prime Minister has observed that all efforts should be made to leverage the strengths of cooperatives and transform them into successful and vibrant business enterprises to realize the **vision of “Sahakar-se-Samriddhi”** as cooperatives hold the key to rural economic transformation in the country in agriculture and allied sectors.

PACS to APEX: Primary to national level cooperatives societies including primary societies, district, state and national level federations, multi state cooperative societies and Farmers Producer Organisations (FPOs) can become its Member. All these cooperatives will have their elected representatives in the Board of the society as per its bye-laws.

The cooperative society will **manage various activities related to organic sector** by providing certified and authentic organic products. It will help in unlocking demand and consumption potential of organic products in domestic as well as in global markets.

This society will also help cooperatives and ultimately their farmer members in getting benefits of high price of organic products through aggregation, branding and marketing on large scale by facilitating testing and certification at affordable cost.

The cooperative society will also **provide institutional support** for aggregation, certification, testing, procurement, storage, processing, branding, labelling, packaging, logistic facilities, marketing of organic products and arranging financial assistance to the organic farmers through the members cooperatives including Primary Agricultural Credit Societies/Farmers Producer Organisations (FPOs).

It will empanel **accredited organic testing labs and certification bodies** who meet the criteria specified by the society to bring down the cost of testing and certification.

The society will **manage entire supply chain of organic products** produced by cooperatives and related entities through member cooperatives.

It will utilize the services of **national cooperative export society** being set up under MSCS Act, 2002 for export marketing and thereby enhance reach and demand of organic products in global market.

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It will also facilitate in providing technical guidance, training and capacity building of organic producer and developing and maintaining dedicated market intelligence system for organic produce

While promoting organic farming, balanced approach will be maintained between regular mass farming and organic farming.