

Weighment of Agricultural Commodities in APMCs through Electronic Weighing System

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Abstract:- One of the duties of the APMCs is to ensure current weighment of produce brought and sold in the market yards. Introduction of Electronic Weighing Scales in the APMCs is the new system to ensure correct weighment of produce being sold by the farmers. This will help the farmer to get the complete payment for his complete produce based on the price discovered in the market. This is an objective method of deciding the quantity of the commodities sold by farmers to the traders,

I. INTRODUCTION

Efficient Agricultural marketing system is a prerequisite for enhancing and sustenance of agricultural growth. Better price for the commodities encourages farmers to grown more produces. Better infrastructure facilities in the markets attract traders to participate in the bid process. Keeping this in mind the primary agricultural markets in the country have been bought under regulatory practices in order to provide a better organized markets for the farmers.

Agricultural market in India has made notable progress since independence, but many challenges still remain more efforts should be made at all legal, policy matters and practices to strengthen the marketing system which will help augment production and productivity leading to food security and inclusive growth of the country.

Organized marketing of agricultural commodities has been promoted in the country through an network of regulated markets. The basic objectives of setting up of network of physical markets has been to ensure reasonable gain to the farmers by creating environment in market for fair play of supply and demand forces, regulate market practices and attain transparency in transactions. To cope with the need to handle increasing agricultural production the number of regulated markets has been increasing in the country and today the number is about 7,114.

In Karnataka there are 156 main markets and 355 sub-markets. The Karnataka Agricultural Produce Marketing (Regulation and Development) Act, 1966 and Karnataka Agricultural Marketing (Regulation and Development) Rules 1968 provide for improved regulation in the marketing of agricultural produce, development of efficient marketing system, promotion of agricultural processing,

agricultural exports and the establishment and proper administration of markets for agricultural produce and for this purpose to put in place an effective infrastructure for marketing of agricultural produce in the state of Karnataka.

➤ *Agricultural Produce Market Committees (APMC's)*

Have been established by the state government under the provisions of the Act. The market area of the APMC shall not be less than a taluk and cannot exceed the jurisdiction of a district. Special commodity markets can be established with suitable modifications as regards to the market area, constitution of the committee etc.

The Director of Agricultural Marketing is empowered to declare appropriate markets, market yards, market sub-yards, sub-markets and sub-market yards. The Director is the budget sanctioning authority for the APMCs in the State. He is the approving authority for plans and estimates for works to be taken up by the APMCs in the state. The Director is responsible for the implementation of the Act and the rules made there under.

The Director is the licensing authority for establishing private markets, direct purchase centers, farmer-consumer market, spot exchange and granting of unified license for trading in the APMCs in the State. He is the appellate authority to hear appeals in respect of the orders of the market committee relating to cancellation and suspension of licenses etc.

Officers and the staff of the market committee are government servants whose pay and allowances are paid by the State Government and the Market committees reimburse the same to the government by making contributions to the State Consolidated Fund.

➤ *Objectives of APMCs*

The Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMCs) have been established with the main objective of brining better agricultural marketing practices in the primary wholesale markets to ensure correct weighment of produce, competitive price, rationalize market charges and ensure timely payment of sale proceeds to farmers. The other main objectives is to provide basic infrastructure facilities for trading of agricultural commodities including independent market place or market yard, auction platforms, godowns, shops, roads, sanitary and water supply facility, market information facilities etc.

II. SITUATION BEFORE THE PRACTICE

➤ *Traditional system of weightment (Earlier system of weightment) :*

The agricultural commodities brought by the farmers to the APMC yards for sale used to be weighted with the help of the traditional weighing scale. In this method the balance with needle in the center and the weighing stones were used for weightment of the commodities. The weightment is being done through the licensed weighmen, who is not a party either to the seller or the buyer. After the weightment, weightment slips are being prepared and given to the farmers and also to the commission for calculation of the sale proceeds after the bid process is over.

This paper involves replacement of the earlier used weighing balances with the electronic weighing scales. A decision was taken by the Department of Agricultural Marketing and circulars were issued to all APMCs to compulsorily introduce the electronic weighing system in market yards. All the commission agents in the market yard were given the direction to introduce electronic weighing scales within a stipulated time. Those who did not follow the directions were informed of the legal provisions and were forced to introduce electronic weighing scales without fail. Then every commission agents bought and introduced it. Those who needed finance it is loan were given loan from banks with easy uninteresting and repayment in installment.

➤ *Encounters and challenges faced*

Since the cost of each weighing scale ranges from Rs. 35,000 to Rs. 40,000 and it is user friendly and easily understandable. Since it has been made compulsory for all the licensed traders and commission agents, who are about 22,000 in numbers, the same has been put into practices. In the initial stages there was a little resistance from traders and commission agents for introduction of Electronic Weighing Scale. However, later they were convinced and sometimes warned about the legal actions if they do not adopt the new method of weightment in their premises.

Further, APMCs themselves have procured and installed electronic weighing scales in some of the market yards for the benefit of the farmers. Those farmers who want to cross check the weightment done by the weighmen in the premises of commission agents/traders can do so with the help of the electronic weighing scales installed by APMCs.

➤ *Strategy adopted*

In this traditional system of weightment the farmers used to complain that exact weightment was not being recorded. Even though the weighing scales and stones were stamped by the Authorized Department sometimes there used to be changes in the actual weights. There were also

complaint that the licensed weighmen were sometimes acting on behalf of the commission agents or traders and the farmer is not getting the correct weightment. This has resulted in loss to the farmers and the confidence of the farmers in the weighting method adopted by APMCs was not to their satisfaction. Therefore, the Department of Agricultural Marketing came out with the project of introduction of Electronic Weighing Scales in the APMCs.

The Commission agents and traders were asked to procure electronic weighing scales on their own and use them. Some of them even borrowed money from banks and purchased the electronic weighing scales and started using them. The licensed weighmen also felt that the scales are easy to operate and agreed for operating the electronic weighing scales.

III. RESULTS ACHIEVED/ANTICIPATED

The Department of Agricultural Marketing has made it mandatory for all the market functionaries in the APMCs to install Electronic Weighing Machines to ensure transparency and correct weightment of produce. Electronic Weighing weighbridges are also installed in some of the market yards.

As a result of the efforts made by the Department all the commission agents and traders in APMCs started using electronic weighing scales. This has helped the farmers to get correct weightment of the produce; they sell in APMCs, and have increased their confidence in working of APMCs.

The operation of the project is regularly supervised and monitored by the officers of the APMCs and the Department of Agricultural Marketing.

In case the farmers find that the weightment done through the electronic weighing scale are not to their satisfaction or if any commission agent or trader has not installed the electronic weighing scale he can complain to the Chairman or Secretary of the APMCs and his grievances will be redressed through a democratic dispute settlement mechanism.

➤ *Benefits of Electronic weighing*

The introduction of electronic weighing scales has helped the farmers to get correct weightment of their produces and also the record; therefore there is no chance of the commission agents or traders mention using less quantity than exactly what it is. By this the farmer is able to get payment according to the exact weight and now there are no chances of being deceived in the weightment of the produce. This has further enhanced the confidence of the farmers in the weighing system being followed in the APMCs.

Table No:1
Notified Commodities under KAPMAR Act

Sl. No.	I. Animal Husbandry
1.	Cattle
2.	Goats
3.	Sheep
	II. Fibres
4.	Cotton (Ginned and Un-ginned)
	III. Flowers
5.	All Flowers
	IV. Food Crops
6.	Bajra
7.	Jau
8.	Jowar
9.	Kambu
10.	Maize
11.	Navane
12.	Paddy
13.	Ragi
14.	Rice
15.	Save
16.	Wheat
	V. Forest Produce
17.	Antwala
18.	Bamboo
19.	Canes
20.	Hippe seeds
21.	Honge Seeds
22.	Neem seeds
23.	Soap nuts
24.	Tamarind
25.	Tamarind seeds
	VI. Fruits
26.	Apple
27.	Banana
28.	Borehannu
29.	Citrus Fruits
30.	Chakkothahannu
31.	Guava
32.	Grapes
33.	Jack Fruits
34.	Jamun
35.	Lemon
36.	Kharbuja
37.	Mango
38.	Mosumbi
39.	Marasebu
40.	Pine apple
41.	Papaya
42.	Pomegranate
43.	Sapota
44.	Siddota
45.	Orange
46.	Watermelon
	VII. Oil Seeds

47.	Groundnut (Shelled and Unshelled)
48.	Castor Seeds
49.	Cotton seeds
50.	Linseed
51.	Mustard
52.	Niger Seeds
53.	Safflower
54.	Seasamum
55.	Sunflower sees
56.	Soyabean
	VIII. Plantation Crops and Spices
57.	Arecanut
58.	Cashewnut
59.	Chillies (Dry)
60.	Coconut
61.	Copra
62.	Coriander
63.	Garlic
64.	Ginger
65.	Methi
66.	Pepper
67.	Turmeric
	IX. Pulses
68.	Alsande (Cowpea) (Whoe and Split)
69.	Avare (Whole & Split)
70.	Bengalgram (Whole & Split)
71.	Blackgram (Whole & Split)
72.	Bullar (Whole & Split)
73.	Greengram (Whole & Split)
74.	Horse Gram
75.	Lakh Whole & Split)
76.	Matki (Whole & Split)
77.	Masoor (Whole & Split)
78.	Peas
79.	Tur (Whole & Split)
80.	Moath (Whole & Split)
	X. Vegetables
81.	All Vegetables (except Gherking (including Leafy)
82.	Gourds
83.	Green Chillies
84.	Onion
85.	Potatp
86.	Suvarnagadde
87.	Sweet Potato
88.	Tomato
	XI. Other Products
89.	Betal leaves
90.	Jaggery
91.	Seegu
92.	Dry Grapes

Table No:2
Major Commodities and Markets of Karnataka

1.	Paddy	Gangavati, Bhadravati, Davanagere, K.R. Nagar, Raichur, Shimoga, Sindhanur, Siruguppa
2.	Ragi	Piriyapatna, Chintamani, Huliya, Bangalore, Kadur, Mysore, Hassan, Tumkur, Arsikere, Nagamangalar
3.	Maize	Bagalkor, Bijapura, Davanagere, Hasaan, Honnali, Shikaripura, Shimoga, Ranebennur
4.	Jowar	Bijapura, Gadag, Bagalkot, Gulbarga
5.	Tur	Gulbarga, Bidar, Raichur, Yadgiri, Talikote
6.	Bengal gram	Gadag, Gulbarga, Bagalkot, Yadgiri, Talikote
7.	Green Gram	Dharwar, Gadag, Gulbarga, Hubli, Mysore
8.	Groundnut	Bellary, Bijapura, Challakere, Chitradurga, Davanagere, Koppal, Raichur, Ramdurga, Haveri
9.	Sunflower	Bagalkot, Bellary, Gadag, Chitradurga, Challekere, Yadgir, Gulbarga, Ranebennur
10.	Soyabean	Bailhongala, Hubli, Kalgatagi, Dharwad, Aurad, Sankeshwar
11.	Ball Copra	Tiputu, Arsikere, Turuvekere, Gubbi, Huliya, Channarayapatna
12.	Areca nut	Shimoga, Sagar, Sirsi, Siddapura, Mangalore, Puttur, Tirthahalli, Chitradurga (Bhimasamudra)
13.	Cashew nut	Puttur, Sulya, Mangalore, Udupi, Belthangadi, Karkala
14.	Coconut	Chamarajnagar, Arsikere, Tiptur, Channarayapatna, Chicknayakanahalli, Bangalore, Bhadravathi, Chikaballapur, Hosdurga, Hiriyur, Sira, Kunigal, Nagamangala, K.R. Pete, K.R. Nagar, Kadur, Kundapura, Gundlupet, Sulya, Karkala
15.	Drychillies	Byadagi, Hubli, Gadag, Mysore
16.	Turmeric	Chamarajnagar
17.	Jaggery	Chamarajnagar, Mandya, Mahalingapura, Bhadravathi
18.	Cotton	Bellary, Bijapur, Chitradurga, Davanagere, Gadag, Hubli, Raichur, Savadathi, Bailahongal, Santhesargur, Nargund, Dharwar, Danebennur, Haveri
19.	Tamarind	Tumkur, Mysore, Chintamani
20.	Onion	Bangalore, Bijapura, Hubli, Gadag, Raichur, Belgaum, Challakere, Davanagere, Mysore
21.	Potato	Bengaluru, Hubli, Hassan, Dharwad, Chikkaballapur
22.	Tomato	Kolar, Chamarajanagar, Mysore, Davangere, Bengaluru, Chintamani, Srinivasapura, Mulbagal, Honnali, Nagamangala, Chikkamagaluru
23.	Mango	Shrinivasapura, Bengaluru,

		Ramanagara, Channapatna, Hangal, Dharwad, Bellgaum, Mysore, Shimoga, Chikkaballapur, Mulbagal, Shikaripura
24.	Pomegranate	Bangalore, Bijapura, Koppala, Kustagi
25.	Banana	Hospet, Bangalore, Channapatna, Sirsi, Kanakapura

IV. CONCLUSION

The above analysis of permanent or daily village shops/markets confirm the fact stated in the beginning of the present study that villages also have permanent Marketing system, although, rudimentary and unsystematic. The size of the shops and/or number of shops has total dependence on size of the village or in other words on threshold population. Some of the villages possess systematic market, similar to the markets of urban markets. There is a need for the systematic growth of Rural Markets, not only to fulfill the needs of the daily consumable articles of the Rural people but also for the disposal of their agricultural products.

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