Indian Economy · GS - III

Examine the role of Agricultural Produce Market Committees (APMCs) in protecting farmers' interests. Discuss how institutional accountability, transparent agricultural marketing and effective grievance redressal can improve farmers' realisation from agricultural produce.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 29/10/2026	GS - III	Indian Economy

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Explain APMC regulation, transparent weighing, receipts and fair commissions; examine intermediaries, information asymmetry and weak enforcement; recommend digital records, calibrated scales, timely payments, audits and accessible grievance redressal.

Model Answer

Agricultural marketing institutions influence farmers' incomes by determining how produce is weighed, priced, traded and paid for. Agricultural Produce Market Committees (APMCs), established under state legislation, regulate specified agricultural markets and seek to promote transparent transactions, adequate facilities and fair trading practices.

The reported irregularities at Belagavi's APMC market yard, involving alleged weighing discrepancies, excessive commissions and missing sale receipts, illustrate weaknesses that can undermine farmers' bargaining power. Incorrect weighing reduces the quantity for which farmers receive payment, while excessive charges and inadequate documentation increase transaction costs and complicate dispute resolution.

Reforms should include regularly calibrated weighing instruments, digital transaction records, publicly displayed charges, timely payments and independent audits. Market committees must enforce licensing conditions and

provide accessible grievance-redressal mechanisms. Digital platforms, farmer-producer organisations and direct marketing channels can improve price discovery and reduce dependence on intermediaries.

Ultimately, effective regulation requires transparent procedures, accountable officials and informed farmers. Strengthening agricultural market governance can reduce exploitation, improve price realisation and contribute to sustainable rural livelihoods.

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