

*Exposure Draft*  
*Accounting Standard (AS) 41*

*Agriculture*

*Last date for the comments: March 3, 2019*



**Issued by**  
**Accounting Standards Board**  
**The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India**

## **Exposure Draft**

### **Accounting Standard (AS) 41**

### **Agriculture**

The Indian Accounting Standards (Ind AS), as notified by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs in February, 2015, have been applicable to the specified class of companies. Accounting Standards are applicable to entities to whom Ind AS are not applicable. However, the Ministry of Corporate Affairs has requested the Accounting Standards Board of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) to upgrade Accounting Standards, as notified under Companies (Accounting Standards) Rules, 2006, to bring them nearer to Indian Accounting Standards. Accordingly, the Accounting Standards Board (ASB) of ICAI has initiated the process of upgradation of these standards which will be applicable to all entities to whom Ind AS are not applicable.

Currently, there is no Accounting Standard on Agriculture under Companies (Accounting Standards) Rules, 2006. Considering the need of AS on the subject, the ASB has formulated draft AS 41, *Agriculture*, on the basis of Ind AS 41, *Agriculture*. Major differences between draft AS 41 and Ind AS 41 are given in Appendix 1 of AS 41.

Following is the Exposure Draft of the Accounting Standard (AS) 41, *Agriculture*, issued by the ASB of ICAI, for comments. Draft AS 41, at various places refers to following AS which are under formulation and exposure drafts will be issued later:

1. AS 36, *Impairment of Assets*
2. AS 105, *Non-current Assets Held for Sale and Discontinued Operations*
3. AS 113, *Fair Value Measurement*

The ASB invites comments on any aspect of this Exposure Draft. Comments are most helpful if they indicate the specific paragraph or group of paragraphs to which they relate, contain a clear rationale and, where applicable, provide a suggestion for alternative wording.

#### ***How to Comment:***

*Comments can be submitted using one of the following methods so as to receive not later than March 3, 2019:*

1. *Electronically:* Visit the link <http://www.icai.org/comments/asb/>
2. *Email:* Comments can be sent at [commentsasb@icai.in](mailto:commentsasb@icai.in)
3. *Postal:* Secretary, Accounting Standards Board,  
The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India, ICAI Bhawan,  
Post Box No. 7100, Indraprastha Marg, New Delhi – 110 002

Further clarifications on any aspect of this Exposure Draft may be sought by email to [asb@icai.in](mailto:asb@icai.in).

## Question for respondents

### Question 1

In accordance with paragraph 5C of AS 41, *produce growing on bearer plants is a biological asset.*

One of the conditions when a biological asset can be recognised is that *the fair value or cost of the asset can be measured reliably.* (paragraph 10)

In this regard, the views are sought on the following:

- (a) Whether either the fair value or the cost of produce growing on bearer plant can be measured reliably.
- (b) In case answer to (a) above is 'Yes', are there any significant difficulties or efforts/costs involved in determining the fair value or the cost of produce growing on bearer plant? Please explain.

*(The Accounting Standard includes paragraphs set in **bold** type and plain type, which have equal authority. Paragraphs in bold type indicate the main principles.)*

## **Objective**

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The objective of this Standard is to prescribe the accounting treatment and disclosures related to agricultural activity.

## **Scope**

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- 1 **This Standard shall be applied to account for the following when they relate to agricultural activity:**
  - (a) **biological assets;**
  - (b) **agricultural produce at the point of harvest; and**
  - (c) **government grants covered by paragraphs 34 and 35.**
  
- 2 This Standard does not apply to:
  - (a) land related to agricultural activity (see AS 16 *Property, Plant and Equipment* and AS 40 *Investment Property*);
  - (b) bearer plants related to agricultural activity (see AS 16). However, this Standard applies to the produce on those bearer plants.
  - (c) government grants related to bearer plants (see AS 20 *Accounting for Government Grants*).
  - (d) intangible assets related to agricultural activity (See AS 38 *Intangible Assets*).
  
- 3 This Standard is applied to agricultural produce, which is the harvested produce of the entity's biological assets, at the point of harvest. Thereafter, AS 2 *Inventories* or another applicable Standard is applied. Accordingly, this Standard does not deal with the processing of agricultural produce after harvest; for example, the processing of grapes into wine by a vintner who has grown the grapes. While such processing may be a logical and natural extension of agricultural activity, and the events taking place may bear some similarity to biological transformation, such processing is not included within the definition of agricultural activity in this Standard.
  
- 4 The table below provides examples of biological assets, agricultural produce, and products that are the result of processing after harvest:

<b>Biological assets</b>	<b>Agricultural produce</b>	<b>Products that are the result of processing after harvest</b>
Sheep	Wool	Yarn, carpet

Trees in a timber plantation	Felled Trees	Logs, lumber
Dairy Cattle	Milk	Cheese
Pigs	Carcass	Sausages, cured hams
Cotton plants	Harvested cotton	Thread, clothing
Sugarcane	Harvested cane	Sugar
Tobacco plants	Picked leaves	Cured tobacco
Tea bushes	Picked leaves	Tea
Grape vines	Picked grapes	Wine
Fruit trees	Picked fruit	Processed fruit
Oil palms	Picked fruit	Palm oil
Rubber trees	Harvested latex	Rubber products
<p>Some plants, for example, tea bushes, grape vines, oil palms and rubber trees, usually meet the definition of a bearer plant and are within the scope of AS 16. However, the produce growing on bearer plants, for example, tea leaves, grapes, oil palm fruit and latex, is within the scope of AS 41.</p>		

## Definitions

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### Agriculture-related definitions

**5 The following terms are used in this Standard with the meanings specified:**

***Agricultural activity* is the management by an entity of the biological transformation and harvest of biological assets for sale or for conversion into agricultural produce or into additional biological assets.**

***Agricultural produce* is the harvested product of the entity's biological assets.**

***A bearer plant* is a living plant that:**

- a. is used in the production or supply of agricultural produce;**
- b. is expected to bear produce for more than one period; and**
- c. has a remote likelihood of being sold as agricultural produce, except for incidental scrap sales.**

***A biological asset* is a living animal or plant.**

***Biological transformation* comprises the processes of growth, degeneration, production, and procreation that cause qualitative or quantitative changes in a biological asset.**

***Costs to sell* are the incremental costs directly attributable to the disposal of an asset, excluding finance costs and income taxes.**

***A group of biological assets is an aggregation of similar living animals or plants.***

***Harvest is the detachment of produce from a biological asset or the cessation of a biological asset's life processes.***

- 5A The following are not bearer plants:
- (a) plants cultivated to be harvested as agricultural produce (for example, trees grown for use as lumber);
  - (b) plants cultivated to produce agricultural produce when there is more than a remote likelihood that the entity will also harvest and sell the plant as agricultural produce, other than as incidental scrap sales (for example, trees that are cultivated both for their fruit and their lumber); and
  - (c) annual crops (for example, maize and wheat).
- 5B When bearer plants are no longer used to bear produce they might be cut down and sold as scrap, for example, for use as firewood. Such incidental scrap sales would not prevent the plant from satisfying the definition of a bearer plant.
- 5C Produce growing on bearer plants is a biological asset.
- 6 Agricultural activity covers a diverse range of activities; for example, raising livestock, forestry, annual or perennial cropping, cultivating orchards and plantations, floriculture and aquaculture (including fish farming). Certain common features exist within this diversity:
- a. *Capability to change* Living animals and plants are capable of biological transformation;
  - b. *Management of change* Management facilitates biological transformation by enhancing, or at least stabilising, conditions necessary for the process to take place (for example, nutrient levels, moisture, temperature, fertility, and light). Such management distinguishes agricultural activity from other activities. For example, harvesting from unmanaged sources (such as ocean fishing and deforestation) is not agricultural activity; and
  - c. *Measurement of change* The change in quality (for example, genetic merit, density, ripeness, fat cover, protein content, and fibre strength) or quantity (for example, progeny, weight, cubic metres, fibre length or diameter, and number of buds) brought about by biological transformation or harvest is measured and monitored as a routine management function.
- 7 Biological transformation results in the following types of outcomes:
- a. asset changes through (i) growth (an increase in quantity or improvement in quality of an animal or plant), (ii) degeneration (a decrease in the quantity or deterioration in quality of an animal or plant), or (iii) procreation (creation of additional living animals or plants); or
  - b. production of agricultural produce such as latex, tea leaf, wool, and milk.

## General definitions

8 The following terms are used in this Standard with the meanings specified:

***Carrying amount*** is the amount at which an asset is recognised in the balance sheet.

***Fair value*** is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. (See AS 113, *Fair Value Measurement*.)

***Government grants*** are as defined in AS 20.

9 [Refer Appendix 1]

## Recognition and measurement

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10 An entity shall recognise a biological asset or agricultural produce when, and only when:

- a. the entity controls the asset as a result of past events;
- b. it is probable that future economic benefits associated with the asset will flow to the entity; and
- c. the fair value or cost of the asset can be measured reliably.

11 In agricultural activity, control may be evidenced by, for example, legal ownership of cattle and the branding or otherwise marking of the cattle on acquisition, birth, or weaning. The future benefits are normally assessed by measuring the significant physical attributes.

12 A biological asset shall be measured on initial recognition and at the end of each reporting period at its fair value less costs to sell, except for the case described in paragraph 30 where the fair value cannot be measured reliably.

13 Agricultural produce harvested from an entity's biological assets shall be measured at its fair value less costs to sell at the point of harvest. Such measurement is the cost at that date when applying AS 2 Inventories or another applicable Standard.

14 [Refer Appendix 1]

15 The fair value measurement of a biological asset or agricultural produce may be facilitated by grouping biological assets or agricultural produce according to significant attributes; for example, by age or quality. An entity selects the attributes corresponding to the attributes used in the market as a basis for pricing.

16 Entities often enter into contracts to sell their biological assets or agricultural produce at a future date. Contract prices are not necessarily relevant in measuring fair value, because fair value reflects the current market conditions in which market participant buyers and sellers would enter into a transaction. As a result, the

fair value of a biological asset or agricultural produce is not adjusted because of the existence of a contract. In some cases, a contract for the sale of a biological asset or agricultural produce may be an onerous contract, as defined in AS 37 *Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets*. AS 37 applies to onerous contracts.

17-21 [Refer Appendix 1]

22 An entity does not include any cash flows for financing the assets, taxation, or re-establishing biological assets after harvest (for example, the cost of replanting trees in a plantation forest after harvest).

23 [Refer Appendix 1]

24 Cost may sometimes approximate fair value, particularly when:

- (a) little biological transformation has taken place since initial cost incurrence (for example, for seedlings planted immediately prior to the end of a reporting period or newly acquired livestock); or
- (b) the impact of the biological transformation on price is not expected to be material (for example, for the initial growth in a 30-year pine plantation production cycle).

25 Biological assets are often physically attached to land (for example, trees in a plantation forest). There may be no separate market for biological assets that are attached to the land but an active market may exist for the combined assets, that is, the biological assets, raw land, and land improvements, as a package. An entity may use information regarding the combined assets to measure the fair value of the biological assets. For example, the fair value of raw land and land improvements may be deducted from the fair value of the combined assets to arrive at the fair value of biological assets.

## **Gains and losses**

**26 A gain or loss arising on initial recognition of a biological asset at fair value less costs to sell and from a change in fair value less costs to sell of a biological asset shall be included in profit or loss for the period in which it arises.**

27 A loss may arise on initial recognition of a biological asset, because costs to sell are deducted in determining fair value less costs to sell of a biological asset. A gain may arise on initial recognition of a biological asset, such as when a calf is born.

**28 A gain or loss arising on initial recognition of agricultural produce at fair value less costs to sell shall be included in profit or loss for the period in which it arises.**

29 A gain or loss may arise on initial recognition of agricultural produce as a result of harvesting.

## **Inability to measure fair value reliably**

- 30** There is a presumption that fair value can be measured reliably for a biological asset. However, that presumption can be rebutted only on initial recognition for a biological asset for which quoted market prices are not available and for which alternative fair value measurements are determined to be clearly unreliable. In such a case, that biological asset shall be measured at its cost less any accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. Once the fair value of such a biological asset becomes reliably measurable, an entity shall measure it at its fair value less costs to sell. Once a non-current biological asset meets the criteria to be classified as held for sale (or is included in a disposal group that is classified as held for sale) in accordance with AS 105 *Non-current Assets Held for Sale and Discontinued Operations*, it is presumed that fair value can be measured reliably.
- 31 The presumption in paragraph 30 can be rebutted only on initial recognition. An entity that has previously measured a biological asset at its fair value less costs to sell continues to measure the biological asset at its fair value less costs to sell until disposal.
- 32 In all cases, an entity measures agricultural produce at the point of harvest at its fair value less costs to sell. This Standard reflects the view that the fair value of agricultural produce at the point of harvest can always be measured reliably.
- 33 In determining cost, accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses, an entity considers AS 2, AS 16 and AS 36 *Impairment of Assets*.

## **Government grants**

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- 34** An unconditional government grant related to a biological asset measured at its fair value less costs to sell shall be recognised in profit or loss when, and only when, the government grant becomes receivable.
- 35** If a government grant related to a biological asset measured at its fair value less costs to sell is conditional, including when a government grant requires an entity not to engage in specified agricultural activity, an entity shall recognise the government grant in profit or loss when, and only when, the conditions attaching to the government grant are met.
- 36 Terms and conditions of government grants vary. For example, a grant may require an entity to farm in a particular location for five years and require the entity to return all of the grant if it farms for a period shorter than five years. In this case, the grant is not recognised in profit or loss until the five years have passed. However, if the terms of the grant allow part of it to be retained according to the time that has elapsed, the entity recognises that part in profit or loss as time passes.
- 37 If a government grant relates to a biological asset measured at its cost less any accumulated depreciation and any accumulated Impairment losses (see paragraph 30), AS 20 is applied.
- 38 This Standard requires a different treatment from AS 20, if a government grant relates to a biological asset measured at its fair value less costs to sell or a government grant requires an entity not to engage in specified agricultural activity. AS 20 is applied only to a government grant related to a biological asset measured

at its cost less any accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses.

## Disclosure

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39 [Refer Appendix 1]

### General

**40 An entity shall disclose the aggregate gain or loss arising during the current period on initial recognition of biological assets and agricultural produce and from the change in fair value less costs to sell of biological assets.**

**41 An entity shall provide a description of each group of biological assets.**

42 The disclosure required by paragraph 41 may take the form of a narrative or quantified description.

43 An entity is encouraged to provide a quantified description of each group of biological assets, distinguishing between consumable and bearer biological assets or between mature and immature biological assets, as appropriate. For example, an entity may disclose the carrying amounts of consumable biological assets and bearer biological assets by group. An entity may further divide those carrying amounts between mature and immature assets. These distinctions provide information that may be helpful in assessing the timing of future cash flows. An entity discloses the basis for making any such distinctions.

44 Consumable biological assets are those that are to be harvested as agricultural produce or sold as biological assets. Examples of consumable biological assets are livestock intended for the production of meat, livestock held for sale, fish in farms, crops such as maize and wheat, produce on a bearer plant and trees being grown for lumber. Bearer biological assets are those other than consumable biological assets; for example, livestock from which milk is produced and fruit trees from which fruit is harvested. Bearer biological assets are not agricultural produce but, rather, are held to bear produce.

45 Biological assets may be classified either as mature biological assets or immature biological assets. Mature biological assets are those that have attained harvestable specifications (for consumable biological assets) or are able to sustain regular harvests (for bearer biological assets).

**46 If not disclosed elsewhere in information published with the financial statements, an entity shall describe:**

(a) **the nature of its activities involving each group of biological assets; and**

(b) **non-financial measures or estimates of the physical quantities of:**

(i) **each group of the entity's biological assets at the end of the period; and**

(ii) **output of agricultural produce during the period.**

**47-48 [Refer Appendix 1]**

- 49 An entity shall disclose:**
- (a) the existence and carrying amounts of biological assets whose title is restricted, and the carrying amounts of biological assets pledged as security for liabilities and**
  - (b) the amount of commitments for the development or acquisition of biological assets.**
  - (c) [Refer Appendix 1]**

**50 An entity shall present a reconciliation of changes in the carrying amount of biological assets between the beginning and the end of the current period. The reconciliation shall include:**

- (a) the gain or loss arising from changes in fair value less costs to sell;**
- (b) increases due to purchases;**
- (c) decreases attributable to sales and biological assets classified as held for sale (or included in a disposal group that is classified as held for sale) in accordance with AS 105;**
- (d) decreases due to harvest;**
- (e) increases resulting from business combinations;**
- (f) net exchange differences arising on the translation of financial statements into a different presentation currency, and on the translation of a foreign operation into the presentation currency of the reporting entity; and**
- (g) other changes.**

**51 [Refer Appendix 1]**

**52 [Refer Appendix 1]**

**53 [Refer Appendix 1]**

**Additional disclosures for biological assets where fair value cannot be measured reliably**

**54 If an entity measures biological assets at their cost less any accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses (see paragraph 30) at the end of the period, the entity shall disclose for such biological assets:**

- (a) a description of the biological assets;**
- (b) an explanation of why fair value cannot be measured reliably;**
- (c) if possible, the range of estimates within which fair value is highly likely to lie;**
- (d) the depreciation method used;**
- (e) the useful lives or the depreciation rates used; and**
- (f) the gross carrying amount and the accumulated depreciation**

(aggregated with accumulated impairment losses) at the beginning and end of the period.

- 55** If, during the current period, an entity measures biological assets at their cost less any accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses (see paragraph 30), an entity shall disclose any gain or loss recognised on disposal of such biological assets and the reconciliation required by paragraph 50 shall disclose amounts related to such biological assets separately. In addition, the reconciliation shall include the following amounts included in profit or loss related to those biological assets:
- (a) impairment losses;
  - (b) reversals of impairment losses; and
  - (c) depreciation.
- 56** If the fair value of biological assets previously measured at their cost less any accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses becomes reliably measurable during the current period, an entity shall disclose for those biological assets:
- (a) a description of the biological assets;
  - (b) an explanation of why fair value has become reliably measurable; and
  - (c) the effect of the change.

### **Government grants**

- 57** An entity shall disclose the following related to agricultural activity covered by this Standard:
- (a) the nature and extent of government grants recognised in the financial statements;
  - (b) unfulfilled conditions and other contingencies attaching to government grants; and
  - (c) significant decreases expected in the level of government grants.

# Appendix 1

*Note: This Appendix is not a part of this Accounting Standard. The purpose of this Appendix is only to bring out the differences, if any, between Accounting Standard (AS) 41 and the corresponding Indian Accounting Standard (Ind AS) 41, Agriculture.*

## **Comparison with Ind AS 41, Agriculture**

1. For the purpose of simplifying the disclosure requirements for smaller entities to whom Ind AS are not applicable, following disclosure paragraphs of Ind AS 41 have been deleted:
  - (i) Paragraph 49(c)
  - (ii) Paragraphs 51-53
  
2. Following paragraphs appear as 'Deleted' in Ind AS 41. In order to maintain consistency with paragraph numbers of Ind AS 41, the paragraph numbers are retained in AS 41:
  - (i) Paragraph 9
  - (ii) Paragraph 14
  - (iii) Paragraphs 17-21
  - (iv) Paragraph 23
  - (v) Paragraph 39
  - (vi) Paragraphs 47-48