

Issue No. 01 • Vol. 32 • January 2021

₹100/- (Annual ₹1000/-) • Pages 48

BUSINESS STAR

Devoted to Food Processing Sector

www.businessstar.in

ENGLISH MONTHLY

A Publication of

NNS

Media Group Since 1950

China to increase corn
acreage in 2021

Russia lowers estimate
for 2020-21 wheat exports

US winter wheat plantings
estimate up 5% from 2020

Argentina's soybean
production slips

India's exports of basmati rice
to Belgium and Netherlands soar

Cambodia's milled rice export
to China up 16.6 pct last year

AGI**MILLTEC**

CLEANING, GRADING & SORTING SOLUTIONS FOR SEEDS & OTHER GRAINS

- Efficient Segregation Grains.
- Power Efficiency.
- Hygiene Friendly Equipment.
- Unmatched Service Support.

**FINE CLEANER****PRE CLEANER****DESTONER****CLASSIFIER****PACKING MACHINE****COLOR SORTER****GRAVITY SEPARATOR**

PLANT HYGIENE SYSTEM :

Magnets, Cyclones, Air Lock Valves.

PREFERRED GLOBAL COMPANY FOR ALL GRAIN PROCESSING SOLUTIONS

MILLTEC MACHINERY LTD.
No. 51/A , 1st Phase, KIADB Indl Area
Bommasandra, Bangalore -560099

Follow us on



@aggrowthintl / AGGROWTH.COM

TEL: +91-80-28016666

Email: milltec@milltecmachinery.com

Website : www.aggrowth.com

www.milltecmachinery.com

ZONE™

since 1985
Solar™

PRODUCTS WE OFFER

- Non Alcoholic Bar Syrup
- Spices & Herbs
- Gourmet Sugars
- Seasonings
- Baking Essentials
- Milkshake Mixes
- Culinary Sauces
- Dessert Topping
- Fruit Crushes
- Syrups & Cordial
- Lime - Lemon Juice
- Custard & Cornflour
- Jelly Crystals (Vegetarian)
- Preservatives & Additives
- Instant Soup Powder



SOLAR SALES INDIA

Serving since 1985
AN ISO 9001:2015 AND 22000:2018 CERTIFIED COMPANY

902/290, Lane No.4, Industrial Area, Shalimar Village, Delhi - 110088.
Email: sc@solarsales.in Mob: +91-8287902644, Tel: +91-11-40455400, 27496837/38/39
www.solarsalesindia.com | www.zonesyrups.com



\$ PH SUPER FOODS PVT. LTD.™

- Pulses
- Beans
- Rice
- Wheat
- Chickpeas
- Peanut
- Cashew
- Almond
- Roasted Chana
- Sesame
- Soyabean
- Water Melon Seeds
- Sunflower Seeds
- Cattle Feed
- Fresh Garlic
- Frozen Vegetables
- Spices
- FMCG

IMPORT & EXPORT

Our Company has active buyers and sellers in more than 25 countries across the world. We have traded more than One Million Metric tonnes.

GRAIN DRYER & FURANCE

We are an authorized Dealer of Suncue Co. Ltd (Taiwan) Which is number one in the world for Grain Dryer and Furance Quality.

SUNCUE
Suncue Company Ltd.
Grain Dryer and Furnace



- Dall Mill
- Rice Mill
- Wheat Grading
- Multi Commodity
- Garlic Grading
- Cashew Plant
- Almond
- Spices Grinding
- Peanut Grading
- Sesame Hulling
- Solvent Extraction
- Edible Oil
- Refinery
- Bio Diesel
- Cattle Feed Pellets
- Paddy Drying Centre
- Corn Drying Centre
- Warehouse
- Cold Storage
- Solar Energy Plant
- Roasting Plant

TURN KEY MILL PROJECTS

Our company provides Turnkey solutions to set up new Mill Projects related to Agri business from small to large companies, FPOs, Private and Govt. organizations.

MILLING MACHINE, SORTEX & SILOS

We are an authorized Dealer of Fowler Westrup (India) Pvt. Ltd. which is No. 1 in milling solutions, sortex and silos.



Fowler Westrup (India) Pvt. Ltd.
Milling Machine, Sortex & Silos





www.skfgroups.com



TECHNOLOGICALLY ADVANCED PADDY PARBOILING SOLUTIONS

Harvest Driers | Parboiling & Drying Solution
Automations | Tempering Bins | ETP | Coffee Driers

ANY PLACE

SKF has presence
Across Three Continents

ANY PADDY

Only company in India to process
every possible variety of paddy in
the World with highest yield %

ANY PROCESS

- Accelerated Aged (Steamed)
- Half Boiled
- Boiled
- PLC Automated Continuous Pre Steaming System
- PLC Controlled Final Online Cooking System
- Sella Process
- Raw Paddy Drying
- PLC Automated Driers
- Fully Automated Plant



#129, Bannadka, Belval - 574 213 Mangalore, Karnataka, India.

Tel: 08258 - 298291, 298292, 298021, 261291, 261294, +91 99452 45293

Email: skfboilers@yahoo.com | Website : www.skfgroups.com

Toll Free No. 1800 425 0291

Gabbar™

HEAVY DUTY BAG CLOSING MACHINES

Model :

AS 800 VM
AS 802 VM



High Speed-Sturdy-Rigid-Efficient



Bag Closing Technology

Use in Industries Like
Fertilizers, Sugar, Rice / Flour,
Cattle / Poultry Feed,
Powder Milk Etc.



Manufactured By:

Gabbar Engineering Co.

Plot No. 1903, F-Road, Opp. Kalupur Comm. Bank, Phase III, G.I.D.C., Vatva,
Ahmedabad - 382 445 INDIA. • Mob: +91-98240-62000
E-mail: umesh@gabbar.com • Web: <http://www.gabbar.com>



US winter wheat plantings estimate up 5% from 2020

The National Agricultural Statistics Service of the US Department of Agriculture estimated area planted to winter wheat for harvest in 2021 at 31.99 million acres, up 1.58 million acres, or 5%, from record-low seedings of 30.42 million acres in 2020 and compared with 31.47 million acres in 2019. The estimate contained in the annual Winter Wheat and Canola Seedings report issued Jan. 12 compared with the average of pre-report trade estimates at 31.53 million acres. The all-winter wheat area planted for harvest this year was the fourth smallest on record but would be the largest seeded area since 32.54 million acres in 2018. The recent five-year average winter wheat planted area was 32.66 million acres. Of the all-winter wheat planted area, 22.30 million acres were estimated to have been planted to hard red winter wheat, up 4% from 21.36 million acres in 2020. "Planted acreage is up from last year across most of the growing region," NASS said. "The largest increases in planted acreage are estimated in Kansas, Montana and North Dakota, while the largest

decreases are estimated in Nebraska and Texas. Record-low average was seeded in Nebraska and Utah." The USDA estimated the 2021 soft red winter wheat planted area at 6.23 million acres, 12% larger than the 2020 planted area at 5.56 million acres. "Compared with last year, the largest acreage increases are expected in Indiana, Missouri, Tennessee and Wisconsin, while the largest acreage decreases are expected in Georgia, Maryland and Ohio," NASS explained. And the estimated white winter wheat area in 2021 was 3.48 million acres, only slightly lower than 3.49 million acres planted for harvest in 2020. The NASS said, "Planting throughout the Pacific Northwest was ahead of the five-year average throughout most of the planting process. Seeding was virtually complete in the region by early November." NASS estimated durum seedings in Arizona and California for harvest this year at a combined 70,000 acres, down 5% from 74,000 acres in 2020.



eminence

EQUIPMENTS

FUTURISTIC TECHNOLOGY

World Renowned Manufacturing Specialist



◀ GRAIN FEEDER ▶



◀ EN-MASS GRAIN FEEDER ▶



◀ GRAIN FEED CONTROLLER ▶



◀ GRAIN DIVERTORS ▶



◀ GRAIN / ATTA MOVER ▶



◀ GRAIN / DISCHARGER ▶

EMINENCE EQUIPMENTS PVT. LTD.

Plot No. C-22/1, Chakan Industrial Area, Phase-II, Village - Bhamboli, Taluka - Khed, District - Pune - 410 501, Maharashtra, India.

Phone: 02135 - 619400 • Mobile: +91 - 9822207728

E-mail: marketing@eminenceequipments.com, info@eminenceequipments.com

Website: eminenceequipments.com



Presents



Coming Soon 2nd Edition of **SPICE INDUSTRY YELLOW PAGES DIRECTORY-2021**



- ▶ NNS Media Group and Vyapar Kesari, daily newspaper, is coming out with "Spice Industry Yellow Pages Directory 2021". This Business Directory will publish complete details of almost all major Spices Manufacturers, Processors, Packers, Wholesale Suppliers, Importers & Exporters etc. of India.
- ▶ Above mentioned information will be published free of cost in the directory. Whosoever is interested in getting their business details published in "Spice Industry Yellow Pages Directory 2021", can fill the free listing form given below and send us back via WhatsApp or E-mail.

Fill the free listing form and send us soon!

SPICE INDUSTRY YELLOW PAGES **FREE LISTING FORM**

▪ Spices Packers, Manufacturers, Processors, Wholesale Traders, Importers & Exporters, Related machinery manufacturers etc. are requested to fill up & send this information immediately at our following address. The same will be published free of cost in 'Spice Industry Yellow Pages Directory 2021'.

Name of the Organisation

Name of MD/ Director/ Prop.

Business Address

Business Description (Mfrs., Dealers, Exporter / Importer)

Products Name with Brand, if any

Tel. No. (Office) Fax

Mobile E-mail

Date Name Signature



JK LAKSHMI
CEMENT Ltd. 



इंडिया,
अब सोच करो
बुलंद.

बुलंद सोच ही इरादों को हकीकत में बदलने का हौसला रखती है, और इसी बुलंद सोच को आकार देता है जे के लक्ष्मी सीमेंट.



www.jklakshmicement.com

facebook.com/JKLakshmiCementLtd

twitter.com/JKL_Direct

Customer Care: 1800 102 5097

BUSINESS STAR

Devoted to Food Processing Sector

www.businessstar.in

ENGLISH MONTHLY

IS COMING OUT WITH SPECIAL ISSUE
ON THE OCCASION OF



Book your advertisement
Space in

BUSINESS STAR

Special Issue of March-2021



Please Contact :

Meri Delhi House: 25/10, East Punjabi Bagh, New Delhi-110026, Mob : 8588849250, 9899632000
E-mail: nnsonline@nnsonline.com, Website: www.nnsmediagroup.com

BIKANO

Bikano Bhujia *Kurkuri khushiyan!*



Barson Se Bikano

www.bikano.com

BUSINESS STAR

Devoted to Food Processing Sector

JANUARY - 2021

ADVERTISER INDEX

Party Name	Page No.
Bikanervala Foods Pvt. Ltd.	11
Eminence Equipments Pvt. Ltd.	07
Gabbar Engineering Co.	06
Globoil India	13-15
Jai Durga Plaster Industries	17
JK Lakshmi Cement Ltd.	09
Milltec Machinery Ltd.	Front Inner
Param Dairy Ltd.	19
PH Super Foods Pvt. Ltd.	04
SKF Boilers & Driers Pvt. Ltd.	05
Solar Sales India	03



- ◆ Business Star International Monthly is posted by the 18th of every month invariably and in case it is not delivered within a week, please inform us.
- ◆ Annual Subscription : Rs. 1000/- in India, Dirham 250 in Dubai & US\$ 95 overseas else where.
- ◆ All payments should be made by Payee's A/c cheque / draft only in favour of **NNS ONLINE PVT. LTD., NEW DELHI (INDIA)**

CONTENTS

US winter wheat plantings estimate...	06
Editorial	18
Current Rice Trade Scenario	19-21
2020-21 rabi food grains output may...	22
NITI Aayog hails millet revival in...	22
Vietnam buys Indian rice for first time in...	23
'Wheat production likely to reach over 123MT'	23
Bangladesh, India finalising first bilateral...	24
Serbia sees bump in corn and wheat...	24
Rice production in Telangana touches 1.3...	25
India's spices exports rise by 19 percent in...	26
India defers certificate requirement for rice...	26
Goldiee Group	27
China approves two GMO corn varieties...	28
Flour production increased by the end of...	28
FSSAI extends deadline for trans fat...	28
Sri Lanka rough rice output in 2021 Maha...	29
Telangana buys 45 it of paddy, from other...	29
Pepper output to drop in 2021 on...	29
Buhler and DIL join forces to accelerate...	30-31
Yellow peas prices touch 100/kg on firm...	31
Cashew prices to rebound in 2021 after...	32
Maharashtra to give an extra push for...	32
FSSAI gives more time for compliance...	32
Sugar production up 42% in Oct-Dec at...	33
Covid impact: Coffee shipments down 12%...	33
Assam govt committed to provide...	34
La Nina wet weather to allow sorghum...	34
IPGA to host 3rd National Pulses Seminar...	35
India's exports of basmati rice to Belgium...	35
Ghee tops the list among dairy exports worth...	36
Camel milk from Sarhad to reach metros...	36
Edible oils to remain expensive for next six...	37
Russia introduces an export duty on...	37
Mustard growers in Magura expect good...	38
Gujarat: Groundnut oil export to cross...	38
Myanmar surpasses rice export target	38
Thal rice exports to stay low in 2021 on...	39
China to increase corn acreage in 2021...	39
Russia lowers estimate for 2020-21 wheat...	40
Argentina lifts corn export ban and adopts...	40
Higher acreage, better yield to lift potato...	40
UK wheat output in 2020 projected to drop...	41
Philippines logs highest rice production rate...	41
Manipur takes to fish-cum-paddy farming...	41
Tap export opportunities in value-added...	42
TNAU launches high-yielding sunflower...	42
Argentina's soybean production slips	42
Turkey extends zero-tariffs on wheat imports...	43
Cambodia's milled rice exports to China UP...	43
Andhra Pradesh accounts for 11.8% of...	43
Facts & Figures	44-45
First rice, now wheat: India rides on global...	46

One Of World's Largest Agri Business Trade Events,
Unique Knowledge & Networking Platform



GLOBOIL INDIA



27th, 28th & 29th May 2021
Taj Convention Centre Goa

NEW DATES

+



REGISTRATION REOPENS FOR GLOBOIL INDIA

THERE'S A BEAUTIFUL TOMORROW SHINING
AT THE END OF EVERY DAY.
NOTHING IS PERMANENT, NOT EVEN THIS PANDEMIC.

GET YOUR DISCOUNTED TICKETS TODAY

GET TICKETS

BOOK YOUR STAY WITH US

BOOK NOW

CONTACT TEFLA'S FOR SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES.

Tefla's: B- 2705, B Wing, Oberoi Springs, Opp Fame Adlabs, New Link Road, Andheri West, Mumbai - 400053

Email: events@teflas.com | Website: www.teflas.com | www.globoilindia.com

+91 7506790090 | +91 9820990012 | +91 7506502201 | +91 9820082417

MEDIA PARTNER

NNS

Media Group Since 1950

These are the confirmed Guests & Speakers for Globoil India 2021 as of today

**GLOBOIL
INDIA**

27th, 28th & 29th May 2021
Taj Convention Centre Goa



Param Pujya Swami Baba Ramdev Ji



Hemant Malik
CEO - Foods Division,
ITC Ltd



Dorab Mistry
Director - Godrej
International Ltd, Singapore



Dr. James Fry
Chairman,
LMC International, U.K.



Gustavo Idgoras
Chairman, CIARA
Argentina



Anton Gritsay
Director – Oil and Meal Trade
EFKO Group, Russia



Balram Singh Yadav
Managing Director
Godrej Agrovet Limited



Sudhakar Tomar
Managing Director
Hakan Agro DMCC,UAE



Angshu Mallick
Dy. CEO
Adani Wilmar Ltd.



Pradeep Choudhary
Managing Director
Gemini Edibles &
Fats India Pvt. Ltd.



Nagaraj Meda
Managing Director
Transgraph Consulting Pvt. Ltd



Atul Chaturvedi
President – SEA,
Director – Agri Business,
Adani Group & Executive Chairman
Shree Renuka Sugars Ltd,



Kailash Singh
Chairman &
Managing Director
Tefla's &
Organiser Globoil India



Dr. B.V. Mehta
Executive Director
The Solvent Extractors
Association of India



Sandeep Bajoria
Chairman-
Globoil Organising
Committee & CEO –
Sunvin Group



Dr. Sathia Varqa
Co - Founder,
Palm Oil Analytics
Singapore



Sudhakar Desai
Director & CEO
Emami Agrotech Ltd



Rasheed Janmohammed
Director
Westbury Group of Companies
Pakistan



Sandeep Bhan
Chief Operating Officer
Global Trading, Sime Darby Oils
Malaysia.



Manisha Gupta
CNBC TV18 Editor
Commodities & Currencies.



G.B.Soundararajan
Managing Director
Suguna Foods Private Limited

One Of World's Largest Agri Business Trade Events,
Unique Knowledge & Networking Platform



GLOBOIL INDIA



27th, 28th & 29th May 2021
Taj Convention Centre Goa

NEW DATES



These are the confirmed Guests & Speakers for Globoil India 2021 as of today



Manish Gupta
Managing Director
Gujarat Ambuja Exports Ltd



Sameer Patil
Chief Business Officer
BSE



Vijay Kumar Venkataraman
Managing Director & CEO
NCDEX



Samuel Ho Hock Guan
Chief Executive Officer,
Bursa Malaysia
Derivatives Berhad



Ramesh Doraiswami
MD & CEO, National
Bulk Handling
Corporation (NBHC)



Maneesh Mansingka
MD, Shree Shubham
Logistics Ltd



Sunoor Kaul
MD, Origo Commodities
India Pvt Ltd



Unupom Kausik
President, National Collateral
Management Services Limited



Vijay Sardana
International Agribusiness,
Value Chain Expert &
Member CDAC, SEBI, India



Alejandra Rueda
Economist, NES
Naturaleza Energia, U.S.



Hemant Bansal
Vice President (Commercial &
Palm Plantation Business),
Ruchi Soya Industries



P.R.Thakore
CEO, IFFCO
Singapore Pte Ltd

CONTACT TEFLA'S FOR SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES.

B- 2705, B Wing, Oberoi Springs, Opp Fame Adlabs,
New Link Road, Andheri West, Mumbai - 400053
events@teflas.com | Website : www.teflas.com | www.globoilindia.com

+91 7506790090 | +91 9820990012 | +91 7506502201 | +91 9820082417

BUSINESS STAR

Devoted to Food Processing Sector

www.businessstar.in

ENGLISH MONTHLY

IS COMING OUT WITH SPECIAL ISSUE
ON THE OCCASION OF



21-25 Feb. 2021
Dubai World Trade Centre
www.gulfood.com

Book your advertisement in

BUSINESS STAR

Devoted to Food Processing Sector

www.businessstar.in

ENGLISH MONTHLY

Gulfood special issue of Feb. - 2021



Please Contact :

Meri Delhi House: 25/10, East Punjabi Bagh, New Delhi-110026, Mob : 8447732401, 9899632000
E-mail: nnsonline@nnsonline.com, Website: www.nnsmediagroup.com

मज़बूती की बात ख़ूबसूरती के साथ



अंतर्राष्ट्रीय स्तर का
सकरनी व्हाइट सीमेंट

Office: D Mall 405, Netaji Subhash Place, New Delhi - 110034 | E-mail: info@sakarni.com | Contact: 011-47908032
Work: Sakarni Plaster (India) Private Limited, G 138, Industrial Area Phase II, Nimbana, District Alwar, Rajasthan

Founder

Late Shri Neki Ram Gupta

Inspirer

Late Shri Kesar Singh Gupta

Editor

Akshay Gupta

Managing Editor

Rajesh Gupta

Corporate Office**NNS Online Pvt. Ltd.**Meri Delhi House
25/10, East Punjabi Bagh,
New Delhi-110026
Mob: 9899632000, 8447732401
E-mail: nnsonline@nnsonline.com
Website: www.nnsmediagroup.com
www.businessstar.in**Subscription**Single Copy ₹100/- (Annual ₹1000/-)
All payments should be made by
Payee's A/c Cheque / Draft only
in favour of **NNS ONLINE PVT. LTD.**
New Delhi (India)**Business Executives**Anil Rana
Rakesh GoelPublished, Printed & Edited by Akshay
Gupta at 25/10, East Punjabi Bagh,
New Delhi-110026 on behalf of
NNS Online Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi-26
and Printed at Abhinav Advertising,
C-38/4, Lawrence Road, Industrial
Area, Delhi-110035.RNI No. 40558/83
Regd. No. DL(W)05/2107/2021-2023
U (DN) 148/2018-2020

A Publication of

NNS

Media Group Since 1950

**Editorial**

Expectations for agriculture sector from Union Budget 2021-22

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will present the Budget 2021-22 on February 1, 2021. For the government, the main objective will be to boost economic growth at all costs amid the economic crisis triggered by the pandemic. Economists, financial analysts and the common public are eyeing budget announcements this year for any signs of relief in policy changes amid the ongoing COVID-19 crisis. The farm sector has outperformed almost every other sector in the economy. Gross value added by agriculture did not dip in 2020-21; rather, it was the only sector that showed growth. One reason for the uptick is that exports are doing well. The share of farm exports in the value added by agriculture shot up to 5.7 percent in Q2, the best since 2018-19. This suggests that exports, too, are lifting agriculture up (demand), in addition to a good harvest (supply). So, the upcoming Budget should capitalise on this. The government should provide additional funds as well as incentives in the Budget to promote indigenous farm research, oilseeds production, food processing and organic farming for the overall growth of the agriculture sector, according to industry experts.

While the budget will determine the growth trajectory of the Indian economy this year, all eyes will be set on what the government has for the agriculture sector. Experts have already suggested that the government could spend more to improve warehousing and cold storage facilities for farmers. Some experts say that the government should further limit the price of fertilisers and other chemicals used for farming. An innovative idea that some have suggested is providing poor farmers with nominal transport logistics. Assuming farmers get the most lucrative prices of their produce but only about 55% of their produce get integrated with the market, they would still be at the sub-optimal level of their welfare. Therefore, getting both prices and markets 'right' is essential for ensuring the welfare of farmers. And with the ongoing farmers' agitation, the government is expected to send across a positive message to the farmers in the country. Therefore, farmer welfare could also be a central theme of this budget.



CURRENT RICE TRADE SCENARIO



VINOD KUMAR KAUL
Executive Director
All India Rice Exporters Association

Global Rice Production: China is world's largest producer of rice followed by India. According to USDA World Rice Production 2020-21, this year the overall rice production on milled rice basis globally is going to be 508.70 million tonnes up by 1.65% over last year production of 500.60 million tonnes as is depicted in the table below:

Country	2018- mn Mts	2019- mn Mts	2020 (Proj)-mn MT	% Change
China	145.30	143.60	144.20	0.40
India	116.50	117.90	119.20	1.1
Bangladesh	36.40	36.90	36.90	(0.20)
Indonesia	37.90	35.00	34.60	(1.10)
Vietnam	28.60	28.20	28.30	0.30
Thailand	21.40	18.80	21.40	13.70
Myanmar	15.60	15.40	15.80	3.10
Philippines	12.20	12.30	12.40	0.90
Brazil	8.20	7.10	7.40	3.90
Pakistan	7.20	7.20	7.90	10.10
Japan	7.40	7.40	7.40	0.709
USA	7.10	5.90	6.90	17.10
Cambodia	6.50	6.50	.70	1.50
Nigeria	5.00	5.10	5.10	1.00
Egypt	2.80	4.80	5.00	7.60
WORLD	506.30	500.60	508.70	1.60

Source: FAO Food Outlook 2020 (May 2020)

Indian production scenario: Rice contributes more than 40 percent of the country's total food grain production. According to the data released by the government of India, the total rice production in India stands at 119 million tonnes.

As per statistics available for the year 2018-19 the major producing states were:

State	Qty-m MTs	% in Overall	Qty-m Mts	Qty- m MTs	% in Overall
West Bengal	16.05	13.79%	UP	15.54	13.34%
Punjab	12.82	11.01%	Andhra Pra.	8.25	7.08%
Odisha	7.31	6.28%	Telangana	6.70	5.61%
Chhatisgarh	6.53	5.61%	Tamil Nadu	6.45	5.54%
Bihar	6.04	5.19%	Assam	5.14	4.41%
Haryana	4.52	3.88%	Madhya Pra.	4.50	3.86%
Others	16.58	14.24%	All India	116.42	100%

Source: Agriculture Statistics At a Glance 2019

Though there are a large number of rice varieties grown across countries, in India apart from non basmati rice, speciality Basmati rice is also cultivated which is a unique fragrance. This rice is different from any other fragrant rice grown in the world and there is an adage "All Basmatris are scented but not all scented rice is Basmati". Basmati rice is a heritage of Indian subcontinent and is cultivated under the foothills of Himalayas only in defined region encompassing the states of pre-partition Punjab (part of Punjab now in Pakistan), Haryana, Uttarakhand, Western UP, Himachal

Pradesh, Delhi and three districts of Jammu Division in Jammu & Kashmir. Because of its nexus with the climatic conditions and environment in the growing geography, it has been designated as a Geographical Indication (GI) also. Known for its slender, silky grain, typical fragrance upon cooking and unique characteristics, Basmati rice is also termed as King of Rice.

Non Basmati rice is cultivated in almost every state of India and there are a vast number of varieties existent.

Global Trade Overview: Global rice trade is forecast at a record 47.6 million tons for 2020 as compared to 44.9 mn tonnes in 2019 reflecting a 6.2% increase. India is forecast to continue to be the top exporter with over 10 mn tonne export this year. As far as Basmati rice is concerned, Pakistan is the only other producer, exporter and competitor. But in regard to non Basmati rice, as mentioned, there are several competitors like Thailand, Pakistan, Philippines, Indonesia, Pakistan etc.

Indian rice is exported to more than 120 destinations across continents. During 2017-18 a total of 12.7 m tonnes of overall rice was exported from the country and this year till December the export quantity has touched 7.9 m tonnes. It is projected that the export till FY end will be slightly lower than last year's figure. The major reason for this is (a) sanitary issues faced from various countries in respect of Basmati rice (b) duty hike in Bangladesh leading to drop in import by that country (c) 13% hike in MSP of non basmati rice.

Indian export scenario and projections: The export of Basmati rice from India during the last three years has been as follows:

	2017-18			2018-19			2019-20		
	Qt-MTs	Val-Rs Cr	Val-\$mn	Qt-MTs	Val-Rs Cr	Val-\$mn	Qt-MTs	Val-Rs Cr	Val-\$mn
Middle East	3169325	21080	3272	3693859	27265	3929	3677416	25254	3558
European Union	397204	2375	368	224041	1590	227	219179	1478	208
Americas	168024	1269	197	180413	1554	223	201596	1720	243
Africa	136547	904	140	148430	1100	158	164040	1151	163
South East Asia	46016	319	50	39813	316	45	47073	361	51
Russia /CIS	28597	175	27	24801	173	25	36544	243	34
Oceania	37557	293	45	44366	379	54	49444	417	59
Asia	12312	74	12	13406	102	15	17245	123	17
Other Europe	60207	374	58	44417	317	46	40554	262	37
Latin America	920	7	1	987	8	1	1591	13	2
Grand Total	4056759	26870	4169	4414584	32804	4722	4454682	31021	4372

Non Basmati Rice : The export of rice from India during the last three years has been as follows:

	2017-18			2018-19			2019-20		
	Qt-MTs	Val-Rs Cr	Val-\$mn	Qt-MTs	Val-Rs Cr	Val-\$mn	Qt-MTs	Val-Rs Cr	Val-\$mn
Middle East	883545	3263	506	910470	3437	497	717153	2751	387
European Union	32140	155	24	45771	194	28	29137	140	20
Americas	44974	235	37	49390	273	39	46495	261	37
Africa	4360010	10464	1624	4580845	11537	1654	3157622	8059	1138
South East Asia	122393	470	74	530300	1570	227	163093	621	88
Russia /CIS	74765	200	31	107587	312	44	115836	316	44
Oceania	8082	42	7	13319	55	8	17302	70	10
Asia	3027978	7856	1219	1313027	3642	529	745953	1977	279
Other Europe	94232	273	42	47476	160	23	24773	99	14
Latin America	370	1	0	1490	5	1	18196	58	8
Grand Total	8648489	22968	3564	7599674	21185	3050	5036190	14353	2025

Source: DGCIS

Constraints and Bottlenecks:

1. Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs) of Plant Protection Products (PPPs): Export of Basmati rice has several caveats attached to it such as adherence with varying and stringent norms of maximum residue levels (MRLs) of various plant protection products (PPPs). In order to be able to follow this extreme care is taken to use various PPPs very judiciously for which farmers are being regularly trained and counseled by exporters. Exporters have invested large sums of money in developing state-of-the-art processing facilities over the years.

EUROPE	Pre Lockdown	Post Lockdown	% rise	114%
Europe base port	600 TO 800	1600 TO 2000	167	
Dublin	800	1800	125	
Oslo	1000 TO 1200	1800 TO 2200	80	
Stockholm	1000 TO 1200	1800 TO 2200	80	
Mersin	425 TO 600	1200 TO 1500	183	
Koper Solvenia	800 TO ONC	1300 + ONC	63	
Genova	600 TO 800	1500 TO 2000	150	
Le Havre	600 TO 800	1800 TO 2000	200	

Limmasol	600 TO 800	1200 TO 1500	100	299%
Nouakchott	1300	2000	54	
Pireaus	800	1200 TO 1500	50	
AMERICAS				299%
New York	1400 TO 1600	2400 TO 3000	786	
Toronto	1700	2200 TO 3200	88	
Los Angeles	1250	2250	880	
Miami	1800	3500	94	
Vancouver	1200	2500 TO 4000	108	

The issue pertains to ever stringent norms of MRLs in EU. Though EU accounts for a mere 5-6% share in overall Basmati rice export of India, but it being a value market, hold high esteem. But it is a fact that EU norms appears to be major on technological facets rather than realm science. The fall out impact of stringent EU norms of MRLs is that several countries in India's stronghold markets like Oman, Jordan, Egypt, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia are now adopting EU-at-par norms which has long term impact on India's exports.

2. The Logistics costs in India are very high and have risen by 243% during the decade spanning 2005-2015. China is the only other country with higher increase of 282% during the same period. Other countries like Pakistan, UAE, Egypt, Thailand etc have much lower cost of logistics and this leads to incompetiveness for Indian rice. Rationalization of logistics costs is required.

3. Shortage of containers: Presently since most containers would come from China, due to low volume of import from China, there has emerged an acute shortage of containers. Taking into consideration average export per month during the first seven months of this year, it is anticipated that during the remaining period of the FY around 20,00,000 m tonnes of Basmati rice would be exported which would require around 90,000 containers which means a monthly requirement of 18,000 containers.

4. High ocean freight charges: Shipping lines have been persistently hiking ocean freight charges at will which is further denting into the very low margins that rice exporters fetch today. Although it can be understood that this may be due to shortage of containers at the moment. A comparative pre-lockdown and post lockdown information on freight structure is tabulated below:

Port everglades	1800	3500	94	
Edmonton	2500	3500 TO 4500	40	
AFRICA	Pre Lockdown	Post Lockdown	% rise	
Durban	400 TO 600	1300 TO 1500	475	
Port Louis	600	1600	167	
Johannesburg	600 + ZAR	1300 TO 1500 + ZAR	283	
Port Victoria	1000	1500	50	
Alexandria	600 TO 900	1200 TO 1500	100	
Cotonou	1000	2000 TO 2800	100	
Mombasa	700	1200 TO 1500	71	131%
Port reunion	1000	2000 TO 2800	100	
Odessa	800	1200 TO 1500	50	
Damietta	400 TO 600	1100 TO 1600	175	
Male	725	1000 TO 1500	38	
Maputo	800	1200	50	
Lome	1300	1800 TO 2500	38	
OCEANIA				
Sydney	600	1800 TO 2200	200	
Brisbane	600	1800 TO 2200	200	
Melbourne	600	1800 TO 2200	200	
Auckland	800	2500 TO 3500	213	
Port Kelang North	25 TO 50	150 TO 250	500	
Hong Kong	50	200 TO 300	300	270%
Singapore	50 TO 100	175 TO 250	250	
Penang	50 TO 100	300 TO 400	500	
Pasir Gudang	50 TO 100	300 TO 400	500	
Kota Kita Balu	300 TO 400	600 TO 850	100	
Sandakan	300 TO 400	600 TO 850	100	
Lyttelton	800	2200 TO 3200	175	
WEST ASIA				
Jebel Ali	50	300 TO 400	500	
Jeddah	600	1200 TO 1500	106	
Ashdod	600 TO 800	1700 TO 2000	183	243%
Haifa	600 TO 800	1700 TO 2000	183	
CARRIBEANS	Pre Lockdown	Post Lockdown	% rise	
St. Maarten	3200	4200 TO 4500	344	344%
Montego Bay	3200	4200 TO 4500	344	

Since most of the rice shipments take place on CIF basis, such uncontrolled spike in freight rates is devouring upon the already razor thin margins of the exporters.

5. Transport and Marketing Assistance Scheme: In March 2019 Government of India had announced launched of Transport and Marketing Assistance scheme to offset to some extent the logistics cost disadvantages. But rice is excluded from the eligible products. Extension of TMA benefit would help in further boosting export especially in light of every increasing freights.

6. Iran Market issue: Iran has been a major destination for Indian Basmati rice accounting for a share of 30% + over the last few years. But this year the share has drastically come down to 16% as reflected in the data for the first seven months of this financial year. The trigger for this situation is the non remittance because of non-issuance of Currency allocation by the Central Bank of Iran. This has

caused a large number of consignments being held up at Iranian Ports and large amounts of exporters blocked.

7. Banking: Banks provided exporters with Packing Credit Limits and exporters are able to use that limit for several consignments of shipments on rolling basis. But recently banks have stopped this system and are insisting that packing credit limit granted can be used only for a particular consignment. Hence, exporters have to seek fresh PCL for subsequent consignments which is very cumbersome since the export activity is a regular one and keeping going on year round.

8. Interest Equalization Scheme: Basmati rice has a long gestation period of six months to one year due to aging factor. Therefore, exporters incur huge interest burden on commercial borrowings during this period. Government of India had instituted Interest Subvention Scheme under which the eligibility criteria did not include any reference to HS Codes. But effective 1.4.2015 the scheme renamed as Interest Equalization Scheme was modified to cover only 416 tariff lines and chapter 10 which includes rice was deleted from the eligible products. The new scheme is available to all exports under 416 tariff lines and exports made by Micro, Small & Medium enterprises (MSMEs) across all ITC(HS) codes as also to merchant exporters. Thus only a small group of large non MSME exporters is left out of the purview of eligibility under the scheme.

9. Differential GST on branded and unbranded rice: Under the Central Goods & Services Tax Act, 2017 (12 of 2017), the prescribed rates of Integrated GST (IGST) have been prescribed:

Reference details	Rate
Notification No. 1/2017 dated 28th June, 2017 vide Entry No 51 of Schedule I IGST rate for "Rice Put up in unit container and bearing a Registered Brand Name"	5%
Notification No. 2/2017 dated 28th June, 2017 vide entry No. 70 of the Schedule (exempting intra-state supplies of goods) "Rice (Other than those put up in unit container and bearing a registered brand name"	0%

By the current provisions of IGST rates on branded /unbranded rice, an artificial distortion of market is happening because two different players enjoying similar market reputation for the same rice land up with different costs due to the effect of IGST. This tends to place the registered branded product at a disadvantage.

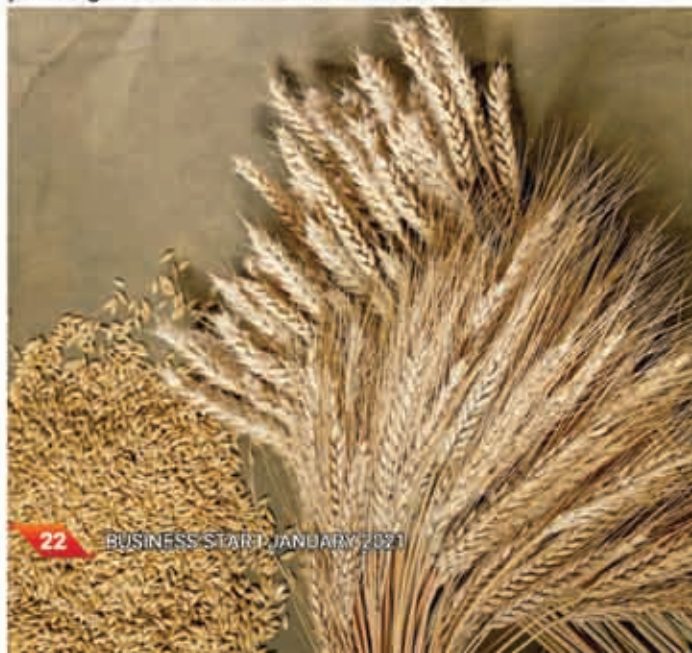
10. Extension of RoDTEP scheme benefit to rice sector: As MEIS scheme has been considered non WTO compliant, Government of India is coming up with a new Scheme – Remission of Duties and Taxes on Export Products (RoDTEP). Rice was not covered under MEIS except for a brief spell of four months (2.11.2018 till 25.3.2019). This is the period when non basmati rice exports surged but with abolition of the benefit, exports dropped significantly.

Opportunities: India is looked after by the global market as the warehouse for food exports. Rice is a prominent commodity amongst the agricultural export basket of the country. The export of rice (both basmati and non basmati) accounts for a foreign exchange earning of around \$ 8000 million (around Rs 50,000 Cr).

Conclusion: Rice is the top ranking commodity in the APEDA products exports (753+ tariff lines). Export can further be augmented with support from Government on the issues enlisted in this note.

2020-21 rabi food grains output may surpass previous record: Agri Minister

The country's rabi foodgrains production including wheat in the ongoing 2020-21 crop year is expected to be better than the previous year's record of 153.27 million tonne, according to Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar. Sowing of rabi (winter) crops is underway. The rabi sowing begins from October immediately after the harvest of kharif (summer) crops. Wheat and mustard are major rabi crops. The crop year runs from July to June. Tomar said the country's agriculture sector performed well during 2020 as foodgrains production rose to a record in the kharif season with farmers working hard despite the COVID-19 pandemic and proving their relevance. "This year, we hope better foodgrain production in the rabi season than last year (same season)," he said. For the 2020-21 crop year, the Centre has set a target of a record foodgrains output of 301 million tonne, out of which it expects 151.65 million tonne to come from the rabi season. Further, the minister said progress to be made in the recent government initiatives including two new farm laws on marketing, formation of 10,000 FPOs (Farmer Producers Organisations), Rs 1 lakh crore Agriculture Infrastructure Fund, will also benefit farmers and boost the sector. Total sowing under various rabi crops has increased to 620.71 lakh hectare from 603.15 lakh hectare, the data showed. In the 2019-20 crop year, the country's overall foodgrains production stood at a record 296.65 million tonne, as per the government's fourth advance estimate.



NITI Aayog hails millet revival in Odisha

Odisha has recorded a sharp rise in value of millet crop following provisioning of better marketing and consumption platforms of the small-seeded cereals in the State, says NITI Aayog. The NITI Aayog study titled 'Health and Nutrition, Practice Insight' says there has been 215% increase in gross value of millet produce per farmer household from Rs 3,957 to Rs 12,486 in Odisha. The State government had initiated Odisha Millet Mission (OMM) for promoting millets (Ragi) as a staple crop of the farming system in 2017. Under the mission, strategy was devised to increase household consumption of millets by reviving its production in identified areas and improving their productivity. Initially, millet cultivation, which was started in 30 blocks in 7 districts in 2017, was expanded to 55 blocks in 11 districts in 2018 and to 72 blocks (14 districts) in 2019. Another 4 blocks were added in the June 2020.

"There has been increase in area under millets cultivation from 2,949 hectares to 5,182 hectares (almost double) and increase in yield by 120% between 2016-17 to 2017-18," says the apex policy think-tank of Centre. As many 26,495 farmers were registered under the mission whereas almost 95% of millet was procured from farmers in 2019-20. NITI Ayog attributed success of the millet mission to Ragi procurement from local farmers at minimum support price, farmer registration, establishment of district wise storage godowns and streamline of procurement system. In 14 districts procuring Ragi, 1 kg of rice has been substituted by Ragi owing to its higher nutritional value. It was distributed at the rate of Rs 1 per kg under PDS scheme in six districts to 16,01,206 ration card holders under National Food Security Act.

Vietnam buys Indian rice for first time in decades

Vietnam, the world's third biggest exporter of rice, has started buying the grain from rival India for the first time in decades after local prices jumped to their highest in nine years amid limited domestic supplies, four industry officials said. The purchases highlight tightening supplies in Asia, which could lift rice prices in 2021 and even force traditional buyers of rice from Thailand and Vietnam to switch to India - the world's biggest exporter of the grain. Indian traders have been contracted to export 70,000 tonnes of 100% broken rice for January and February shipments at around \$310 per tonne on a free-on-board (FOB) basis, the industry officials say. Dwindling supplies and continued Philippine buying have lifted Vietnamese rice export prices to a fresh nine-year high. Vietnam's 5% broken rice is offered around \$500-\$505 per tonne, significantly higher compared to Indian prices of \$381-\$387. The shrinking supplies will heighten concerns about food insecurity with sub-Saharan Africa among the areas where import demand has been increasing due partly to population growth. Chronic and acute hunger is on the rise, impacting vulnerable households in almost every country, with the COVID-19 pandemic



reducing incomes and disrupting supply chains, according to the World Bank. Traders said the global pandemic has also prompted Vietnam and other countries to stockpile rice. Vietnam announced last year it would stockpile 270,000 tonnes of rice to ensure food availability amid coronavirus-driven supply chain disruptions worldwide. Traders in Vietnam said the rice from India had been stockpiled in government reserves since 2016/17 and its relatively cheap price reflected low quality. Vietnam's total paddy output in 2020 fell 1.85% to 42.69 million tonnes, equivalent to around 21.35 million tonnes of rice, preliminary data from the government's General Statistics Office showed. The country's rice exports in 2020 were forecast to have fallen by 3.5% to 6.15 million tonnes. In 2020 India exported a record 14 million tonnes of rice, provisional data from the trade ministry showed.

'Wheat production likely to reach over 112MT'

The country's wheat production is likely to break all previous records in the coming Rabi harvesting season and may reach over 112 million tonnes, claim the scientists of the Indian Institute of Wheat and Barley Research (IIWBR), Karnal. As per the



scientists, the key reason behind this is that the area under wheat cultivation has reportedly increased by 5% or 1.5 million hectare and reached to 31.3 million hectare. They said that this acreage increase in witnessed in Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Haryana. Rajasthan, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh have reported slight decline in the area under wheat this year, but the scientists said there is a possibility that the current figures may improve as sowing of wheat is still underway in many states. Dr Gyanendra Pratap Singh, director of the institute, said, "We had predicted that the wheat production in country may increase to 112 million tonnes against the 107.06 million tonnes of last year as the area under wheat cultivation has increased." "Besides efforts of farmers and scientists, and an increase in the acreage, other factors have also helped to improve the production and yield. This includes high yielding varieties developed by scientists and extended winter," he added. As per scientists, farmers have adopted high yielding varieties including HD-2967, HD-3086 and DBW-187 and this year and area under DBW 187 has reported a significant increase.



Bangladesh, India finalising first bilateral rice deal in 3 years: Report

Bangladesh is finalising a purchase of 150,000 tonnes of rice from India's NAFED, the New Delhi-based state agency told Reuters, in what would be the first such bilateral deal in three years after floods in Bangladesh sent local prices to a record high. India, the world's biggest rice exporter, is offering a steep discount to supplies from rivals Thailand and Vietnam to cut its surplus after a bumper harvest. "We are negotiating with Bangladesh," said a spokesman for NAFED (the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd). "NAFED is in a position to supply up to 500,000 tonnes rice to Bangladesh." A senior official with Bangladesh's food ministry said they could buy 100,000 tonnes of parboiled rice and 50,000 tonnes of white rice under a government-to-government deal. India could sell parboiled rice at around \$407 and white rice at around \$417 per tonne on a cost, insurance and freight (CIF) liner out basis, an Indian government source said. The rates are about a third cheaper than those from Thailand and Vietnam. The entire shipment is likely to be made in the first quarter of next year from the Haldia port in India's eastern state of West Bengal, which borders Bangladesh, the Indian government official added. Bangladesh, the world's third-biggest rice producer with an output of almost 35 million tonnes a year, relies on imports from time to time to cope with shortages caused by natural disasters such as floods or drought. Its state grains agency issued its first rice purchase tender in three years in November to boost local supplies. The country of more than 160 million people could import as much as 500,000 tonnes of rice in the year to June.

Serbia sees bump in corn and wheat production

Serbia's corn production is expected to increase 10% in the 2020-21 marketing year, according to a Global Agricultural Information Network (GAIN) report from the US Department of Agriculture (USDA). Serbia's 2020-21 marketing year is anticipated to total eight million tonnes and estimated to be a record high. The record production will allow four million tonnes for domestic demand and about 3.8 million tonnes for export. Demand for corn from Serbia is high due to forward sales. All corn produced in Serbia is non-GMO. In October 2020, Serbia exported approximately 460,000 MT of corn, an 87 percent increase compared to October 2019, when Serbia exported 245,460 MT of corn. Serbia's corn exports in MY2019/20 reached an impressive 3.2 million MT, while for MY2020/21 exports are estimated to be even higher at 3.8 million MT. With a relatively good crop this year, Serbia will strengthen its position as a major corn exporting country in the region.

The USDA estimates area wheat crop for the 2020-21 marketing year was boosted by 5% due to high wheat prices during the 2019-20 marketing year. A rise in wheat prices were in response to the coronavirus causing panic buying. The USDA forecasts Serbia's wheat production to total 2.6 million tonnes for the 2020-21 marketing year, securing enough for domestic demand and 1.2 million for exports. The high demand for wheat as a result of panic buying in response to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic led a steady rise in the cost of wheat. The drought in Romania, Ukraine, and Hungary also reduced the supply of wheat in the Black Sea region and thus the increase in the price. According to the Serbian Grain Fund, in MY2019/20 Serbia exported 395,281 MT of wheat and 144,508 MT of wheat flour. The grains total is 583,141 MT of wheat, almost 50 percent lower than in MY2018/19 due to low wheat quality (mostly sold as feed wheat). Estimates are that Serbia's MY2020/21 wheat exports will reach 1.2 million MT.



Rice production in Telangana touches 1.3 crore tonnes in 2019-20

Rice production in Telangana has increased by more than 20 per cent on a year-on-year basis. The production has now touched 1.3 crore tonne for the year 2019-20. It was 62.5 lakh tonnes in 2017-18, 51.7 lakh tonnes in 2016-17 and 29.6 lakh tonnes in 2015-16. Also, Telangana accounted for about 63 per cent of Food Corporation of India's (FCI) total paddy procurement across the country till date, a record of sorts for the farmers of the State. With increase in land under irrigation, the rice production is going to increase further in the coming years, said industry body FTCCI in a report. More than 60 lakh acres of additional land was brought under irrigation due to completion of many major and minor irrigation projects such as Kaleshwaram project, Devadula Project and revival of tanks under Mission Kakatiya. Availability of water coupled with 24x7 free power supply to farmers contributed to substantial improvement in

productivity and production of food grains and pulses, said FTCCI report titled as 'Rice exports from Telangana: Opportunities and way forward,' which was presented to Telangana State Planning Board Vice-chairman B Vinod Kumar.

Telangana, which grows rice in about 14.19 lakh hectare, has seen its share to the national rice production improve considerably from 2.84% in 2015-16 to 5.54% by 2017-18, doubling the production levels in three years. Rice production at the national level is pegged at 117.47 million tonnes in 2019-20. However, Telangana's share in total rice exports of non-basmati from India did not improve much. Telangana, which exported 10,425 tonnes during 2019-20, accounted for just 0.21 per cent of the total exports of 5.08 million tonnes at national level. Andhra Pradesh, during the same time, exported 16.9 lakh tonnes (which is 33.6 per cent of the total India exports).

Telangana recorded considerable growth in exports in the first half of 2020-21 along with overall exports from India due to Covid-19 crisis and due to drastic fall in exports from Thailand and Vietnam. Exporters flagged high transportation cost, terminal handling charges, higher pesticides residues in rice and dearth of infrastructure facilities, the report said adding that Telangana's strict implementation of minimum support price for paddy made the rice purchases from the State relatively costlier compared to other States. TS can follow the Taiwan model, where the government buys paddy and auctions for the exporters to buy at market price, the report suggested. New integrated container depot should be considered at Dichpally or Jankampet in Nizamabad, which already have warehouse facilities, to cater to rice growing districts Nizamabad, Adilabad and Karimnagar. The current two ICDs -Sanathnagar and

Timmappally- are making transport of the bulk good costly, the report said. Terminal handling charges are zero for exports to Singapore from Chennai Sea Port. However, but for consignments to be sent from ICD Sanathnagar or ICD Timmapur, the charges are high at Rs 9000 to 10,000 per container, it said.

Telangana is encouraging cultivators to shift from long grain paddy variety to short grain paddy variety named as 'Telangana Sona' to increase the fine variety rice production. However, exporters feel that only long grain rice has demand in the international market and shifting to a short grain variety may affect the exports adversely, it pointed out. TS should consider developing export zones in the State for growing specific varieties of non-basmati and basmati varieties of crop. Egypt, Mexico, Malaysia, Indonesia, and Philippines are the potential markets. Telangana State has about 2,000 rice mills and these can be modernised by giving some incentives. It is necessary to improve quality, productivity, Modern milling capacity, better testing, storage and handling infrastructure to effectively market to other countries and also to provide better income to farmers. Train connectivity via Nizamabad and Aurangabad to Mumbai Port makes export-import activity in the region attractive, boosts economic activities and strengthen the economy.





India's spices exports rise by 19 percent in first half of fiscal

Higher demand for immunity boosting spices like turmeric has helped the nation in reporting a 19% growth in export of spices and spice products during the first half of the year, state-run Spices Board said. Exports of spices and other value-added products during six months of FY21 stand at 7 lakh tonne, valued at Rs 12,273.81 crore as against the shipment of 586,090 tonne worth Rs 10,588.97 crore in the year-ago period. Chilli, cumin, turmeric, coriander and ginger were the top five most-exported spices from India. Chilli retained its position of being the largest exported spice from India with a shipment of 2,64,500 tonnes, earning Rs 3,605 crore,

a release by the Spices Board said. Cumin followed next with a shipment of 1,53,000 tonnes valued at Rs 2167.70 crore, registering a 33 percent and 22 percent increase in quantitative and value terms respectively. The spice which recorded the maximum growth in terms of quantity and value was small cardamom, which is often referred to as the 'Queen of Spices'. It contributed to the overall exports during the period, rising 483 percent in value terms and 369 percent in quantity. During the period, 1,900 tonnes of small cardamom valued at Rs 329.50 crore were exported as against 405 tonnes valued at Rs 56.52 crore during the same period last year. In the ongoing pandemic situation, spices

with immunity boosting properties have been in great demand. Turmeric registered a remarkable growth of 42 per cent in quantity by shipping 99,000 tonnes globally valued at Rs 858.10 crore, marking an increase of 35 percent in value terms as compared to the same period in the last fiscal. A total of 23,700 tonnes of ginger was exported all over the world registering a growth of 86 percent. The export of fenugreek, coriander and other seed spices such as mustard, aniseed, dill seed etc. grew substantially contributing to the spices export basket in the period. The exports of fenugreek grew by 58 percent in quantitative and 61 percent in value terms with a shipment of 17,200 tonnes. Coriander saw an increase of 9 percent in quantity and 19 percent in value terms with a shipment of 26,750 tonnes fetching Rs 227.32 crore. Nutmeg and mace recorded 49 percent increase in quantity and 45 percent increase in value with an export of 1,650 tonnes valued at Rs 75.50 crore. Value added spices such as curry powders and pastes remained popular in many countries resulting in their increased exports with a shipment of 19,500 tonnes valued at Rs 462.12 crore. During the period, a total volume of 4,150 tonnes of celery valued at Rs 52.40 crore was exported as against 3,260 tonnes valued at Rs 35.18 crores last year registering an increase of 27 percent in volume and 49 percent in value. Spice oils and oleoresins along with spices such as tamarind, saffron and others shared a significant part of the spice export basket from April-September 2020.

India defers certificate requirement for rice export to European countries till July

India deferred the requirement of obtaining a certificate of inspection from a government agency to ship both basmati and non-basmati rice to European countries to July 1, 2021. A notification dated August 10 is "amended to the extent that export of rice (basmati and non-basmati) to EU member states and other European countries - Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland only will require Certificate of Inspection from EIA/EIC". Export to remaining European countries (except Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland) will require Certificate of Inspection by Export Inspection Council (EIC)/Export Inspection Agency (EIA) for export "from July 1, 2021," the directorate said.

India, the world's top rice exporter, exports about 3 lakh tonnes of basmati rice to the EU. The Export Inspection Council (EIC) is the official export certification body of India which ensures quality and safety of products exported from India. The Export Inspection Agencies (EIAs) under the council are located at Mumbai, Kolkata, Kochi, Delhi and Chennai.





Som Goenka & Surendra Gupta, Founders

Goldiee Group

Undisputed leader in food processing with more than five generations of experience

Founded by Mr. Som Goenka and Mr. Surendra Gupta, Goldiee Group is one of the world's leading manufacturers & exporter of spices and various food products. Catering to the Indian consumer base since the year 1980, Goldiee Group is now a market leader in offering a diverse range of products essential to every Indian household and the international arena. Decades of experience in the food processing sector have enabled the company to understand the Indian consumer mindset across different age groups, ethnicities and cultures. The company's far and wide reach of over 350,000 retail outlets managed by 1000 distributors has made Goldiee Group a unique and famous brand name, well recognized throughout the nation. Recently, the Goldiee Group was felicitated by 'Industry Outlook' as one of the Most Promising Food Processing Companies 2020.

Symbolizing the legacy of the tradition of Indian taste, Goldiee Group offers a

complete range of kitchen solution product, which includes; Pickles, Spices, Turmeric powder, Asafoetida (Heeng), Blended Spices, Papads, Curry Pastes, Curry Powders, Ready to Cook Spice Mixes, Vermicelli, Sauces, Jams, Tea, Gulab Jamun Mix, Pooja Kits and Incense Sticks. A range of Noodles, Pasta and Macaroni under the brand name "One-One" is also there in their product bouquet. Additionally, Goldiee Group also recently launched a new range of Tadka Masala and Garam Masala. The Goldiee Group has a state-of-the-art plant, R&D lab, testing lab, and an in-house manufacturing facility at Kanpur, UP that, ensures the highest quality of raw materials used with quality control and quality assurance at every step in the manufacturing of the food products.

Today, Goldiee Group is positioned as one of the few food processing brands that has a presence on a pan India level in 26 states catering to customers in not only the urban cities and towns but also to the rural interiors as well. "We are able to penetrate deeper with our diverse product profile.



We are not confined to one segment; we have taken care of all the different segments," said Mr. Som Goenka & Mr. Surendra Gupta, Founders, Goldiee Group. Moreover, Covid-19 has led to an increase in demand for immunity-boosting products on the rising health awareness. The company's management prides in Goldiee Group's achievement to serve the entire nation during the Covid-19 lockdown period. It gave them essential insights into the demand for specific immunity-boosting products deemed indispensable by the Indian consumer base. In line with the growing demand, the company established another state-of-the-art manufacturing unit to cater to the new specific demand for immunity boosting products in the market.

The Goldiee Group has further planned to expand its network deeper into the Indian interiors more into the micro-regions and expand its footprint internationally into the Russian, Thailand and South African markets. The Goldiee Group is fully-equipped to meet global as well as local demands of different nations, states and cities in their unique taste & flavor. The brand caters to a varied range of selling formats right from the kirana stores, general stores, modern trade outlets, multi-functional outlets, canteens etc.

China approves two GMO corn varieties for import

China approved two genetically modified corn varieties from Bayer AG and Syngenta AG for imports as demand for animal feed surges. The two strains MON87411 and MZIR098, which are resistant to insects and tolerant of herbicides, are approved for imports for five years starting December 2020, according to a list from the agriculture ministry. The latest approvals are notable as China's corn imports have jumped to a record because the domestic hog population is rebounding faster than expected from African swine fever. That's jolted the government into action, including resuming state corn sales and pledging to expand domestic crop production. Genetically modified organisms are common in many of the world's top crop producers, with much of the corn and soybeans in the U.S., Brazil



and Argentina grown from GMO seeds. Their use is still limited in certain countries due to concerns over the health and environmental impact. China allows imports of GMO crops for processing only and they cannot be used as seeds. The ministry is set to approve a GMO corn and soy variety developed by local company Beijing Dabeinong following public feedback, according to its list. The crops will be planted in the country's north and are in addition to a corn strain approved last year.

Flour production increased by the end of 2020 in Kazakhstan

In 2020, Kazakhstan produced 3,322.6 thousand tons of flour. This is 1.6% more than in 2019, when the production of flour amounted to 3,271.7 thousand tons. Agriculture Minister Saparkhan Omarov said at a government meeting that food production in 2020 increased by 4% and amounted to 1.9 trillion tenge. According to him, there is an increase in the production of butter by 26.5% (from 19.5 thousand tons to 24.6 thousand tons), processed rice by 20.1% (from 166.0 thousand tons to 199.4 thousand tons), sausages by 8.2% (from 54.3

thousand tons to 58.7 thousand tons), pasta by 6.3% (from 168.3 thousand tons to 178.9 thousand tons), processed milk - by 4.9% (from 570.8 thousand tons to 598.5 thousand tons). "In January-December 2020, positive growth dynamics remained in the agro-industrial complex. Thus, the volume of gross agricultural production for this period increased by 5.6% and amounted to 6.3 trillion tenge. This growth was provided mainly due to an increase in crop production by 7.8% (3.6 trillion tenge)," Omarov said. The volume of gross livestock production for the specified period increased by 3% and amounted to 2.6 trillion tenge. At the same time, there is an increase in the production of meat in live weight - by 4.1%, milk - by 3.2%. Flour is one of the export goods of Kazakhstan.

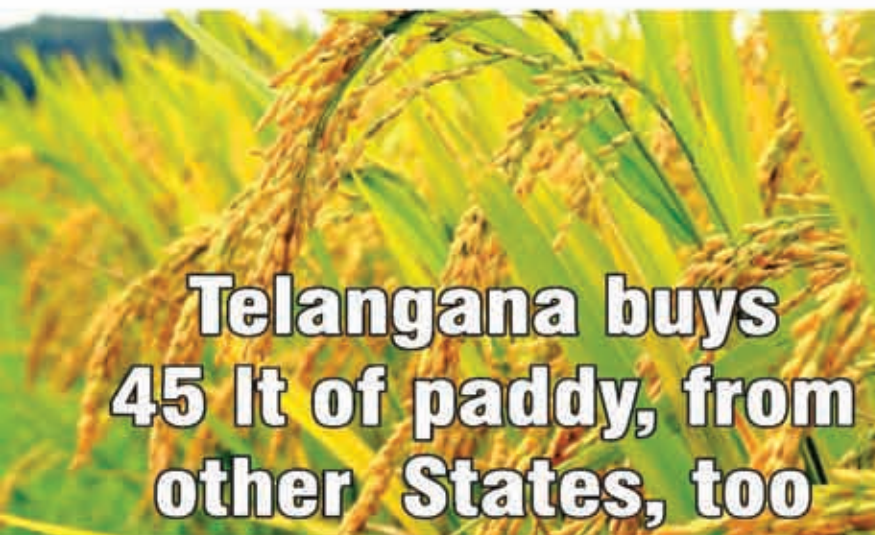


FSSAI extends deadline for trans fat reduction in edible oils

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has extended the deadline for the enforcement of its recent gazette notification which caps the amount of trans fatty acids (TFA) in oils and fats to 3% from the current permissible limit of 5% from January 2021 to April this year. The deadline to reduce trans fatty acid to 2%, however, remains the same - January 1, 2022. "In view of representations received from the industry and to facilitate smooth transition from the industry to the new norms for the trans fatty acids (TFAs), it is directed that the enforcement for the limit of 3% by weight shall commence w.e.f. 1st April, 2021, and for such products manufactured on or after 1st April 2021," the authority said in its recent notification. The edible oil industry has cited the outbreak of the Coronavirus and the subsequent lockdowns as a reason for its inability to prepare for the reduction of trans fat.

Sri Lanka rough rice output in 2021 Maha could be down 10 pct

Sri Lanka's paddy farming in the 2021 Maha (main) season is below average, the state agricultural office said, forecasting a 10 percent drop from average rough rice production based on the cultivation progress so far. Based on the cultivation progress so far Maha output is projected at 2.27 million metric tonnes, which is 10 percent below average, with about 69 percent of the fields sown. In the 2020 Maha season Sri Lanka produced 3,051 million metric tonnes of rice, with 752,000 metric tonnes cultivated. The 2020 Yala minor season output was estimated at 1.83 million metric tonnes. Sri Lanka has a target paddy cultivation of 841,000 hectares for Maha 2021 of which 583,704 hectares had been cultivated up to the end of November. "The sown extent reported are reaching the targets in Eastern Province, Mahaweli systems and Western Province, where as the sown extent reported Central Province, North Central Province, and Uva Province are far below the targets," the agricultural office said in its December report. The output forecast will be revised up, based on cultivation progress.



Telangana buys 45 lt of paddy, from other States, too

As the procurement season comes to an end, Telangana has procured 45 lakh tonnes (lt) of paddy from about 10.20 lakh farmers. An interesting feature of this year's procurement is that traders from the neighbouring States of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Maharashtra had bought sizeable volumes of fine variety paddy as the production in those States was impacted by natural calamities and other reasons. They offered a very good price as they bought 13-14 lt of paddy. They paid up to Rs 1,900-2,400 a quintal, official sources said. However, farmers alleged that it was traders who got the maximum benefit from this higher price. The State's Civil Supplies Department spent Rs 8,500 crore to procure the commodity. The State's procurement figure fell short of the initial target of 85 lt. However, the target was cut down to 75 lt as untimely rains caused damages to the crop in several districts of the State, resulting in reduced yields in some districts. The State pegged the kharif produce at 1.30 crore tonnes. After factoring in the local consumption needs and purchases by millers, they targeted to procure 85 lt.

Pepper output to drop in 2021 on unsupportive weather

Pepper crop in 2021 is likely to be lower, as the erratic climate with strong winds and heavy rains last year in the growing regions of Idukki, Wayanad, Coorg and some parts in Karnataka, is likely to upset the production. The new harvest season is round the corner, however, many farmers are postponing the harvest because of the present unfavourable climate with cloudy skies and absence of sunshine. They are plucking only immature pepper spikes which are only suitable for pickles. Pepper production in 2020 was at 65,000-70,000 tonnes compared to 50,000-55,000 tonnes in 2019. The sector is expecting a lower crop in 2021 as several vines have been damaged by the erratic weather, while the new vines may bear fruit only after two years. Industry sources pointed out that India consumes nearly 60,000 tonnes of the spice. The immunity boosting properties of pepper and revival of hospitality industry have increased the demand in the domestic market.



Bühler and DIL join forces to accelerate sustainable food production

Uzwil (Switzerland), Quakenbrück (Germany) – Bühler AG announces strategic partnership with the DIL Deutsches Institut für Lebensmitteltechnik e. V. to work together on the next generation of extruded meat substitutes. Swiss technology group Bühler AG and the DIL Deutsches Institut für Lebensmitteltechnik e. V., a research institute focusing on food technology and food science, have teamed up to develop new production technologies for healthy and sustainable food products, focusing on alternative protein-based products with a lower environmental impact than the CO₂-heavy meat value chain.

Living within our planetary boundaries

By 2050, in order to meet the needs of the world's growing population, we will have to produce more food from 35% less agricultural land. With an additional 250 million metric tons of protein required per year, the pressure on alternatives to animal-based proteins is mounting. Given the environmental impact of the current system, there is growing consensus that the food industry must change course



immediately. The change is already underway in many parts of the food value chain, but to drive it faster, partnerships are essential. Announcing a new strategic partnership between Bühler AG and DIL, Ian Roberts, Chief Technology Officer, Bühler, said: "If we are to feed 10 billion people in 2050 and if we are to be able to do this and mitigate the climate change increase that we currently see, we need to build strong partnerships with purpose and we need to build those in areas where

we can drive major impact." The partnership to accelerate research and the development of new solutions for more sustainable protein production comes at a critical time, according to Volker Heinz, Director and CEO, DIL: "Within our planetary boundaries, there is no room for a further expansion of animal protein and fat production," he says.

Alternative protein products for healthy and sustainable diet

New sustainable plant-based proteins have significantly less environmental impact, less land use, and a lower CO₂ footprint than the animal meat value chain. It is therefore essential to explore and identify alternative and underused sources of protein and develop efficient technologies to convert these into attractive, marketable products. Consumer demand for sustainable and healthy food products has been growing in recent years, underlining the opportunity for the food industry to make a positive impact. A key technology to unlock this opportunity is extrusion. Highly versatile, it enables the formation of texturized proteins with different structures from different raw materials. High moisture extrusion enables the conversion of plant proteins into food products with textures similar to meat. It is a technology in which Bühler leads the market.

"With Bühler's expertise in extrusion, but also in other engineering disciplines, such as milling, plant proteins, and powder handlings, we will be able to provide new and customized solutions for our clients and for the rapidly changing market," says Volker Lammers, Head of Research Platform Process Engineering, DIL. "With Bühler, we have a competent partner along the full protein value chain." The DIL campus in Quakenbrück, Germany, provides state-of-the-art food safety labs, pilot plants and research capabilities.



Over 200 scientists and technologists from diverse fields of expertise collaborate with a growing number of spin-off and start-up enterprises to develop solutions that improve food safety and quality. "With DIL, we have found a great partner who can provide a food grade test and production lab combined with extensive analytical

services," says Christoph Näf, Head of Business Unit Human Nutrition, Bühler. The partnership will create a platform to support start-ups, existing customers, and future partners to develop new end products and generate synergies.

Experts join forces for positive change

"We continuously try to achieve a better understanding of the structure and

functionality of foods, which we consider is the key to innovative solutions for food processing," says Volker Heinz, Director and CEO, DIL. "On this track, we are excited to have Bühler as a partner on our side. Together we will explore the many possibilities of technological interventions to get our food system on the track towards a sustainable future."

Yellow peas prices touch 100/kg on firm demand, shrinking supply

Retail prices of yellow peas have surged to a record Rs 100 per kg owing to firm demand and dwindling supply. This happened as wholesale prices increased 15-20% in two months and fourfold in two years to about Rs 80 per kg after India banned import of the commodity. Traditionally, consumption of yellow peas has been restricted mainly to Bihar and West Bengal while cultivated happens in Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. However, it is an irreplaceable part of street food such as puchkas and chaat. In Bihar and West Bengal, yellow peas are also used for making curries and eaten as matar kulcha. However, as cheaper imported yellow peas

from Canada, the US and other countries became increasingly available in the country after 2005-06, they were used to partly replace the expensive chana (chick pea) by besan (chana flour) manufacturers. Thanks to the rapidly growing snacks and namkeen industry, which uses chana flour for sev, farsan and other savouries, yellow pea imports had touched a record of 3 million tonnes in 2016-17.

From about Rs 20-22 per kg when imports were allowed, yellow pea prices gradually started climbing in wholesale. "For the first time, in 2020 yellow pea prices remained higher than chana prices throughout the year. The government had

thought that yellow peas were used only as a replacement for chana. But yellow peas have their own market, which cannot be replaced with chana," said Bimal Kothari, president, Indian Pulses and Grains Association (IPGA). India consumes about 1.5 million tonnes of yellow peas a year and produces only about 500,000-600,000 tonnes per annum, said Kothari. Import restrictions on yellow peas have helped India reduce its import dependence on chana. Good market prices and government procurement have helped increase chana acreage, making the country nearly self-sufficient in chana. Thus, the pakodas and vadas made at home and hotels are of chana flour and of blended chana and matar besan.

Traders said many besan manufacturers are now using broken rice, which is available at Rs 15-20 per kg, and corn to replace about 10% chana in besan. This year, the local production of yellow peas is expected to increase as farmers are encouraged by good prices. Despite the import ban, about 2 million tonnes of yellow peas entered India till December 2019 as traders acquired stays on the import order through various high courts. About 200,000 tonnes of yellow peas are still lying at the ports due to the ongoing litigation between the government and the traders. Canada, the biggest source of imports, has not suffered any loss of market as China has been buying huge quantities of yellow peas for feed and for processing.



Cashew prices to rebound in 2021 after hitting rock bottom in 2020

Supply crunch may cause global cashew prices to remain steady or firm up slightly till March. After registering a 50 percent drop in April/May, Raw Cashew Nut (RCN) prices recovered by 30-35 percent in the last few months. Covid and its impact on economies everywhere hit RCN movement and processing in India. Cashew consumption fell in India during Q2 and Q3 because of lockdown and restrictions on the hotel, restaurant and catering segment. However, he expects the cashew sales to increase in 2021. In all other markets, there has been a reasonable growth in consumption during 2020. This can be expected to continue in 2021 due to the lower prices, consistent supply and the general popularity of natural and healthy foods. Current kernel prices are the lowest in 10-11 years in Vietnam and 5-6 years in India, and current RCN prices are the lowest in 4-5 years. For most of 2020, cashew kernel prices have been moving sideways – except for the big drop in March/April and short-lived dip in Aug/Sept. However, slow movement of broken grades has been a challenge for all origins – aggravated by the decline in consumption of these grades in the catering and traditional sweets segment in India.



Maharashtra to give an extra push for raisin and jaggery exports

The government of Maharashtra is planning to give an extra push to raisin and jaggery exports from the state. This is part of the state government's initiative, which was jointly



planned with APEDA, to set up over 18 clusters in the state for the export of chemical-residue-free vegetables and fruits. The Maharashtra State Agriculture Marketing Board (MSAMB) had called for a coordination meeting of various stakeholders including processors, exporters, suppliers, farmers to chalk out an action plan to encourage exports of these two commodities from the state. Maharashtra accounts for nearly 75-80% of the country's raisin production and exported 23,720.90 tonnes of raisins in 2019-20. Raisin production in the state had gone up to about 2.10 lakh tonnes in 2019-20 from an average annual production of 1.80 lakh tonnes in 2018-19, senior MSAMB officials said. Kolhapur is a major jaggery production centre in the state with nearly 1250 jaggery production units. In 2019-20, around 341,155 tonnes of jaggery were exported from the country with Sri Lanka being the biggest buyer at some 51,210 tonnes. Raisin exports on the other hand remained subdued at 24,668 tonnes in 2019-20. India is the world's largest producer of jaggery accounting for 60% of the global output with Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra being the top producing states. India accounted for 8.17 million tonnes of global gur production of 13.6 million tonnes

FSSAI gives more time for compliance with calcium, magnesium limits in packaged drinking water

Food regulator FSSAI has extended the deadline by six months till July 1, 2021 for the food business operators (FBOs) to comply with the regulations related to limit of calcium and magnesium in packaged drinking water, other than mineral water. The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) had earlier

extended the deadline to July 1, 2020 and subsequently till January 1, 2021. FSSAI said in a statement that representation has been received from a section of stakeholders requesting for further extension of time since FBOs are not yet prepared to comply with regulations due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



tonne of sugar exports during the 2020-21 marketing year, ending September, to liquidate surplus stock.

On the sugar export subsidy, ISMA said: "Considering that the world sugar prices were better in December 2020 as compared to what it was in September 2019, when the Government had announced last year's export programme for 2019-20, the export subsidy for the sugar exports has been restricted by the government at Rs 6,000 per tonne." However, it said the actual expenses incurred on internal transport, ocean freight and marketing and promotion charges are much higher. "Sugar production in the second largest sugar exporting nation i.e. Thailand, is almost 80-90 lakh tonne less than what they usually produce. Therefore, India has an opportunity to export its sugar to the Asian importing countries, especially Indonesia and Malaysia, in addition to its own traditional markets in the Middle East, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, East Africa etc," the statement said. India has a good opportunity to contract and export sugar till about March-April 2021, by when Brazilian sugar comes into the market, ISMA said. "Considering that the world wants Indian sugar, and the fact that sugar production is lower in Thailand, EU etc, India should be able to export its targeted volumes with the support of the Rs 6,000 per tonne of export subsidy during 2020-21," ISMA said.

Sugar production up 42% in Oct-Dec at 110.22 lakh tonne: ISMA

India's sugar production increased 42 percent year-on-year during October-December period at 110.22 lakh tonne on higher cane output and an early start of mills in Maharashtra, according to trade data. Sugar marketing year runs from October to September. Indian Sugar Mills Association (ISMA) said in a statement that mills produced 110.22 lakh tonne of sugar during October-December period of 2020-21 sugar marketing year as against 77.63 lakh tonne

in the corresponding period of the previous year. In Maharashtra, sugar production stood at 39.86 lakh tonne during the period under review as against 16.50 lakh tonne in the year-ago period. Sugar output in Uttar Pradesh rose marginally at 33.66 lakh tonne from 33.16 lakh tonne. Around 10 lakh tonne of sugar export contracts are said to have been entered into by now and sugar has already started moving for exports. The government has set a target of 60 lakh

Covid impact: Coffee shipments down 12% in 2020

India's coffee exports for the calendar 2020 shrunk by close to 12 percent at 3.08 lakh tonnes (lt) over previous year on decline in demand from key markets such as Italy and Germany due to the Covid lockdown and also due to limited availability of beans for shipments. In value terms, the shipments fell by 9.46 percent at \$714 million (\$789 million in 2019), while the decline in local currency was 4.5 percent at Rs 5,298 crore (Rs 5,549 crore). However, the per unit realisation fetched by the Indian exporters was up by around 8 percent on account on improvement in prices towards the end of the year and also due to

the weakening of rupee against the dollar. Near-term outlook for the first quarter of 2021 looks hazy as exporters are concerned over the spread of second wave of Covid in Europe, the main market. As of now, the order books of exporters are down by almost a third over the previous year. Italy, Germany and Belgium were the top three markets for Indian coffee exports accounting for over a third of the shipments. According to the Coffee Board's post monsoon estimates, the 2020-21 crop starting September is seen higher at 3.42 lt (2.98 lt).



Assam govt committed to provide paddy MSP at Rs 1,868 per quintal to farmers: CM

Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal said that his government is committed to provide Minimum Support Price (MSP) of paddy at Rs 1,868 per quintal to the farmers of the state, the economy of which is predominantly dependent on agriculture. The chief minister also directed the departments of Food, Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs and Agriculture to make the procedure by which farmers sell their produce to government agencies simpler by removing bottlenecks in the system. "Economy of the state is predominantly dependent on agriculture while the growth of the state is also dependent on the socio-economic development of farmers. Therefore, the state government always remained committed to the socio-economic development of the farming community," he said.

"The state government is also committed to provide Rs 1,868 to farmers as MSP for every quintal of paddy," the chief minister said at a meeting to discuss modalities to strengthen the supply chain of paddy procurement. He also requested farmers to sell their produce to government-authorized agencies including Food Corporation of India (FCI) so that it can be ensured that they will get the MSP. Sonowal asked the FCI to increase paddy procurement centres and set up such facilities in each development block of the state. The chief minister also called for development of rural infrastructure to facilitate procurement and marketing of farmers' produce, according to an official release.



La Nina wet weather to allow sorghum seeding

La Nina driven weather patterns delivered wet weather for Queensland farmers with heavy patchy falls across the state's major cropping zones. It is a timely rain for CQ farmers where more sorghum is expected to be seeded as soon as the paddocks dry. Southern Queensland recorded beneficial storms ranging from 50mm to 100mm. Farmers welcomed the rain but would like to have seen the rain earlier. Abnormally dry weather in October and November has stressed and stunted early planted sorghum crops and dented yield expectations. La Nina has likely reached its peak in terms of sea surface temperatures, but the impacts are expected to continue through the summer, according to the Bureau of Meteorology. This should translate to a continuation wetter than average patterns seen December and January, the bureau said.

Australian grain exports kicked in November, as new crop supplies begin to flow into overseas markets, according to the latest government trade data. About 517,000 tonnes of wheat was exported from Australia in November, up from 363,000t in October. Australian barley appears to be uncovering new demand from Middle Eastern and Asian buyers. Exporters are reporting continued strong demand for Australian wheat and barley after the massive 2020 harvest and are showing confidence this pattern will continue into the middle of 2021. Australia exported 300,646 tonnes of barley and 32,641t of sorghum in November, according to the latest data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). Sorghum exports for November were down 4pc on the October total.



IPGA to host 3rd National Pulses Seminar on February 10th and 11th, 2021

India Pulses and Grains Association (IPGA), the nodal body for India's pulses trade and industry will be hosting the 3rd National Pulses Seminar on February 10 & 11, 2021 to coincide with the 5th World Pulses Day which will be celebrated on Feb. 10th. IPGA, owing to the ongoing Covid-19 global pandemic, will be conducting the entire seminar virtually and inviting domestic and international trade stakeholders of the pulses industry to participate in the 2-day seminar. Apart from the stakeholders from the trade value chain, IPGA is also inviting all Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) and Agricultural Universities in India to participate in the Seminar. IPGA has

decided to extend the registration to all participants free of cost. Mr. Jitu Bheda, Chairman – IPGA, speaking about the Seminar said, "IPGA has now become India's leading think tank and knowledge hub on the pulses and grains industry. After the success of The Pulses Conclave and The IPGA Knowledge Series, we are now preparing to host the National Pulses Seminar in 2021. The Seminar will feature eminent speakers and domain experts who will discuss in-depth and explore topics of critical interest to the pulses sector in India and the world at large."

The Seminar will have domain experts from health and nutrition, technology, trade, economics and public policy, scientific research, meteorology, industry, etc. broadly covering the following topics:

- Health benefits of pulses and their contribution to public health and nutritional security.
- Agriculture sector reforms introduced in 2020 and their impact on domestic pulses production and industry.
- Overview of the entire crop year, especially the current rabi crop.
- Weather expectations for the forthcoming kharif season in 2021-22.
- Product panels featuring pigeon peas, urad, moong, masoor, desi and kabuli chana, peas and beans.
- Technological advances, research, and new opportunities in the pulses sector.

Since the Seminar will be held virtually, IPGA expects over 1500 delegates from the entire pulses value chain from India and overseas to participate and attend. The National Pulses Seminar to celebrate the 5th World Pulses Day, will include sessions on the fundamental role of pulses in health, nutrition, and nutritional security, and explore various dimensions and avenues of enhancing the nutritional value of pulses. IPGA will be inviting noted Nutritionists, Medical Professionals, Dieticians, etc to speak about the benefits of Pulses and their contribution to nutritional security.

India's exports of basmati rice to Belgium and Netherlands soar

In the midst of the farmers' agitation, South Asians in Belgium and the Netherlands are stocking up on basmati rice from India, benefitting growers in Punjab and Haryana. India's exports of basmati rice to Belgium have increased 60% in the first eight months of the current financial year, while imports by the Netherlands have almost doubled. Rising demand for basmati rice in these European countries has resulted in a better price realisation for farmers, mainly from the basmati rice-growing areas in Punjab and Haryana. The common variety of basmati rice, 1121 Pusa, which is mostly exported, has been fetching a 15% higher price at the farmgate from November. In Europe, consumers are drawn towards aromatic basmati rice for traditional dishes such as sushi,

risotto or paella. With fears in Europe that the spread of the new strain of the coronavirus will result in another lockdown, customers are stocking up on basmati rice. India's basmati rice exports climbed 29% to 3.05 million metric tonnes in the first eight months of this financial year. India produced 7.5 million tonnes of basmati in 2019-20, of which 61% was exported, earning the country Rs 31,025 crore, according to the commerce and industry ministry.



Ghee tops the list among dairy exports worth Rs 554 crore during COVID-19

During the Covid-19 pandemic, with all its constraints, India has managed to export dairy products worth Rs 554 crore to more than 110 countries till Dec 20. A report by the Agricultural & Processed Food Exports Development Authority (APEDA), the apex body for trade promotion, found that the UAE remains the biggest market for Indian dairy products. Till Dec 20, orders worth Rs 154 crore were placed by the UAE alone. The US came next (Rs 110 crore), followed by Bhutan (Rs 78 crore), Singapore (Rs 53 crore), Saudi Arabia (Rs 39 crore) and Australia (Rs 37 crore). Last financial year, India had exported dairy products worth Rs 1,341 crore, significantly lower than the Rs 2,423 crore the year before that. Milk production from Uttar Pradesh (30 MT), Rajasthan (23 MT), Andhra Pradesh (15 MT) and Gujarat (14 MT) have largely contributed to these exports. Over four years, India's dairy exports have overall touched Rs 5,500 crore trade. The top export in that period has been ghee (Rs



1,521 crore). The UAE has imported ghee worth Rs 74 crore this year till Dec 20. "One of the reasons ghee is so popular is the presence of the Indian expat community in the Middle East," Union minister of state for animal husbandry and dairy Sanjeev Balyan said. Butter has also been a big export over the past four years (Rs 1,486 crore), followed by farm cheese (Rs 435 crore) and milk cream (Rs 230 crore). There's also been a small market for buttermilk (Rs 20 crore). Whole milk carton export has been worth just Rs 0.5 lakh. "As far as the low export and trade of packed milk food supplements and powdered milk is concerned, India has a lot of catching up to do. Other countries already have big international players which make cheaper products for the retail market," Balyan said.

Camel milk from Sarhad to reach metros in UHT packaging

Camel milk from Gujarat's Kutch region is all set to hit the retail shelves of major metros and cities across the country as Sarhad Dairy has started selling milk under

ultra-high temperature-treated (UHT) packaging besides offering camel milk powder eyeing a larger consumer base. Considered as a rich source of natural insulin-like protein that helps in managing Type-1 Diabetes, besides nutrients including iron and Vitamin C, camel milk is currently sold in Gujarat under the Amul brand. But looking at the growing traction from the urban consumers, Kutch District Cooperative Milk Producers' Union Ltd (Sarhad Dairy) — a member dairy of Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation Ltd (GCMMF) — is now getting into bigger markets with its 1-litre UHT packs as well as 25-gram powder sachets.

Sarhad Dairy's Chairman, Valamji Humbal, said, "We have increased our procurement geographies and getting more camel milk now. UHT packaging can keep camel milk good for six months, and the powder pouches can be used anywhere. So with such facilities, we can sell whatever milk we get." Camel milk with 7 percent milk solids not fat (SNF) costs Rs 100 per litre for the pasteurised variant and Rs 125 litre for the UHT pack. It is considered suitable for lactose intolerant consumers, who can't take regular animal milk. Sarhad Dairy's daily camel milk sales has increased to about 1,600 litres per day, which is much higher than about 400-500 litres per day during the Covid-19 lockdown. About 200 camel herders are associated with dairy business - earning a daily average of Rs 200 per animal. The procurement price is fixed at Rs 51 a litre with each animal giving up to 5 litres of milk every day.





Edible oils to remain expensive for next six months due to global volatility in prices

Edible oil prices in India are ruling at all-time highs, driven by high volatility in global prices. Prices are expected to start softening only in June. The edible oil industry has demanded that the tariff rate — the benchmark import price fixed by the government every 15 days — be kept frozen for a few months as a reduction in import duty did not help

ease prices. The government had reduced the import duty on palm oil by 10% in November to control the rising edible oil prices. However, it did not help, as exporting countries increased prices as well as the export duties. "We have requested the government to freeze the tariff rate for a few months so that the effective rate of import duty goes down," Solvent Extractors Association of India executive director BV Mehta said. The association has also proposed the government to subsidise the sale of edible oil through the public distribution system, as prices are expected to stay firm till April-May.

The year-on-year increase in wholesale price is 40% in mustard oil, 52% in sunflower oil, 34% in refined soyabean oil, 33% in refined rice bran oil and 37% in refined palm oil. Retail prices are a minimum 20% higher than the wholesale rates. International factors related to the supply side have been the main drivers of the bullish run in edible oils. Davish Jain, chairman of the Soyabean Processors Association of India, said: "A strike in Argentina, one of the largest suppliers of soft oils, had disturbed supplies for close to a month. China is buying USA's soyabean aggressively." During winters, demand for soyabean oil increases in North India, as it replaces palm oil that freezes in the cold weather. Mustard oil has also been making new records in prices. "We are at the fag end of mustard crushing. This year, production was less and demand had increased as people were at home and they eat oil of their choice when they eat at home. Demand for mustard also increased as it is considered to be an immunity booster," said Mehta of the Solvent Extractors Association.

Russia introduces an export duty on soybeans in the amount of 30%

Russia from February 1 to June 30, 2021 introduces an export duty on soybeans in the amount of 30%, but not less than 165 euros per ton. The corresponding government decree was signed on December 31, 2020 and posted on the official portal of legal information. As reported in a press release from the Ministry of Economic Development, "the duty is due to the rise in world prices for these products and is aimed at providing raw materials for processing industries within the country." "The decision is taken to prevent the rise in prices for soybean processing products - soybean oil and soybean meal used in the food industry," - explained in the press release. The government also instructed the Ministry of Agriculture, together with the FAS, from February 1 to June 30 to monitor the wholesale selling prices for soybeans and soybean

meal in the domestic market in order to prevent an increase in their prices. Meanwhile, according to experts of the agricultural market, the restriction of soybean exports will negatively affect the farmers of the Far East. According to preliminary data from Rosstat, soybean harvest in 2020 decreased to 4.283 million tons from 4.36 million tons in 2019.





Mustard growers in Magura expect good harvest

Farmers in Magura are expecting a bumper production of mustard due to government support and favourable weather this year. According to Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE), Magura, a total of 13,310 hectares of land have been brought under mustard cultivation in the district. It projects the mustard production at 18,634 metric tonnes for this season. As for the government support to the farmers, the DAE says it has provided a total of 9,200 mustard farmers each with 20 kg MOP, 10 kg DAP and 5 kg seeds. DAE Magura Deputy Director Shuknata Kumar Paramanik says the DAE has supported mustard farmers with seeds and fertiliser, and related training. About the weather, he says that the weather will help have a bumper production of mustard. An excellent growth of mustard in most of the districts across the country has made the growers optimistic of getting bumper production during the current season. According to sources, the land of six south-western districts under Khulna division is suitable for cultivating different crops, including mustard. Every winter season is a blessing for the local farmers. The districts are - Jessore, Jhenaidah, Chuadanga, Kushtia, Meherpur and Magura.

Gujarat: Groundnut oil export to cross 2 lakh tonnes this year

The dragon is literally guzzling groundnut oil from Gujarat. The total exports of groundnut oil to China has crossed a massive 1.10 lakh tonnes till the end of December as against the total export of 40,000 tonnes in the entire previous financial year. According to exporters, they already have confirmed orders of 70,000 tonnes for January and February and total export of the season is expected to cross 2 lakh tonnes. China's total production of groundnut is around 1.5 million tonnes, but the floods last year ravaged nearly 35% of the standing crop. To fulfil the demand gap of 50 lakh tonnes, the country is importing the oil in huge quantities, industry sources said. Meanwhile, oil mills in Rajkot are working overtime to meet the demand. Rajasthan's produce is available at Rs 4,800 per quintal while Saurashtra's groundnut costs Rs 5,300-Rs 5,400 per quintal. On an average, the millers crush 10 lakh tonnes ground and extract three lakh tonnes oil. Generally, people buy groundnut oil stock of 12 months in bulk during October to December, but the purchasing has been hit this time.



Myanmar surpasses rice export target

Myanmar has exported over 520,884 tonnes of rice and broken rice to abroad in over two months of present fiscal year (FY) 2020-2021, according to the Myanmar Rice Federation. Myanmar exported 345,597 tonnes of rice and

175,287 tonnes of broken rice, earning over US\$196.5 million as of Dec 18, the federation's figures said. During the period, 71.53 percent of rice export was done through sea route while 28.47 percent was traded via border gates. "The export volume of rice during the over-two-month period of this FY dropped by about 250,000 tonnes, compared to the corresponding period of last FY," Myint Lwin, chief executive officer of the federation, said. According to the federation's data, Myanmar surpassed its rice export target of 2.5 million tonnes of last FY 2019-2020. Myanmar rice is being exported to 65 countries via maritime and border trade routes. At present, Malaysia has offered to buy 15,000 tonnes of rice from Myanmar. Bangladesh is planning to purchase 100,000 tonnes of Myanmar rice under a government-to-government agreement.





China to increase corn acreage in 2021—minister

China will increase the area sown with corn in its main grain regions this year, the agriculture minister has said, reversing several years of declining acreage in response to a growing shortfall. The expansion is part of a comprehensive plan to ensure food security, according to Tang Renjian, the newly appointed Minister of Agriculture and Rural Affairs. Authorities will focus on expanding corn acreage in the northeast as well as areas around the Yellow, Huai and Hai rivers, Tang said. The pledge comes after China's corn prices soared to record levels after authorities nearly emptied once-mammoth temporary reserves at auctions. Importers have brought in record volumes of grain to plug the shortage.

China had been cutting down on corn acreage in the past few years to whittle down the state stockpiles and to boost output of other crops like soybeans. Farmers planted 41.264 million hectares of corn in 2020, with output of the grain at 260.67 million tonnes, according to the National Bureau of Statistics. Authorities must also make sure that the acreage of double-crop rice that expanded in southern regions in 2020 does not decline this year, while the yield must improve, Tang said. Wheat acreage in northwestern and areas around the Yellow, Huai and Hai rivers should strive to recover, according to Tang. China will stabilize soybean output and secure domestic supplies of soybeans for food use, Tang added.



Thai rice exports to stay low in 2021 on global shipping container crunch

Thailand's rice exports are headed for another gloomy year after sinking to the lowest volume in two decades in 2020, exporters said, as a global shortage of shipping containers reduce the prospects of increasing shipments. The cargo crunch is the latest woe facing the world's second-largest rice exporter. According to data from the Commerce Ministry on Dec. 2, rice exports were 5.1 million tonnes through November 2020, down 28% from the same period a year earlier, on track for the lowest year since 2000. Thailand's rice exports are down because the strong baht, which has gained 11% against the US dollar since April, has made shipments uncompetitive versus rivals Vietnam and India. Official export forecasts have not been released yet, but two Bangkok-based rice exporters said they are expecting more pain in 2021. Chookiat Ophaswongse, honorary president of the Thai Rice Exporters Association, agreed with that outlook. "This year is not looking any better. It's still just as gloomy," he said. "The container shortage problem is another obstacle to our continuous export struggle."

Globally, shipping container turnaround times have lengthened because of COVID-19-related handling capacity cuts in Europe and the United States, with freight rates sky-rocketing and fewer containers returning to Asia. This has created shortages in Asian ports of the ubiquitous boxes. Mr Chookiat said about half of Thailand's rice exports rely on containers, including the premium-grade jasmine rice that was last year's bright spot and has so far retained demand in wealthier markets such as the United States and Canada. "There's still good demand for our jasmine rice, but we can't export much of it since November because of the container shortage," he said. Thailand exported 1.29 million tonnes of jasmine rice through November 2020, up 1.57% from the same period a year earlier, the Commerce Ministry said.



Russia lowers estimate for 2020-21 wheat exports

The SovEcon agriculture consultancy said that it had lowered its estimate for Russia's 2020-21 wheat exports from 40.8 million tonnes to 36.3 million due to an upcoming wheat export tax. Russia is attempting to stabilize food prices with a grain export quota and wheat export tax that will be in effect from Feb. 15 to June 30. SovEcon said that some farmers are expected to delay their wheat sales until July 2021 when the export tax is no longer in place. "A significant number of farmers may decide to postpone sales until the 2021-22 season starts, hoping for a rapid strengthening of prices after the tax is lifted," SovEcon said. Russia, one of the world's leading wheat exporters in recent years, is also facing the prospect of a smaller-than-average crop due to weather concerns. Conditions have been dry since most of the crop was planted this fall. SovEcon said that the share of grain sowings in poor condition was at a seven-year high as of early December. In the 2019-20 marketing season, Russia was the world's second-ranked wheat exporter, shipping 34.4 million tonnes to foreign markets. The total would have been higher, but Russia announced on April 26 that it was halting exports for the remainder of the marketing year, which ended June 30, to protect domestic supply and contain prices amid upheaval from the COVID-19 pandemic and a plunge in oil prices.

Higher acreage, better yield to lift potato production in Bengal, UP

Potato production across the key growing States of Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and West Bengal is likely to be higher this year on the back of an increase in the area under cultivation and a better yield. According to Arvind Agarwal, President of UP Cold Storage Association, while there has been a clear increase in the acreage under the tuber this year, it is difficult to estimate the rise in production right now as harvesting is yet to gather pace in many of the growing regions. Both UP

Argentina lifts corn export ban and adopts 30,000 tonne sales cap instead

Argentina has lifted a suspension on corn exports announced in December and will opt instead for a temporary 30,000 tonne daily cap on sales abroad. The world's No. 3 supplier of corn announced on 30 December a two-month halt in corn exports in a bid to control domestic food prices amid a long recession and the COVID-19 pandemic. The agriculture ministry said in a statement that it had struck agreements to guarantee the domestic supply of corn and cushion local prices against fluctuations in international markets, allowing it to end the full ban. The cattle and poultry industry in Argentina uses corn to fatten chickens and cows. The government had initially hoped that by keeping more corn in the country, the cost of feeding livestock would fall, increasing domestic food supplies. But farmers railed against the suspension and launched a strike, saying the full ban put downward pressure on production and forced them to temper investments. Argentina's soy, corn, wheat and sunflower seed associations said such intervention in export markets eroded confidence and would lead to an immediate withdrawal of investments.



and West Bengal had witnessed a drop in potato production primarily due to delayed sowing and unfavourable weather conditions during harvesting. West Bengal, which produces 110-115 lakh tonnes (lt) of the tuber each year, produced around 90 lt last year. This is even lower than 2019's 92 lt. The lower production and the steady demand for the tuber had pushed up prices, which remained firm almost throughout the year.



UK wheat output in 2020 projected to drop by 40%

The United Kingdom's 2020 wheat harvest is projected to drop by 40% compared to the 2019 crop, according to Britain's farming and environment ministry, which gave its final estimate for the year on Dec. 22. The sharp reduction in output, to around 10 million tonnes, is due to a wet fall in 2019 that forced farmers to spring-plant crops such as barley, as well as a dry spring that led to lower yields, the ministry said. Because of the poor domestic crop, the UK has been forced to nearly double its wheat imports for 2020. The ministry also cut its 2020 estimates for barley and rapeseed. The ministry projects barley output at 8.36 million tonnes, down from its October estimate of 8.36 million but almost 1% higher than the 2019 crop. The ministry reduced its estimate for the UK rapeseed crop from 1.07 million tonnes in October to 1.04 million tonnes, a 40% decrease year-on-year.



Philippines logs highest rice production rate at 19.44M metric tons



The Philippines has recorded its highest rice production level at 19.44 million metric tons (MT) this year, Agriculture Secretary William Dar said. This figure is higher than the 18.81 million MT produced in 2019 and the 19.07 million MT recorded in 2018, based on data from the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA). Dar said this lowers the country's rice production deficit. He said that the country achieved a high production rate despite the series of typhoons that hit several areas and the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) pandemic. He added that every year, the government increases its targets to be able to cut on the rice importation needs of the whole country. The biggest contributor to local rice production is Central Luzon, followed by Cagayan Valley and Ilocos Region, Dar said. In the Visayas, Iloilo is the top producer of rice while the regions of Northern Mindanao and Soccsargen are the biggest contributors to the country's rice production in Mindanao.

Manipur takes to fish-cum-paddy farming in hills districts like the Apatanis of Arunachal Pradesh

Farmers of the Apatani community in Arunachal Pradesh have been traditionally doing this for a long time. Now, farmers in Manipur seem to be following their footsteps by taking to fish-cum-paddy cultivation together. Manipur has started a project to develop at least 450 hectares of paddy fields in five hilly districts to make them ready for fish farming and paddy cultivation together with a target to make the state self-sufficient in fish production. Manipur Fisheries Minister S Rajen said that the objective behind the paddy-cum-pisciculture project was to double the farmers' income from the same field through fish rearing. "Efforts are on for the development of the paddy fields by raising peripheral rings and constructing feeding channel across the paddy field with small marketing ponds for paddy-cum-

pisciculture. It is also to encourage and inculcate the interest of farmers to fish culture," said a statement quoting the minister. The paddy-cum-pisciculture scheme has been taken up under the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana—Remunerative Approaches for Agriculture and Allied Sector Rejuvenation (RKVY-RAFTAAR) for the year 2019-2020. Manipur requires 52,000 MT of fish every year. However, the state could produce only 27,000 MT. So the state imports fish worth Rs 400 crore from other states every year.



Tap export opportunities in value-added coriander products: Spices Board Chief

To capitalise on India's prowess in the coriander cultivation, Spices Board now looks at tapping opportunities in export of whole coriander and other value-added processed products from the seed-spice. At a recently-held webinar on "Accelerating Quality Production, Post-Harvesting, Value Addition & Export of Coriander from India", Spices Board Chairman-cum-Secretary D Sathiyam asked entrepreneurs and exporters to harness the opportunity in export of whole coriander and other processed products such as coriander split (daal), powder and essential oil. Exploring value-added products such as Indian curry powder and mouth-freshener imbued by coriander is the way forward to increase coriander usage both in domestic and export markets. Spices Board and DBT-SABC Biotech KISAN hub — in partnership with key stakeholders including ICAR-NRCS, RSAMB & Kota Agri University — prepared a roadmap to boost export of coriander and minimise the imports. The Hadoti region of South-East Rajasthan and Guna district of Madhya Pradesh are endowed with coriander crop. Hadoti is also considered as epicentre of production of coriander seed.



TNAU launches high-yielding sunflower variety

Tamil Nadu Agricultural University has come up with its latest hybrid variety of sunflower. The hybrid variety of seeds were released in 2019. They can be grown in rainfed areas and are moderately disease resistant.

TNAU scientists said demand for sunflower oil is high due to its nutritional benefits. Currently, India imports most of its sunflower oil from Ukraine, Russia and Argentina. The latest variety of sunflower COH3 has 42% oil content, and can provide a yield of 716 kg per hectare. "The 90-day duration of this variety requires some irrigation, but it can grow in rainfed areas like Namakkal, Erode, Karur, Virudhunagar and Coimbatore," said Vishwanathan, a scientist at TNAU. "The yield is almost 200 kg to 250 kg higher than traditional varieties," he said. It can be grown during the Kharif and Rabi season after the monsoon begins, even if the rainfall is below par. Farmers can expect returns of Rs 30 to Rs 50 per kg of oilseed depending on the market. This is in the seed stage. This variety is also moderately resistant to crop

diseases such as necrosis, powdery mildew and alternaria and tolerant to insects like sucking pests and leaf feeders.



Argentina's soybean production slips

Dry weather conditions are expected to impact Argentina's soybean production during the 2020-21 marketing year, according to a Global Agricultural Information Network (GAIN) report from the US Department of Agriculture (USDA). The USDA maintains its 17.5 million hectares of soybean planted for the 2020-21 marketing year, but a dip of one million tonnes of soybeans to 50 million tonnes. The USDA reduced Argentina's soybean outlook based on dry weather conditions on some early planted soybeans and farmers delayed planting while waiting on rains. Later planted soybeans are anticipated to have slightly lower yields than earlier planted fields. Argentina's soybean exports also are forecasted to fall one million tonnes to seven million tonnes for the 2020-21 marketing year. Despite the export decrease, the USDA noted the volume is 4.4% higher than revised projected 2019-20 levels. The USDA also reduced Argentina's crush to 41 million tonnes, a 1.5 million tonne decrease. It is a 10.2% increase from the revised projected 2019-20 levels as crushers benefit from new export taxes and resume normal operations following COVID-19 and port worker strikes.



Turkey extends zero-tariffs on wheat imports to April

Turkey has extended the suspension of 20 percent tariffs on wheat, barley and corn imports until April 30, 2021, according to a presidential decree. Wheat took on greater strategic importance amid the coronavirus pandemic when countries focused on domestic consumption rather than foreign trade, and countries' wheat stocks rose significantly. Global wheat production totals some 770 million tons annually, of which 20 million tons is overproduction, according to the International Association of Operative Millers (IAOM) Eurasia. Turkey is the largest flour exporter in the world and the second-largest pasta exporter. Turkish flour exporters meet 85 percent of the wheat



demand from Russia. The Turkish flour industry capacity utilization rate is around 50 percent, while the total capacity is 32 million tons annually. Turkey's durum wheat - for pasta production - surpasses world standards while its prices are below global prices. The durum wheat cultivation area in Turkey has been growing every year. Bread wheat, however, faces problems, and production has been falling, according to the Turkish Flour Industrialists' Federation. Turkey's wheat cultivation areas dropped to 6.7 million hectares from 7.3 million from two years ago. In 2019, Turkey imported 8.8 million tons of wheat, of which 80-85 percent were used for exports to generate over \$600 million.

Cambodia's milled rice export to China up 16.6 pct last year

Cambodia exported 289,439 tons of milled rice to China in 2020, up 16.6 percent from 248,105 tons in the year before, Agriculture Minister Veng Sakhon said. China is the top buyer of Cambodia's milled rice, followed by the European Union (EU), he said, adding that the export to China accounted for 41.9 percent of Cambodia's total rice export last year. Cambodia exported 203,791 tons of milled rice to the European market last year, up 0.4 percent year-on-year, the minister said, adding that the European market accounted for 29.5 percent of the total rice export. According to Sakhon, in 2020, Cambodia exported a total of 690,829 tons of milled rice to 60 countries and regions, an increase of 11.4 percent from a year earlier. The minister said the Southeast Asian nation earned 539 million U.S. dollars in gross revenue from the milled rice export last year. Cambodia produced close to 11 million tons of paddy rice last year, he said, adding that with this amount, the kingdom saw a paddy rice surplus of 5.9 million tons in equivalent to 3.7 million tons of milled rice.



Andhra Pradesh accounts for 11.8 % of India's fruits, vegetables

Andhra Pradesh produced 257.75 lakh MT of fruits and vegetables in 2019-20, making it one of the largest producers in India. The state supplied 180.04 lakh MT of fruits (banana 62.97 lakh MT, mango 50.76 lakh MT, orange 22.41 lakh MT, papaya 18.08 lakh MT, lemon 6.57 lakh MT, muskmelon 4.05 lakh MT, watermelon 3.74 lakh MT and guava 3.3 lakh MT) and 77.71 lakh MT of vegetables (tomato 26.67 lakh MT, onion 9.8 lakh MT, green chilli 6.32 lakh MT, cucumber 8.69 lakh MT, brinjal 4.32 lakh MT and bhendi 3.32 lakh MT). These figures account for 11.8 percent of the country's total production value. The Andhra Pradesh state government is planning to give a big boost to the horticulture crops in 2021 as the state is one of the leading producers of banana, mango, papaya, musk melon, water melon, sweet lemon, guava and a wide variety of vegetables like tomato, ladyfinger, onions, green chillies, brinjal.



First rice, now wheat: India rides on global grain trade bandwagon

After rice, India is set to turn a major exporter of wheat as well – thanks to surging international prices from Chinese stockpiling and ultra-low interest rate money increasingly finding its way into agri-commodity markets. The US Department of Agriculture (USDA) upped its forecast of Indian wheat exports for 2020-21 (July-June) to 1.8 million tonnes (mt), as against its earlier estimate of one mt. That would be the highest ever in the last six years. The trebling of shipments this year is mainly on the back of rising global prices. With the Russia government levying a 25 euros-per-tonne export tax on wheat effective from February 15 – in response to high domestic prices – Bangladesh “is beginning to shift its purchases towards India”, the USDA has noted in its latest world grain trade report. Bangladesh’s total wheat imports are placed at 6.6 mt in 2020-21.

Traders, however, believe that Indian wheat is still not competitive at the government’s minimum support price (MSP) of Rs 19,750 per tonne. The export price of wheat bought in Gujarat at that rate – after adding roughly Rs 1,200 towards cost of cleaning, bagging, loading and transport to Kandla or Mundra port – would be Rs 20,950 per tonne. That works out to \$286 per tonne or \$290-plus, after adding exporter margins. The above price is higher than the \$275-280 that major exporters such as Australia, France, US, Russia and Canada are quoting for March-April shipments. Indian grain, moreover, fetches a \$10-15/tonne discount relative to Australian premium white and Russian wheat having more protein content (12.5% versus 11.5%) and less foreign matter/impurities.

That disadvantage can, of course, be overcome if wheat is sourced at below MSP from Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat and Maharashtra, where not much government procurement

happens. The new crop arriving in these markets from March onwards would be available at Rs 17,000-18,000/tonne. This wheat can be exported by rail rakes to Bangladesh or shipped to the Middle East (UAE, Oman and Bahrain) and Southeast Asia (Indonesia, Vietnam and Malaysia). The USDA report, meanwhile, has also estimated India’s rice imports to have hit a record 14.4 mt in 2020, up from 9.79 mt and 11.791 mt of the preceding two years. The country’s closest competitors – Thailand and Vietnam – have seen their exports during this period fall from 11.056 mt to 7.562 mt and 5.5 mt and from 6.59 mt to 6.581 mt and 6.1 mt, respectively. Both have had drought-reduced crops, with Vietnam recently even contracting 70,000 tonnes of Indian rice for the first time, following China in December.

USDA has projected India’s rice imports in 2021 at 14 mt. Bangladesh, which imported just 80,000 tonnes in 2020, is expected to buy one mt this year. The beneficiary of it will again be India. “Despite concerns about the availability of shipping containers, which is impacting rice exports from Vietnam and Thailand, India can export to Bangladesh via rail and truck,” the report added. All this export demand isn’t bad at a time when India’s own domestic production of rice and wheat touched an all-time-high of 118.43 mt and 107.59 mt, respectively, in 2019-20. Government agencies also procured a record 52 mt of rice and 38.99 mt of wheat. This year, too, similar bumper crops are likely. The key driver of global price turnaround seems to be China. USDA data has forecast record Chinese imports of oilseeds (mainly soyabean) and coarse grain (maize and sorghum) in 2020-21 (October-September), apart from end-year stocks of rice and wheat. The reasons for its building strategic stockpiles of everything aren’t as fully clear as their effect on international prices.

NNS

Media Group Since 1950

nns Application NOW in Improved Version



**When to Buy
When to Sell**

**What to Buy
What to Sell**

Stay Informed-Make Profit

**Get Experts Opinion
Every Day
on**

SPICES

PULSES

FOOD GRAINS

DRY FRUITS

OILS

OILSEEDS

**Buy/Sell/
Hold**

**News
Updates**

**Daily
Trend**

**Arrivals
in
Mandies**

**Import
Export**

**Commodity
X-ray**

**Trading
Prices**

TO DOWNLOAD nns COMMODITY APP

Visit

ANDROID APP ON
Google Play

Call: 9899632000 – 8447732401

email us at : info@nnscommoditynews.com

3rd GLOBAL BUSINESS ICON AWARDS

Sat. 6th March, 2021
Hotel Le Meridien, New Delhi



After the grand success of the first two editions of the 'Global Business Icon Awards', the 3rd edition of the most prestigious business excellence awards will be held on Saturday 6th March, 2021 at Hotel Le Meridien, New Delhi.

'Global Business Icon Awards' are instituted to highlight and recognize the outstanding performance and results achieved by the leading businessmen across the sectors. 'Global Business Icon Awards' reward those who have worked tirelessly to reach where they are today.

Global Business Icon Awards 2021

will be presented in the following and some other special categories :

Brand of the Year	Business Woman of the Year	Businessman of the Year	Young Entrepreneur
Industry	Export	Import	Trade
Packaging	Technology	Logistics	Lifetime Achievement Award

Instituted By
NNS
Media Group Since 1950

Media Partner
मेरी दिल्ली
हिन्दी धर्मिक

Nominations Invited

Send your nominations at

NNS Online Pvt. Ltd.

Meri Delhi House, 25/10, East Punjabi Bagh, New Delhi-110026

Mob: 8447733909, 9899632000

E-mail: nnonline@nnonline.com • Web: www.nnsmediagroup.com

Media Partner

व्यापार केसरी
दैनिक

BUSINESS STAR
Export-Import English Monthly

WINNERS OF 'GLOBAL BUSINESS ICON AWARDS 2019'

