

Weekly Report (12th-18th November)

✚ India's 17-18 cotton production to be up by 11% at 375 lakh bales: CAI



The CAI has estimated cotton crop for the 2017-18 season at 375.00 lakh bales of 170 kgs. each which is higher by 37.75 lakh bales compared to the previous year's crop of 337.25 lakh bales.

The Cotton Association of India (CAI) has released its first estimate of the cotton crop for the 2017-18 season beginning from 1st October 2017.

The increase in crop estimated for the 2017-18 crop year is on account of the higher acreage

under cotton than compared to the previous crocropyear. The acreage under cotton during 2017-18 is estimated to be more by about 19% than that of the previous season.

However, the CAI estimates the yields to be lower by about 9% this year owing to the damage caused by pink boll worms. The projected Balance Sheet drawn by the CAI estimates the total cotton supply for the cotton season 2017-18 at 422.00 lakh bales including the opening stock of 30 lakh bales at the beginning of the year and the imports which are estimated to be 17 lakh bales...

Source://economictimes.indiatimes.com/articleshow/61662680.cms?utm_source=contentofinterest&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=cppst

✚ Rabi acreage up 5% but wheat sowing dips

There is a drastic 20 per cent drop in wheat sowing in the current rabi season so far, as compared to the corresponding week last year, data released by Agriculture Ministry Against 75.07 lakh hectares (lh) last year this time, sowing this year so far was at 60.19 lh. Overall area under cultivation went up nearly 5 per cent to 230.36 lh (219.47 lh). Much of this increase has come from sowing of pulses which has gone up 34 per cent to 81.24 lh. Similarly, area under rabi rice too increased 31 per cent to 8.57 lh.



On the other side, there is a 3 per cent drop in area under oilseeds cultivation with the acreage coming down to 49.78 lh 51.30 lh).

Coarse cereals, too, registered a 17 per cent jump in acreage with the area so far covered going up to 30.59 lh as compared to 26.11 lh during the same period in the previous season.

Source:<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/agri-business/rabi-acreage-up-5-but-wheat-sowing-dips/article9965511.ece>

✚ Govt allows export of all pulses

In a move that will get farmers better remuneration for their produce, the Centre has decided to remove the prohibition on export of all types of pulses. While allowing exports, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) on Thursday also empowered the Committee of Secretaries (CoS) on pulses to review the export/import policy on the food crop and consider measures such as quantitative restrictions, prior registration and changes in import duties depending on domestic production and demand, domestic and international prices as well as international trade volumes.



In September, the Centre had lifted the ban on export of *tur*, *urad* and *moong dal*. The export restrictions, stocking limits for private traders and not allowing futures trade in a year that had a bumper crop had created a havoc on the pulses front, agricultural economist Ashok Gulati told *BusinessLine*.

“Opening of export of all types of pulses will help the farmer to dispose off their products at remunerative prices and also encourage them to expand the area of sowing. Export of pulses would provide an alternative market for the surplus production. Allowing export of pulses will also help the country and exporters regain their markets,” an official release said.

Source: <http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/policy/govt-allows-export-of-all-pulses/article9964051.ece>

Government to use pulses from buffer stock for welfare schemes

Saddled with a buffer-stock of 20 lakh tonnes of pulses, the government has decided to use a part of it to meet nutritional requirements under various welfare programmes such as the mid-day meal scheme in schools.

The decision to this effect was taken at the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi here. It asked the ministries and departments concerned to amend the schemes and assess their requirements for pulses over the next three months.

The supply of pulses from the Central buffer maintained by the Department of Consumers Affairs would commence based on the requirement indicated by these ministries and departments, it said in a release.

“The objective of the approval is to enable the administrative ministries/departments to ensure that pulses from the buffer are utilized as the ‘in kind’ component of the Centre’s contribution in such schemes, in lieu of its financial contribution of equivalent amount,” it said.

The government, which resorted to large-scale imports due to the shortfall in the production of pulses in 2015 leading to a price hike, has not been able to clear the buffer-stock as there was a bumper production in the subsequent season. Since then, it has been cajoling various State governments to buy pulses from the buffer- stock.

Source: <http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/govt-to-use-pulses-from-buffer-stock-for-welfare-schemes/article9954846.ece>

Released subsidy to GSFC for benefit of farmers: Centre



The government released subsidy on ammonium sulphate to Gujarat State Fertilizer Corporation (GSFCBSE 0.81 %) in view of farmers interest as this nutrient is being produced only by two firms in India.

The government had stopped subsidy payment to GSFC in March 2013 as it found the company did not pass on the benefits to farmers for a certain period, which was challenged by the company immediately in the Delhi High Court.

The Chemicals and Fertilizers Ministry today issued a statement clarifying on reports alleging inconsistency in its decision to resume subsidy to GSFC.

The main Opposition Congress also on Friday attacked the Centre over resumption of subsidy to farmers in poll-bound Gujarat through GSFC, terming it an "election lollipop".

The Centre provides around Rs 70,000 crore annually as fertilizer subsidy to the manufacturers for selling nutrients at cheaper rates to farmer ..

In an official statement, the ministry said the subsidy to GSFC on ammonium sulphate (AS) was stopped by an order on March 18, 2013 on the grounds that the company had not passed on the benefits to the farmers.

Source://economictimes.indiatimes.com/articleshow/61609379.cms?utm_source=contentofinterest&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=cppst

Modi donates 2 rice varieties to IRRI gene bank

Prime Minister Narendra Modi this week contributed two Indian rice seed varieties to the gene bank of the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) in the Philippines.

The Prime Minister visited the IRRI in Los Banos, 65 km from capital Manila, and interacted with a large number of Indian scientists working at the institute.

Several scientists briefed the Prime Minister on flood-tolerant rice varieties which, they said, can withstand 14-18 days of submergence and can provide 1-3 tonnes more yield per hectare in flood-affected areas.

He also inaugurated a 'rice field laboratory' named after him at the institute. "A contribution from India to IRRI... presented two Indian rice seed varieties to the IRRI gene bank," the PM tweeted.

Modi also participated in a symbolic ground-breaking of a new plot for submergence-tolerant rice varieties. He said he saw an exhibition on rice varieties and the impressive work done by IRRI with women farming co-operatives.

India is also setting up a regional centre of the IRRI in Varanasi, the Prime Minister's constituency, to develop high-yielding rice varieties.

Source: <http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/agri-business/modi-donates-2-rice-varieties-to-irri-gene-bank/article9957258.ece>



✚ Government to dispose of 5 lakh tons of pulses buffer stock by March



The Centre, which is sitting on a buffer stock of 18 lakh tonnes of pulses, is aiming to dispose of up to 5 lakh tonnes of lentils by March 2018, a senior food ministry official said..

Last week, the cabinet committee on economic affairs (CCEA) gave approval for distributing a part of the pulses buffer stock to central schemes like Midday Meal and other state-run agencies besides state governments.

"The recent CCEA approval will help clear at least 3.5 to 5 lakh to 5 lakh tonnes of pulses from the buffer stock by end of this fiscal," the official told.

Already, pulses are being given to some state governments at a subsidised rate for distribution through the ration shops.

The concerned ministries, implementing various schemes, have been asked to provide their pulses requirement.

It is estimated that Midday Meal scheme alone would require about 5 lakh tonnes of pulses annually and about 3 lakh tonnes for Anganwadis, the official said.

Source:[//economictimes.indiatimes.com/articleshow/61630340.cms?utm_source=contentofinterest&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=cppst](http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/articleshow/61630340.cms?utm_source=contentofinterest&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=cppst)

✚ Chief Minister Raman Singh Okays Rs 35.13 CR under PM CROP INSURANCE SCHEME

Chief Minister Raman Singh has approved issuance of Rs 35.13 crore to farmers under Prime Minister Crop Insurance Scheme, officials informed.

During 2017-18 as many as 12.94 lakh farmers were brought under the ambit of PM Crop Insurance Scheme.

The Chhattisgarh Government has started implementing the Prime Minister Crop Insurance Scheme for Kharif season 2017 in May this year.

Department of Agriculture and Biotechnology has issued notification in this regard, officials informed.

As per notification, paddy (irrigated) and paddy (non-irrigated) have been notified. Other crops which have been brought under its purview include maize, soyabean, peanuts, Arhar(Tuar), Moong and Urad.

Village panchayat has been made unit. All kinds of farmers whether they are loanee or non-loanee or landlord or even “bataidars” (those who take agriculture land on lease) can avail the said scheme.

Those farmers who are cultivating notified crops and their loan sanctioned from any financial institution from April 2017 to July 2017 for Kharif season will remain under the Insurance cover.

But if farmers have got their loans sanctioned from two different financial institutes for notified crops, they will get insurance cover of only one of the two financial institutes. Non-loanee farmers who have cultivated notified crops, can avail insurance cover by producing necessary documents.

It has also been clarified in the notification that benefit of insurance cover will be given the same way it was approved in 2016.

🚩 Onion export jumps 56% in Apr-July, but India now importing

India's onion export rose by 56 per cent to 12.29 lakh tonnes in April-July this year, but the country has now gone in for import of the kitchen staple as retail prices have shot up to Rs 65-70 per kg because of tight supplies.

In value terms too, the onion export increased by 47.69 per cent to Rs 1,443.09 crore in the period under review, from Rs 977.84 crore a year ago, it said.

Last week, the government allowed state-owned agencies like [MMTC](#) [BSE 0.06 %](#) to import onion from countries like Egypt and China to increase availability and cool retail prices that have skyrocketed to Rs 65-70 a kg level in many parts of the country.



According to data maintained by the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCIS), the country has exported 12.29 lakh tonnes of onion during April-July of 2017-18, up 56 per cent from 7.88 lakh tonnes in the year-ago period.

"Exports increased during April-July because of two reasons: firstly, there was no minimum export price (MEP) and second, the global prices remained much higher," the state-owned National Horticultural Research and Development Foundation (NHRDF) acting Director P K Gupta told PTI.

The exports helped farmers get better rates for their produce during the first quarter of the fiscal when local prices had fallen sharply. However, with old stocks getting depleted and rise in local prices, the exports have slowed, he said.

Source://economictimes.indiatimes.com/articleshow/61613724.cms?utm_source=contentofinterest&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=cppst

✚ Onion, tomato price spike: season not the only reason



The retail prices of onions and tomatoes have firmly stayed above ₹40-50 a kg in many parts of the country over the past few weeks, with tomatoes retailing above ₹60 a kg in many markets. **Onion prices, too, have risen above ₹50 a kg or more in some parts of the country. Price volatility of the two staples is not unusual, but a sharp October-November increase is unusual.**

Tomato prices have stayed high for longer than usual. The retail price surge started around July and is in its sixth month, the longest tomato prices have stayed elevated since 2013. The all-India average climbed to about ₹60 a kg in July-August, softened to about ₹40 a kg in September and has once again climbed to about ₹50 a kg, Consumer Affairs ministry data show. Onion prices began to rise in August with the all-India average climbing above ₹26 a kg and surging to ₹50 a kg in many parts of the country. The rise in onion prices does not appear to be linked to supply disruptions. Arrivals at wholesale markets have stayed steady through the year and there was no dip even in the traditional lean months of June to August.

Good supply: Rather, larger stocks arrived in the wholesale markets than they had in the corresponding period of 2016. October arrivals were, however, 17 per cent lower than the corresponding period last year, according to National Horticulture Board data. But supply was much higher in September 2017. Therefore, the current surge cannot be attributed to shortfalls in arrivals.

Source: <http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/agri-business/onion-tomato-price-spike-season-not-the-only-reason/article9957255.ece>

✚ Rice price may surge as Chhattisgarh govt announces bonus on paddy



The bonus on paddy crops announced by the Chhattisgarh government would result in the marginal hike of **rice** price in the state.

The state government had announced a bonus of Rs 300 per quintal on paddy that it would be procuring at minimum support price (MSP) from the **farmers**. The **farmers** would get the bonus for two years. Starting from the produce sold in the

last kharif marketing season 2016-17.

The decision would help the **farmers** in Chhattisgarh to earn Rs 1,850 per quintal for common grade and Rs 1,890 for 'A' grade variety of paddy given the procurement at the **MSP** fixed by the union government at Rs 1,550 for common grade variety and Rs 1,590 for 'A' grade variety.

Source: http://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/rice-price-may-surge-as-chhattisgarh-govt-announces-bonus-on-paddy-117111300860_1.html

✚ Cash Crunch: Measuring the impact of notebandi on domestic agricultural markets

Demonetisation led to the value of farm produce traded in mandis across India collapse by nearly 15 per cent within a week of the decision, with these losses averaging 7 per cent even at the end of 90 days, according to a just-published **Indira Gandhi** Institute of Development Research (IGIDR) working paper.



The study, which crunches data on arrivals and prices from 2,953 mandis or regulated markets for 35 major agricultural commodities, estimates the extent of trade displacement to be even higher for perishable produce, at 20-22 per cent, during the first two months.

The daily loss of value of trade in their case — in relation to what it might have been in the absence of demonetisation — remained at over 18 per cent even 90 days after the **Narendra Modi** government's November 8, 2016 announcement invalidating all existing Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 denomination currency notes, say Sudha Narayanan and Nidhi Aggarwal, researchers at the IGIDR, Mumbai and the Indian Institute of Management, Udaipur, respectively.

Source: <http://indianexpress.com/article/india/demonetisation-effect-on-farmers-farm-produce-note-ban-narendra-modi-minimum-support-prices-indian-agriculture-sector-4939224/>

✚ Centre urged to direct CCI to purchase poor quality cotton

BJP wants MSP to be paid to farmers; seeks turmeric board in Armoor

The Bharatiya Janata Party State unit has requested the Central Government to take steps to purchase poor quality seed cotton from farmers through the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI).

The BJP expressed concern over the heavy losses suffered by farmers due to prolonged dry spell and subsequent untimely rains in October. Cotton crop was damaged on more than 85,000 hectares in 21 districts, affecting more than 92,000 farmers. The total sown area in the State this year was 19.07 lakh hectares as against the normal sowing area of 16.76 lakh hectares, and 60% of the total sown area is rain-fed. BJP State president K. Laxman submitted a memorandum in this regard to Union Agriculture Minister Radha Mohan Singh who was in the city on Sunday. The State BJP president accompanied by senior leaders G. Kishan Reddy and others briefed the Union Minister on the plight of cotton farmers at the party's State headquarters this evening. Read More: <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/telangana/centre-urged-to-direct-cci-to-purchase-poor-quality-cotton/article20377669.ece>

Crop survey app to help farmers register details

Now farmers in Karnataka can enter the details of the crops they grow in their RTCs (record of rights, tenancy and crops) with a few clicks on an android app on crop survey. Addressing an awareness programme on the Karnataka government's 'farmers' crop survey app', Sasikanth Senthil, Deputy Commissioner of Dakshina Kannada district, said this would lead to the empowerment of farmers.

Salient features

He said the authentic information provided by farmers would help them while applying for loans, claiming insurance and while getting compensation for crop loss. Various government programmes are likely to be linked to this app in future.

Stating that the app is linked to the Bhoomi (which is an online delivery and management of land records project in Karnataka), he said the information uploaded by the farmers will be reflected in their RTCs.

This app helps farmers to enter the type of crops – single or mixed – with the extent of the land along with the pictures taken on the mobile phone. The app provides the map of the land of the farmer's survey number basis.

When told that some rural areas lack telecommunication connectivity, he said internet connection to the app is required only at the time of downloading the app and while uploading the crop information.

Kumar, Additional Deputy Commissioner of Dakshina Kannada, explained the salient features of the app to farmers on the occasion.

