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Government of India buys 2300 tons of onion so far to build buffer

The Union Government of India so far has procured 2300 tons of onion directly from farmers this year to build buffer stock which would be utilized for market intervention in the event of price rise during a lean season. The buffer stock of onion is being created by using Price Stabilization Fund (PSF) of Rs. 900 crore. The objective of this fund is to control price volatility, thereby protecting interest of farmers as well as consumers. The fund is being used for creating buffer stock of pulses and potato also.

Government is aiming to buy total 15000 tons of onion this year. The arrival of rabi (winter) crop of onion has began and cooperative firm National Cooperative Marketing Federation (NAFED) will buy in total 10000 tonnes, while the Small Farmers Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC) will procure 5,000 tonnes. So far, nodal agencies NAFED and SFAC have procured 1500 tonnes and 800 tonnes, respectively. The storage quality onion has been purchased directly from farmers in the price range of Rs 8.51 per kg. The stock would be kept at Lasalgoan (Nashik, Maharashtra). It is estimated that onion production will be increased to 20.33 million tonnes in 2015-16 from 18.92



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million tonnes in the previous year, as per the data of Ministry of Agriculture.

With onion prices ruling lower at Rs 2-3/kg in Maharashtra, these two agencies are buying onion in the State to ensure support price to onion growers. Besides Maharashtra, onion will also be procured from other growing states like Rajasthan and Madhya

Pradesh. Last year, the government has procured 8,000 tonnes of onion but only after retail prices went through the roof. At present, retail price of onion is ruling at Rs 20 per kg in the national capital. Normally, prices flare up during August-September period.

Higher Mango output may keep prices under control in this year

India occupies top position among mango growing countries of the world and produces about 41% of the total world mango production. It is estimated that prices of mango are unlikely to soar this year as production is expected to be 2.1 per cent higher at 18.91 lakh tonnes in the 2015-16 crop year ending June, as compared to 18.52 lakh tones in last year. Except for Telangana state, which has reported decrease in mango production due to unseasonal rains and hot weather, the output in other states is likely to be either normal or better than previous year. Andhra Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh together account for about half of the total mango production in

India. Of over 1300 varieties of mangoes grown across the world, India alone cultivates over 1000 varieties of the fruit. The UAE is the top export destination for India's mangoes accounting for over 50 per cent share followed by UK and Saudi Arabia.



Government Wheat procurement increased nearly three times



It is reported that wheat procurement by government agencies in our Country has increased nearly three -fold to 14.58 million tonnes so far in the 2016-17 marketing year (starting April month), which was 5.0 million tonnes in the year ago. Food Corporation of India (FCI) and state agencies undertake wheat procurement at the support price. The government has kept a wheat procurement target of 30.5 MT for the current year, as against actual procurement of 28.08 MT in the last year. Under National Food Security Act (NFSA), wheat requirement is around 27 MT for Public Distribution System and other welfare schemes. So far, 33 states have rolled out NFSA.

Although wheat marketing year runs from April-March, the bulk of procurement is done in the first three months. As per the second advance estimate of the Ministry of Agriculture, wheat production is expected to be higher at 93.82 million tonnes in 2015-16 crop year (July-June), as against 86.53 million tonnes in the last year. As on April 1, FCI had foodgrains stock of 36.69 MT as against the actual requirement of 21.04 MT.

Need of Rapid Test for Detection of a2 type Cow Milk at the Farm Level



Milk is an indispensable food for human being from infancy to old age. There are innumerable health benefits accredited to milk and milk products. All over the world, people fulfill approximately 13% of their protein requirements from milk and milk products. Since ancient times milk has been designated as an elixir for a good health. In the recent years, a1 and a2 type milk has emerged as one of the hot debating topic among the consumers worldwide. Studies suggest that milk from cows with a2 type is healthier than their a1 counterparts. Milk from desi (indigenous) cows naturally contains a2 type milk protein. The indigenous breeds of cows produce

a2 type milk protein which is known to protect us from various chronic health problems such as Cardio Vascular Diseases, Diabetes and neurological disorders besides providing several other health benefits.

Union Minister of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare mentioned that there is a need of hour to have separate procurement, processing and marketing of desi cow milk. Also, such milk must fetch premium price. This would not only help in improving rural economy but would also lead to development and conservation of our native cattle breeds. There is need to develop rapid test for detection of a2 type desi cow milk at the farm level.

India's foodgrain production increases by 0.21 million tonnes in 2015-16 over previous year

Crop	2014-15 (mt)	2015-16 (mt)	% increase/ Decrease
Rice/ Paddy	105.48	103.36	-2.01
Wheat	86.53	94.04	+8.68
Coarse Cereals	42.86	37.78	-11.85
Total Pulses	17.15	17.06	-0.52
Foodgrains	252.02	252.23	+0.08
Total Oilseeds	24.3	25.9	+6.58
Sugarcane	361.33	345.72	-4.32
Cotton*	34.8	30.52	-12.3
Jute**	10.62	9.92	-6.59

Note: *1 Bales=170 kg and **1 Bales = 180 kg
Source: <http://eands.dacnet.nic.in/>

Foodgrain production

Year	Output (in million tonne)
2006-07	217.28
2007-08	230.78
2008-09	234.47
2009-10	218.11
2010-11	244.49
2011-12	259.29
2012-13	257.13
2013-14	265.04
2014-15	252.02
2015-16*	252.23
2016-17**	270.1

Source: Agriculture ministry; *third advance estimate, **target

India's foodgrain production increased marginally to 252.23 million tonnes in the 2015-16 crop year, as per the third advance estimates, despite setback due to deficient rainfall and shortage of water in reservoirs. Production of rice, coarse cereals, pulses, oilseeds, sugarcane, cotton and jute was lower due to erratic rainfall during the 2015 monsoon season.

- Rice production during 2015-16 is estimated at 103.36 million tonnes, which is lower by 2.12 million tonnes than its production of 105.48 million tonnes during 2014-15.
- Production of wheat estimated at 94.04 million tonnes is (8.68 %) higher by 7.51 million tonnes than the production of 86.53 million tonnes of wheat during 2014-15.
- Total production of coarse cereals is estimated at 37.78 million tonnes which is lower by 5.08 million tonnes as compared to their production of 42.86 million tonnes during 2014-15.

- Output of pulses is estimated at 17.06 million tonnes during 2015-16, marginally lower than the previous year's production of 17.15 million tonnes.
- With a decline of 1.6 million tonnes over the previous year's production's total oilseeds production in the country during 2015-16 is estimated at 25.9 million tonnes.
- Production of sugarcane estimated at 346.72 million tonnes, is lower by 15.61 million tonnes than its production during 2014-15.
- Production of Cotton estimated at 30.52 million bales (of 170 kg each) is also lower by 4.28 million bales than its production of 34.805 million bales during 2014-15.
- Production of jute is estimated at 9.92 million bales (of 180 kg each) which is lower by 0.70 million bales than its production of 10.62 million bales during 2014-15.



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