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Agricultural Production and **Market Outlook**

The Rising Agriculture....

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Govt estimates 4.5% drop in onion output for 2017-18

The country's onion production is estimated to decline by 4.5 per cent to 21.4 million tonnes in the current 2017-18 crop year due to lower acreage. The country had harvested 22.4 million tonnes in the last 2016 - 17 crop year (July-June). As per the ministry's first advance estimate, area sown to onion remained lower at 1.19 million hectare in the current year as against 1.30 million hectare in the last year. To ensure sufficient domestic supplies and curb price rise, the government has imposed the minimum export price (MEP) of USD 850 per tonne, which would be applicable on shipments of the

commodity till January 20. Retail onion prices are ruling at about Rs 40-45 per kg in most cities. The prices have shot up due to tight domestic supplies.

Supplies got exhausted as large quantity of exports were undertaken in the first four months of the current fiscal. The country exported 1.2 million tonnes in April-July of this fiscal, up by 56 per cent from the year-ago period. Also, the new 2017-18 kharif crop -- which is being harvested is expected to be less owing to fall in acreage. Among other key vegetables, production of tomato and potato are likely to be better than last year. As per the initial data, potato production is estimated at 49.3 million tonnes in 2017-18 compared to the actual output of 48.6 million tonnes in 2016-17.

Cabinet allows export of all varieties of pulses

lived up to the challenge of reducing India's import dependence on pulses and have produced 23 million tons of pulses. The Government has taken a number of steps to sustain the high pulses production by our farmers. The Government has procured 20 lakh tons of pulses by ensuring minimum support price or market rates, whichever is higher, directly from the farmers and this has been the highest ever procurement of pulses.

The production of pulses in 2016-17 has been very encouraging and is the highest ever till date. Government has supported the farmers by providing attractive Minimum Support Price (MSP) for the pulses and public procurement of pulses to the tune of 20 lakh tonnes. The domestic production of pulses during 2016-17 was 22.95 million tonnes. The Chana Dal (Gram) production was 9.33 million tonnes as compared to 7.06 million tonnes in 2015-



Govt approves export of all types of pulses

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 of pulses. Allowing export of pulses will also help the country and its exporters to regain their markets. In 2016-17 production year, the Indian farmers have

16 showing a growth of 32%. The production of other rabi pulses (includes Masoor Dal (Lentil) etc.) for 2016-17 was 3.02 million tonnes as compared to 2.47 million tonnes in 2015-16 showing a growth of 22%. For the year 2017-18, the Government has fixed a target of 22.90 million tonnes of pulses production.

Government procures 350.38 lakh tonn rice in 2017-18



The government has procured 350.28 lakh tonnes of rice in the current marketing season so far, according to official data. The rice procurement target for the current season (October-September) has been fixed at 375 lakh tonnes. In the previous year, total rice procurement had surpassed the target at 381.06 lakh tonnes. Procurement is undertaken by state-run Food Corporation of India (FCI) and state agencies for the central pool to meet the requirement of food security law. Rice is purchased at the minimum support price (MSP).

According to the FCI's latest data, rice purchase in Punjab has reached 176.61 lakh tonnes in October-December of this season. The state has already surpassed its target of 115 lakh tonnes. In Haryana, rice procurement has reached 59.20 lakh tonnes, exceeding the target of 30 lakh tonnes given for the entire season. Rice purchase in Chhattisgarh has reached 33.32 lakh tonnes so far, while the target is 48 lakh tonnes for the season.

Horticulture crop output seen up 5%

Area and production under horticulture crops have increased over the previous year. For the 2016-17 crop year ending in June, horticulture production (of fruits, vegetables, spice, etc.) is estimated to touch 300.6 million tonnes, up 5% from the previous year, according to the final advance estimates released by the agriculture ministry. Acreage under horticulture crops has increased by 1.5%. According to the ministry's first advance estimate for 2017-18,



output of horticulture crops is estimated to be 305.4 million tonnes, which are 1.6 % higher than in the previous crop year and 8% higher than the average production of the last five years.

Farmers are realising that they are now able to earn more by diversifying into horticulture from the traditional cereal crops they were into and It's now time that the government provides processing and storage facilities at farm gates to ensure farmers get remunerative prices.

Spices export register 24% increase in first half of the year



India exported 5,57,525 tonnes of spices and spice products valued at Rs.8,850.53 crore as against 4,50,700 tonnes worth Rs.8700.15 crores in the same period last year. In dollar terms, India's spices export for the period was pegged at \$1373.97 million notching an increase of 6% from a year earlier. Spices Board chairman Dr A. Jayathilak said chilli, cumin, turmeric, cardamom, garlic and mint products have been amongst the most demanded Indian spices, meeting the increasing demand for



quality spices in global markets. Chilli retained its position as the most demanded spice with exports of 235,000 tonnes amounting to Rs 2,125.90 crores in value registering an increase of 42% in volume. It was followed by cumin with a total volume of 79,460 tonnes worth Rs.1324.58 crore showing an increase of 16% in volume and 20% in value. Turmeric had an export volume of 59,000 tonnes having a value of Rs 547.63 crore.

Toria MSP fixed at Rs 3,900 per quintal this year

The government clarified that the minimum support price (MSP) for toria, an oilseed similar to rapeseed, fixed at Rs 3,900 per quintal for the current year also includes bonus of Rs 100 per quintal. The MSP has been fixed for the toria crop grown in the 2017-18 rabi season, which is underway, and to be harvested in 2018-19. Toria is cultivated in limited areas of eastern Uttar Pradesh. It is a short duration crop cultivated largely in Assam, Bihar, Orissa and West Bengal in the east mainly as winter crop.



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