



Vol.4
Issue- 11
November 2018

Agricultural Production and Market Outlook

The Rising Agriculture....

Rajasthan first State to implement Biofuel policy:



Chairman

Prof. Shirish R. Kulkarni

Hon. Adviser

Dr. Mahesh Pathak

Chief Editor

Dr. S. S. Kalamkar

Associate Editors

Dr. H. P. Trivedi

Dr. D. J. Chauhan

Managing Editor

Dr. Hemant Sharma

Subject Editors

Dr. S. R. Bhalya

Dr. Vijay S. Jariwala

Shri Manish. C. Makwana

Circulation Incharge

Shri Deep K. Patel

Publisher

Agro-Economic Research Centre

Sardar Patel University

Vallabh Vidyanager, 388120

Anand, Gujarat

Email: director.aerc@gmail.com

Web: www.aercspu.ac.in

Rajasthan has become the first state in the country to implement the national policy on bio-fuels unveiled by the center in May this year. The desert state will lay emphasis on increasing production of oilseeds and establish a center for Excellence in Udaipur to promote research in the fields of alternative fuels and energy resources. The policy on bio-fuels seeks to help farmers dispose of their surplus stock in an economic manner and reduce the country's oil import dependence. It has expanded the scope of raw material for ethanol production by allowing use of sugar juice, sugar containing materials, starch containing materials and damaged food grains like wheat, broken rice and rotten potatoes for ethanol production. Rural Development and panchaya raj minister Rajendra Rathore said here on Tuesday that a biodiesel plant of the capacity of 8 tonnes aday had already been installed in the state with the financial assistance of the Indian railways. The State government would promote marketing of biofuels and generate awareness about them, he said. While approving the policy on biofuels for implementations in the state at a meeting of the high -power Biofuel Authority, Mr. Rathore said the Biofuel Rules, 2018, would shortly be brought in to effect. The Minister said the state

Rural livelihood development Council would also encourage women's self help groups to explore the scope for additional income through the supply of biodiesel.

Global consumption of cotton seen at record 27.5 million tonnes:



The international cotton Advisory Committee has raised its estimate for global consumption of the fiber crop during 2018-19 to a record high. Of 27.5 million tonnes (mt) from 27.4 mt pegged earlier, on the back of "strong" demand. With global consumption seen at record high world reserves of cotton are expected to reduce by 1.6 mt to finish 2018-19 at 17.7 mt, the committee said in its monthly report. The revised number is 100,000 tonnes lower than its July estimates. Stocks in China are projected to decrease for the fifth consecutive year to 7.5mt, while stocks outside are expected to remain stable at 10.1 m, it said. The global cotton body has largely retained its estimates for production in 2018-19 at 25.9 mt, it is however down 4 percent on year. Mean while, international prices of cotton, which had dropped to 92 percents per pound in yearly July from a season-high of 101.7 cents apound, have bounced back, it said. Cotton prices "remain higher than the season average of 88 percents per pound". "Although china 's tariffs on US cotton helped drag international prices down from junes season-high of 101.7 cents per pound, strong demand in Asia and south-East Asia has helped them rebound by the beginning of August," the committee said. For India the international cotton Advisory Committee has pegged area under the crop to fall 3 percent on year to 11.9 million hectares.

Giving wheat a healthy tinge:

Scientists from the national Agri-food Biotechnology Institute (NABI), Mohali, Punjab.



Have developed new varieties of colored wheat that are enriched with antioxidants and minerals. Dr Monika Garg and her team of researcher at NABI have developed three varteites of colored wheat- purple, blue and black. These three wheat varieties are enriched with anti oxidants called anthocyanins. Anthocyanins are naturally occurring chemicals that give fruits like blueberries their colour. Pomegranates, plums, black grape, brinjal, and bell peppers are also rich sources of anthocyanins. Regular inclusion of anthocyanins in our diets can help remove free radicals from our body and prevent many lifestyle disorders like obesity, heart disease and inflammation. The major challenge in growing colored wheat varieties is their low yield. Also the anthocyanins-enriched varieties developed abroad do not thrive well under Indian climatic conditions. This therefore is the first time that colored wheat varieties that are adapted to the local climate and soil conditions have been developed. Scientists crossed the donor lines of colored wheat (blue and purple), procured from the US and Japan, with high yielding white wheat varieties grown in Punjab and Haryana. After many trials, they were successful in developing purple, blue and black wheat.

Government to procure 44 lakh tonne of oilseeds and pulses under the PM-AAASHA scheme



Acknowledged the information used/taken from the public domain

The government has approved proposals from nine states for the procurement of pulses and oilseeds on the basis of minimum support price (MSP) in the kharif marketing year beginning October. Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu were the nine states whose proposals have been approved. Dr. Radha Mohan Singh, Agriculture Minister said some states have already started procurement. Huge inventories of the crop with government agencies and anticipated good production have led to a steep fall in prices of pulses and oilseeds in key-growing areas of the country. The government has estimated pulses output in this kharif season at 9.22 million tonne and that of oilseeds at 22.2 million tonne. Food Corporation of India and National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd (NAFED) will procure 44 lakh tonne of oilseeds and pulses under the new scheme — Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan (PM- AAASHA) — aimed at ensuring assured and better returns to farmers. For the procurement, the Cabinet has already sanctioned an additional guarantee of Rs 15,500 crore, officials said. “The procurement has just started and we have procured around 50,000 tonnes of pulses and oilseeds already. We are expecting proposals from Gujarat, Odisha and West Bengal,” said Sanjeev Kumar Chadha, MD, NAFED. Of the 44 lakh tonne procurement, 70% will be procured by NAFED and the rest by FCI. Over 26 lakh tonne of oilseed — soyabean, groundnut and sunflower — and another 18 lakh tonne of moong, urad and tur will be procured. Agency procure oilseed and pulses from the existing registered farmers. Farmers are being advised to go to the nearest procurement centres notified by their state governments to register themselves.

Government to up onion supply to Delhi

The Consumer Affairs Ministry decided to increase the daily supply of onion from the buffer stock to the national capital to keep prices at a "moderate" level.



A high-level committee led by Consumer Affairs Secretary A.K. Srivastava observed that the wholesale prices of onions that had peaked during mid-October had now moderated "marginally". It decided to increase the supply from the existing buffer created under Price Stabilization Fund (PSF) to check the prices from shooting up. Last week of September the prices rose to Rs 40 a kg in retail. The committee also advised the Delhi government to supply onion through PDS outlets to reduce the gap between wholesale and retail prices. According to the Agriculture Ministry, the sown area under the kharif onion crop had increased by 37 percent this year as compared to 2017. It said the onion supply in the market was improving as harvesting had begun in Rajasthan, Sholapur in Maharashtra, Hubli in Karnataka and Kurnool in Andhra Pradesh, which will ease the prices in days to come.

India may see bumper grape output this year

Harvest of early season grapes has started in Maharashtra, the largest grape producing and exporting state. With conducive weather, the



country is likely to see bumper production and record exports. Though grapes will begin trickling into the domestic market from November, peak arrivals will come in only from January. However, some farmers from Nashik district, the wine capital of India, have started taking early harvest of the fruit for selling to some northern states as well as for exporting it to Bangladesh. India's grape export story has been achieving a new milestone every year as farmers produce fruits adhering to the strict phytosanitary measures prescribed by the European Union. However, Shinde of Sahyadri fears that

prices in the domestic market could be under pressure during peak season. Apart from Sahyadri, the farmer-producer company, Mahindra Agribusiness and Freshrop Fruits are the other corporates in grape exports. India had exported 92,286 tonnes of grapes in 2017-18 to European Union as against 1,01,789 tonnes of grapes in 2016-17.

India's 2018 monsoon rainfall below average, lower than forecast

Rainfall in India's annual monsoon season was



below average and less than forecast, with a fourth of the regions including key crop-growing northern states receiving less rain than needed, federal weather office. Rains were 91 percent of the long-term average at the end of the July-September monsoon season, compared with a forecast of 97 percent, marking the fifth straight year in which the weather office has overestimated the likely rainfall. The monsoon delivers 70 percent of India's annual rainfall and is the lifeblood of the country's \$2 trillion economy with the farm sector contributing 14 percent of its economic output.

Government import 1 million tonnes of maize to check local price

The government is "positively" considering an industry demand to allow import of 1 million tonnes of non-genetically modified maize at zero duty to overcome a shortage in domestic output and check

rising prices at home. Since the government has imposed a 60% import duty on maize, the industry wants to import it under the tariff rate quota (TRQ). The industry is hopeful that the government will allow the import in about two weeks.

India is traditionally a maize or corn exporter and



has not imported the crop in the past two years. India had imported 2,25,000 tonnes of maize under TRQ in 2016. Maize accounts for 55-65% of animal feed followed by soya meal at 25-30%. India had turned a net importer of maize in 2015-16, importing 3,00,000 tonnes of non-GMO maize under the TRQ scheme. As per government data, production of kharif season maize is higher than the previous year, while there is no drop in the ongoing sowing of rabi maize. As per the first advance estimates of kharif production released by the government in September, production of maize is expected to be 21.47 million tonnes in 2018-19, as against the previous year's production of 20.24 million tonnes. This is more than 4.40 million tonnes than the average production of maize during the past five years. The industry estimates that the production to be lower than previous year.

Book Post

To,

From:

DOI: 01/01/2019

Agro-Economic Research Centre

For the states of Gujarat and Rajasthan

(Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Govt. of India)

H.M. Patel Institute of Rural Development

Opp. Nanadalaya Temple, Post Box No. 24,

Sardar Patel University

Vallabh Vidyanagar 368120, Anand, Gujarat

Ph.No. +91-2692-230106, 230799, Fax- +91-2692-233106

E-mail: director.aerc@gmail.com

Website: www.aercspu.ac.in

Acknowledged the information used/taken from the public domain