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# Wheat Update

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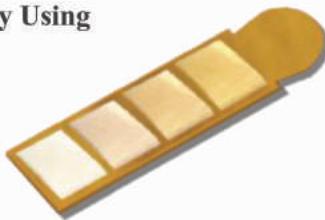
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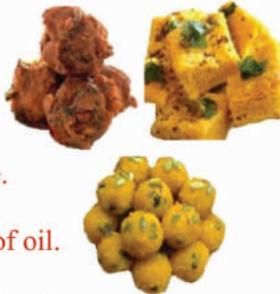
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Applied Baking Science (Biscuit Technologist: Module 2)	April 24-25, 2017	Greater Noida	<a href="http://assocom-india.com">http://assocom-india.com</a>
Bread Technologist Module - 1 : Principles of Bread/Rolls	May 22-24, 2017	Greater Noida	<a href="http://assocom-india.com">http://assocom-india.com</a>
Bread Technologist Module - 2 : Principles of Bread/Rolls	May 25-27, 2017	Greater Noida	<a href="http://assocom-india.com">http://assocom-india.com</a>

## INTERNATIONAL EVENT CALENDER

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Global Milling Conference 2017	July 2017	New Delhi	<a href="http://gmc.assocom-india.com">http://gmc.assocom-india.com</a>

# Asia faces tight noodle wheat supply Australian farmers hold back stocks

Asian flour millers are facing tight supplies of a variety of Australian wheat which is used for making mainly noodles as farmers hold back stocks amid near decade-low prices. Buyers are having difficulty in getting shipments of Australian Standard White (ASW) wheat for the coming months, which could force millers to seek alternative supplies, traders and millers said.

Asia is the world's biggest and fastest growing wheat market, fueled by rising consumption of noodles, flat breads and bakery products. China and India each consume roughly 100 million tonnes a year and Indonesia has emerged as the world's second largest wheat importer behind Egypt, buying more than 10 million tonnes in the year to June 2016, up 35 percent on a year earlier.

"Farmers are not willing to sell as they feel prices are really low," said one Singapore-based trader. "There is no shortage of ASW, there was bumper production." ASW wheat was being sold at a 10-year low level of about \$190 a tonne, free on board, in January and February. The market has since recovered to trade around \$200 a tonne but prices are still below the \$220-\$240 a tonne average of recent years, traders said.

The world is awash with wheat, with the U.S. Department of Agriculture forecasting global inventories at a record 252.26 million tonnes at the end of the crop year in June. Australia produced a record 35.13 million tonnes of wheat in the 2016/17

season - about 18 percent more than the previous record of 29.6 million tonnes set in 2011/12.

"I think it is just a temporary problem of farmers not selling," said a procurement manager at one Southeast Asia-based flour miller. "There is additional demand as well, India has been buying Australian wheat." India has bought close to 5 million tonnes of wheat since June, the most in a decade, to meet a supply shortfall after two years of lower production.

Even for Australian farmers who want to sell, big volumes of wheat and other grains being sent by truck and rail across the country after a bumper season are creating backlogs.

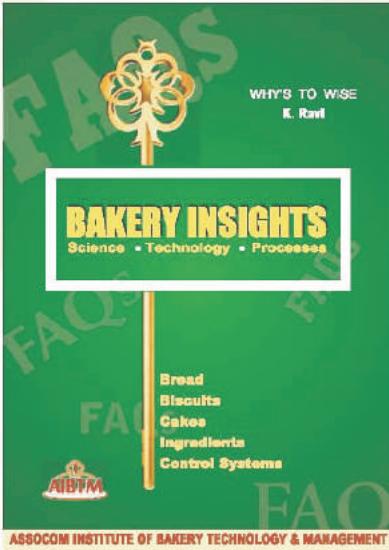
"There is an issue of getting grains to the ports from farms," said Ole

Houe, analyst with brokerage IKON Commodities in Sydney. "There's not much problem at the ports themselves." Asian mills prefer using ASW for noodles, where texture and mouth-feel can be affected by factors like protein content.

Wheat importers also have the option to blend grains from other origins, traders said.

"They can replace ASW with other origins and also blend varieties of wheat from the Black Sea region," said Singapore trader. "But most millers will wait even if there is some temporary delay. They prefer Australian wheat."





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# Importer Ending Stocks Shrink to 6-Year Low

USDA released its latest World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates (WASDE) report. With six weeks left in marketing year 2016/17, USDA expects wheat world ending stocks to reach a record high 252 million metric tons (MMT), up 4 percent year over year and 22 percent ahead of the 5-year average, if realized. The current marketing year factors in this report are well defined and the record large ending stocks are neither surprising nor new to those who follow the wheat industry. However, the position of those stocks has been quietly changing.

Historically, global wheat exporters — Argentina, Australia, Canada, the European Union (EU), Kazakhstan, Russia, Ukraine and the United States — have held roughly 30 percent of global ending stocks. China has historically held one third of global endings stocks and the mostly net importers that remain have held about 37 percent. The 5-year average breaks out with exporter stocks at 61 MMT, China holding roughly 70 MMT and the world's importers carrying out about 75 MMT.

However, USDA expects that ratio to shift at the end of 2016/17. Chinese ending stocks are expected to reach a record high 111 MMT, or 44 percent of global ending stocks. In global wheat exporting countries, ending stocks are also expected to grow slightly to 74.0 MMT, but the ratio will fall to about 29 percent of global ending stocks. Carryout stocks in the world's wheat importing countries are expected to fall 16 percent year over year to 67.1 MMT. If realized, that would be 11 percent below the 5-year average and 27 percent of global ending stocks, down 10 percentage points from the 5-year average.

This decrease is due in large part to a shift in purchasing behavior. Four consecutive record production years have enticed many buyers to adopt a “just-in-time” approach to take advantage of the lower prices and reduce storage costs where possible. That is why ending stocks in the top 20 markets for U.S. wheat (excluding China) are expected to cover just over two months of consumption, 6 percent below the 5-year average.

Additionally, 28 countries (including the EU, the world's largest wheat consumer and normally a top

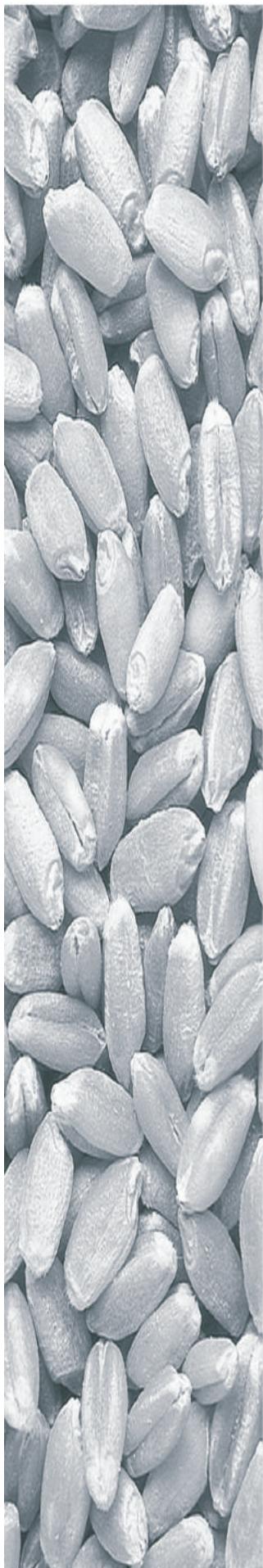


wheat exporter) expect to have one month or less of domestic consumption in carryout stocks at the end of 2016/17, compared to the 5-year average of 20 countries with one month or less of domestic consumption. There are also 23 countries for which USDA does not show ending stocks data. These countries import 6.09 MMT of wheat annually and, with limited storage capacity, tend to buy “just-in-time.”

With lower planted area and an expected return to trendline yields, world wheat production is poised to decrease in 2017/18. With importing country stocks drawn down to the lowest level since 2010/11, any supply shocks would increase price volatility in wheat futures markets. On paper, the world has ample wheat, but 44 percent of that supply resides in China, which rarely offers wheat or flour for export.

After four consecutive years of larger global production and lower global wheat prices, many customers have minimal stocks on hand to weather supply shocks, and as one wheat buyer noted, “wheat (export) prices take the stairs down and the elevator up.” Fortunately for our customers, the United States holds 12 percent of world wheat ending stocks, ensuring the U.S. wheat store is always open. What is still uncertain is whether the price of U.S. high-quality wheat will remain at the current low levels. As always, weather is the wildcard, both in its direct effects on world wheat production and the wheat price impacts of any production problems with other major grains, especially corn and soybeans.





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# India buys Australian wheat, Indonesia takes Ukrainian cargo



Australian wheat with about nine percent protein was sold to Indian millers at around USD 220-USD 221 a tonne, including cost and freight (C&F).

Indian flour millers bought about 150,000 tonnes of Australian wheat this week for May shipment, while Indonesian importers took 60,000 tonnes of Ukrainian wheat, two Singapore-based trade sources said on Friday.

Australian wheat with about nine percent protein was sold to Indian millers at around USD 220-USD 221 a tonne, including cost and freight (C&F).

"Australian wheat is still cheaper for mills in southern India despite the duty being imposed again," one trader said.

India last month imposed a 10 percent import tax on wheat with immediate effect, reinstating the tariff after a gap of nearly four months that saw large overseas purchases.

Indonesian wheat processors paid USED 195 a tonne, C&F, for Ukrainian wheat with 11.5 percent protein, they said

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# Government issues instructions to States/UTs and FCI to ensure supply of good quality foodgrains under PDS

Government has issued following instructions to State Governments / Union Territories and Food Corporation of India (FCI) to ensure supply of good quality foodgrains under Public Distribution System (PDS).

- (i) Only good quality foodgrains free from insect infestation and conforming to Food Safety Standards are to be issued under PDS.
- (ii) Ample opportunities are to be provided to the State Government to check the quality of foodgrains prior to lifting the foodgrains stocks from FCI godowns.
- (iii) Samples of foodgrains are to be collected and sealed from the stocks of foodgrains to be issued under the PDS jointly by FCI and State Governments/UT Administrations.
- (iv) An officer not below the rank of Inspector is to be deputed from State Government to take the delivery of foodgrain stocks from FCI godowns.
- (v) Regular inspection to check the quality of foodgrains is to be carried out by the officers of State Government.
- (vi) It is the responsibility of the concerned State Governments/UT Administrations to ensure that during transportation and storage at different stages in the distribution chain, the foodgrains retain the required quality specifications.
- (vii) The State Government, where the decentralized procurement is in operation, should ensure that the quality of foodgrains issued under PDS and other welfare schemes should meet the desired standards prescribed by Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).

PDS is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and the State/UT Governments. Central

Government is responsible for procurement, allocation and transportation of foodgrains upto the designated depots of the Food Corporation of India. The operational responsibilities for intra-state allocation and distribution of foodgrains within the States/UTs, identification of eligible beneficiaries, issuance of ration cards and supervision and monitoring of the Fair Price Shops (FPSs) etc. rest with the concerned State/UT Governments. Therefore, as and when complaints are received, these are referred to the State/UT Governments concerned for inquiry and appropriate action. Five complaints about supply of poor quality foodgrains distributed under PDS were received during 2016-17.

Regular surveillance, monitoring, inspection and random sampling of all the food products are undertaken by the officials of Food Safety Departments of the respective States/UTs to check that they comply with the standards laid down under Food Safety & Standards Act, 2006 and the Rules & Regulation made thereunder. In cases where food samples are found to be non-conforming, recourse is taken to penal provisions under Chapter-IX of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006. The implementation and enforcement of norms under Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and Rules & Regulation made thereunder primarily rests with the State/UT Government.



No separate enforcement data regarding samples taken from foodgrains distributed under PDS by Food Safety Authorities of the States/UTs is maintained centrally by FSSAI. However, based on information made available by the States/UTs, details of all food samples received, analyzed, found non-conforming to the norms and action taken under provision of FSS Act, 2006.

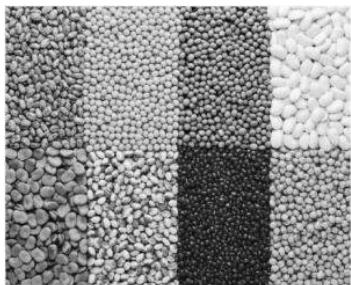


# Indian consumers may see more fuel price hikes, food prices may remain subdued in 2017

Indian consumers are bracing for more frequent rise in petrol and diesel prices even though rice and wheat prices may remain low.

A World Bank report projects a 26% rise in energy prices and a 3% decline in grain prices in 2017. Latest government data show the prices of cereals--wheat, rice, jowar, bajra and other coarse grains--was up 5.38% in 2016-17, while fuel and electricity prices were up 5.56%

A normal monsoon may soften the domestic food prices further. In the global arena, Indian fuel prices are directly linked to the global prices while food grain prices are controlled by the government through the minimum support prices (MSP) and local wholesale markets or mandis.



"Crude oil prices are forecast to rise to an average of \$55 per barrel (bbl) in 2017 from \$43 per barrel in 2016," the World Bank said in its Commodity Markets Outlook report.

The oil forecast reflects balancing forces--an upward pressure on prices from production cuts agreed by Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and non-OPEC producing countries, and downward pressure from persistently high stocks, supported by the faster-than-expected rebound of the United States shale oil industry.

India, which revises petrol and diesel prices in line with global prices, is now thinking of daily revisions. Metals prices are projected to increase 16% as a result of strong demand in China and various supply constraints, the World Bank said.

However, agricultural commodity prices, which gained 1% in the first quarter, are anticipated to remain broadly stable in 2017. Stockpiles of corn and wheat are at record highs globally after years of bumper crops.

Global stocks of corn, wheat, rice and soybeans combined will hit a record 671.1 million tonne going into the next harvest, the third straight year of historically high surplus, the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) forecast.



## New Joint Secretary appointed at DFPD

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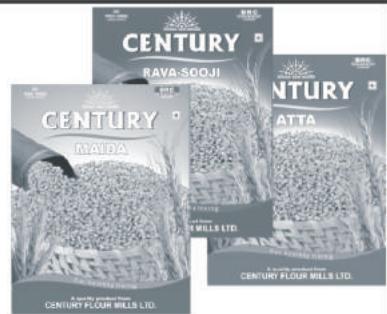
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# Big firms like ITC, HUL & Cargill to fortify wheat flour

Food regulator FSSAI today said major wheat-flour brands like ITC, HUL, Cargill and Patanjali would begin to fortify wheat flour with iron, folic acid and vitamin B-12.

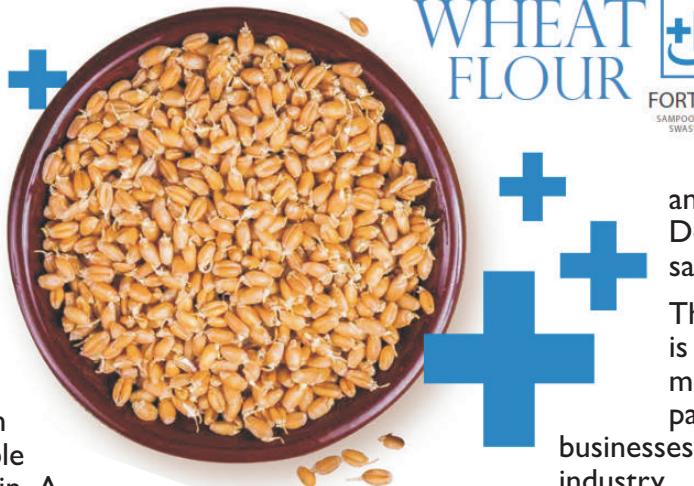
Fortification means deliberately increasing the content of essential micronutrients in food to improve its quality.

To address malnutrition, the FSSAI is promoting food fortification in a big way.

It had last year issued standards for fortification of salt with iodine and iron, of vegetable oil and milk with Vitamin A and D, wheat flour and rice with iron, folic acid, zinc, vitamin B12, vitamin A and some other micronutrients.

"Market leaders like the ITC, General Mills, Hindustan Unilever, Patanjali, and Cargill have agreed to start fortification of their flagship brands of wheat flour (atta) such as Aashirwaad, Pillsbury, Annapurna,

Patanjali and Nature Fresh respectively," the FSSAI said in a statement.



WHEAT FLOUR



They have already initiated the process and their fortified wheat flour would begin to be seen in the market in different regions by July/August

and then scale up pan-India by December 2017, the regulator said.

The FSSAI said that the decision is the outcome of a series of meetings convened by it over past two months with related businesses, including medium and small industry players and development partners such as GAIN who have been associated with fortification of wheat flour over the past few years.

FSSAI CEO Pawan Agarwal said: "Fortification Standards and a logo for fortified foods released by FSSAI recently, has provided a rallying point for food businesses to take up fortification on a large scale".



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# WEEKLY INTERNATIONAL WHEAT PRICES

Conversion #	US Hard Winter #2 Ordinary Gulf IGC US\$/Ton	Canadian #1 CWRS, 13.5 St. Lawrence IGC US\$/Ton	Argentinian Trigo Pan Up River F.O.B. IGC US\$/Ton	Australian Standard White IGC US\$/Ton	US Soft Winter Red USDA US\$/Bush 0.027216	#2 Gulf US\$/Ton
Apr., 2016 AVG	200.75	231.50	198.75		5.2526	193.36
May, 2016 AVG	193.20	226.60	202.00		5.1425	188.95
Jun., 2016 AVG	198.00	225.75	210.00		5.0506	185.58
Jul., 2016 AVG	187.75	209.50	210.00		4.5738	168.05
Aug., 2016 AVG	188.20	203.20	215.00		4.2855	157.46
Sept., 2016 AVG	188.25	202.75	201.25		4.2888	157.58
Oct., 2016 AVG	192.75	215.50	184.00		4.4550	163.69
Nov., 2016 AVG	190.60	209.60	176.40		4.5355	166.65
Dec., 2016 AVG	186.75	219.25	168.00		4.4163	162.27
03-Jan-2017	189.00	217.00	175.00		4.4800	164.61
10-Jan-2017	199.00	229.00	175.00		4.6875	172.23
17-Jan-2017	205.00	232.00	175.00		4.7750	175.45
24-Jan-2017	208.00	229.00	179.00		4.8175	177.01
31-Jan-2017	202.00	222.00	182.00		4.7725	175.36
Jan., 2017 AVG	200.60	225.80	177.20		4.7065	172.93
07-Feb-2017	206.00	222.00	185.00		4.8575	178.48
14-Feb-2017	217.00	228.00	184.00		5.0400	185.19
21-Feb-2017	211.00	223.00	188.00		4.9250	180.96
28-Feb-2017	206.00	222.00	188.00		4.8125	176.83
Feb., 2017 AVG	210.00	223.75	186.25		4.9088	180.36
07-Mar-2017	207.00	214.00	192.00		4.9400	181.51
14-Mar-2017	201.00	211.00	192.00		4.7750	175.45
21-Mar-2017	194.00	220.00	192.00		4.7350	173.98
28-Mar-2017	191.00	218.00	190.00		4.7350	173.98
Mar., 2017 AVG	198.25	215.75	191.50		4.7963	176.23
04-Apr-2017	192.00	215.00	190.00		4.7650	175.08
11-Apr-2017	193.00	216.00	189.00		4.8375	177.74
18-Apr-2017	189.00	220.00	189.00		4.7150	173.24
25-Apr-2017	189.00	216.00	189.00		4.5375	166.72
Apr., 2017 AVG	190.75	216.75	189.25		4.7138	173.20

Please note that prices are subject to revisions

Source : ESCG, FAO

## No immediate plans to hike import duty on wheat to 25 per cent: Govt

About 5.5 million tonnes of wheat has been imported by private traders till March-end and much of it at a zero customs duty, Ram Vilas Paswan said.

The government has no immediate plans to further increase import duty on wheat to 25 per cent as overseas purchase of the grain is not being undertaken even at the current customs duty level.

The government has no immediate plans to further increase import duty on wheat to 25 per cent as overseas purchase of the grain is not being undertaken even at the current customs duty level. On March 28, import duty of 10 per cent was slapped on wheat to curb shipments in view of record domestic output at around 98 million tonnes in 2016-17 crop year (July-

June). Prior to that there was no duty at all for nearly four months. "When imports are not happening at the existing import duty, there is no question of further increasing it. Moreover, we have not received any such proposal as of now," Food Minister Ram Vilas Paswan told PTI in an interview.

About 5.5 million tonnes of wheat has been imported by private traders till March-end and much of it at a zero customs duty, he said. Also, there is adequate supplies in the domestic market as the new crop expected to be a bumper and has started hitting the mandis. Both government and private players are buying from farmers, he added.



# **Yogi Adityanath led UP Cabinet decision to raise wheat procurement to 8 mn tonnes is 10 times that of last year**

This will help the Food Corporation of India to reduce transportation costs for its UP operations and result in savings on food subsidy. Also, UP farmers will get the benefit of minimum support price (MSP).

UP, which requires around 6 million tonne of wheat annually for supply to beneficiaries under NFSA, has been purchasing less than one million tonne of grain from the farmers annually in the last few years.

Uttar Pradesh cabinet's decision to raise wheat procurement to eight million tonne (mt) from the farmers in the current rabi marketing season (2017-18), almost ten times last year, will lead the country's most populous state to meet the requirement for implementation of National Food Security Act (NFSA) from its own purchases for the first time.

This will help the Food Corporation of India to reduce transportation costs for its UP operations and result in savings on food subsidy. Also, UP farmers will get the benefit of minimum support price (MSP).

UP, which requires around 6 million tonne of wheat annually for supply to beneficiaries under NFSA, has been purchasing less than one million tonne of grain from the farmers annually in the last few years. Thus,



the state had to depend on the supplies from surplus region of Punjab and Haryana by FCI to meet requirement for the Public Distribution System.

"The state had grossly inadequate mandi as well as storage infrastructure for increasing grain procurement," a food ministry official told FE.

According to official data, Uttar Pradesh, with around



25  
milli

on tonne of annual wheat production, procures less than a million tonne of the grain from the farmers in last few years, thus depriving farmers from benefits of MSP announced annually by the Centre. Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh purchase major chunk of wheat for the central pool from the farmers.

In his first Cabinet meeting on Tuesday, Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath decided to fix a target of 8 million tonne of wheat purchase from the farmers against the earlier target of 3 mt set by state agency and FCI fixed at a meeting called by food ministry a month ago.

Food ministry official said that the Centre has been giving thrust on localised procurement for meeting the requirement for NFSA to all the states, especially Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, who have not been able to set up efficient procurement mechanism.

"We will save a substantial expenses towards transportation of grain if UP start doing localised procurement," the official said.

According to food ministry data, in the last three years, the wheat procurement in UP has not crossed a million tonne while for purchase of 8 mt of grain, the state government has to make arrangements for storage facilities which currently it lacks.

Sources said that officials at the district level have been asked to make all preparations for procurement besides extending basic amenities like water and shade for farmers arriving there.

A state government official said that state agencies will procure 7 mt while FCI would purchase one mt of wheat over the next couple of months.

Meanwhile, neighbouring Madhya Pradesh, since 2008, had revamped its wheat procurement system and in the current rabi marketing season (2017-18) has set up more than 3,000 purchase centres this season.

The state is aiming at a purchase of more than 9

million tonne of wheat from the 11 lakh farmers registered with MP Civil Supplies Corporation.

Although in 2016-17, MP could purchase only about 4 mt of wheat, in the previous two years, the central Indian state had purchased more than 7 mt of wheat annually and contributing about 4 mt of grain to central pool.



## First Stage Forecast of Southwest Monsoon Season-2017 Rainfall

**India Meteorological Department (IMD)** issues various monthly and seasonal forecasts of rainfall for the southwest monsoon season (June to September). Operational forecasts for the southwest monsoon season rainfall are issued in two stages. The first stage forecast is issued in April and the second stage forecast is issued in June. These forecasts are prepared using state of-the-art Statistical Ensemble Forecasting system (SEFS) that is critically reviewed and improved regularly through in-house research activities. Since 2012, IMD has been using the dynamical global climate forecasting system (CFS) model, which was developed under the Monsoon Mission. The original coupled ocean-atmospheric model framework of CFS was adopted from the National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP), USA. The CFS model was further modified to provide improved rainfall forecasts over the Indian monsoon region through research efforts taken up under the Monsoon Mission. The forecast for 2017 southwest monsoon rainfall over the country as a whole based on both the SEFS and the Monsoon Mission CFS (MMCFS) are presented here. IMD's SEFS model for the April forecast uses the following 5 predictors that require data monitored upto March.

**Sea Surface Temperature (SST) Conditions in the equatorial Pacific & Indian Ocean :** The weak La Nina conditions developed in the later part of the last monsoon season peaked in December 2016 and started weakening thereafter. Currently, neutral conditions are prevailing over the equatorial Pacific. The atmospheric conditions over the Pacific also reflect neutral El Nino conditions. The latest forecast from MMCFS indicates weak El Nino conditions to develop during the latter part of the monsoon season. However, there is no one to one

At present, neutral Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) conditions are prevailing over the Indian Ocean. The

latest forecast from the MMCFS indicates weak positive IOD conditions are likely to develop during the middle of the monsoon season and to persist for some more months subsequently. Positive IOD conditions are likely to be favorable for a normal/above normal monsoon. As the extreme sea surface temperature conditions over the Pacific particularly El Nino conditions over the Pacific (El Nino or La Nina) and positive IOD development over the equatorial Indian Ocean are known to have strong influence on the Indian summer monsoon, IMD is carefully monitoring the sea surface conditions over the Pacific and Indian oceans. 3. Forecast For the 2017 Southwest monsoon Season (June – Season) rainfall over the Country as a whole 3a. Monsoon Mission Coupled Forecasting System (MMCFS) based Assessment



For generating the forecast for the 2017 southwest Monsoon season rainfall, atmospheric and oceanic initial conditions during March 2017 were used. The forecast was computed as the average of the 44 ensemble members. The forecast based on the MMCFS suggests that the monsoon rainfall during the 2017 monsoon season (June to September) averaged over the country as a whole is likely to be  $96\% \pm 5\%$  of the Long Period Average (LPA).

**Forecast Based on the Operational Statistical Ensemble Forecasting System (SEFS) : Quantitatively,**

the monsoon seasonal rainfall is likely to be 96% of the Long Period Average (LPA) with a model error of  $\pm$  5%. Further, forecasts for the seasonal rainfall for the country suggest 38% probability for near normal rainfall scenario.



**Summary of the Forecast for the 2017 southwest monsoon Rainfall :** Quantitatively, the monsoon seasonal rainfall is likely to be 96% of the Long Period Average (LPA) with an error of  $\pm$  5%. Forecast assessment suggests 38% of probability for near normal monsoon rainfall

IMD will issue the update forecasts in early June, 2017 as a part of the second stage long range forecast of monsoon rainfall. Along with the update forecast, separate forecasts for the monthly (July and August) rainfall over the country as a whole and seasonal (June-September) rainfall over various geographical regions of India will also be issued. By that time, more information on the evolution of El Nino and IOD will be available.



## After bumper year, govt to revise food grain production figures

Amid ground report of bumper wheat production this year, the agriculture ministry is likely to upwardly revise its estimate of overall food grain production in the country for the crop year 2016-17 (July-June) by putting the new figure at over 273 million tonnes (MT) - more than what it had estimated earlier. The total production will surpass the previous record of 265 MT, achieved during 2013-14.

The new estimate is expected to be more than one million tonnes of what the ministry had estimated in its second advance estimate in February (271.98 million tonnes). The revised figures will be released as part of the ministry's third advance estimate next week, sending positive signal to the farm sector and the overall economy as good foodgrain production always fuels rural demand of other goods.

"The figure of overall foodgrain production is most likely to be revised on the basis of the ground report of the production of wheat. The wheat production is likely to cross 98 MT mark which will also be an all-time record", said a source in agriculture ministry.

He said estimated figures of production of pulses may also be upwardly revised as compared to what the ministry had estimated in February.

As a result of very good rainfall during monsoon 2016 and various policy initiatives of the government, the ministry had in February estimated the total food-grain production at 271.98 million tonnes which is higher by 6.94 million tonnes than the previous record production of food-grain of 265.04 MT during 2013-14.

Even as per the February estimate, the current year's production is higher by 14.97 million tonnes than the previous five years' (2011-12 to 2015-16) average production of food-grains. The current year's production is significantly higher by 20.41 million tonnes than the last year's food-grain production.

Anticipating good monsoon this year too, the ministry had last month set a target of an all-time high production of food-grain at 273 MT in the 2017-18 crop year and expressed confidence of maintaining farm sector growth rate of over 4% during the period. The target for next crop year (2017-18) was made after the recent prediction of normal and well distributed monsoon rainfall (during June-September period) by the India Meteorological Department (IMD).



# 3rd Advance Estimates of Production of Major Crops for 2016-17

The 3rd Advance Estimates of production of major crops for 2016-17 have been released today by the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare. The assessment of production of different crops is based on the feedback received from States and validated with information available from other sources. As a result of very good rainfall during monsoon 2016 and various policy initiatives taken by the Government, the country has witnessed record foodgrain production in the current year. The estimated production of various crops as per the 3rd Advance Estimates for 2016-17 vis-à-vis the comparative estimates for the years 2003-04 onwards is enclosed.

As per 3rd Advance Estimates, the estimated production of major crops during 2016-17 is as under:

- Ø Foodgrains – 273.38 million tonnes (record)
  - Rice – 109.15 million tonnes (record)
  - Wheat – 97.44 million tonnes (record)
  - Coarse Cereals – 44.39 million tonnes (record)
  - Maize – 26.14 million tonnes (record)
  - Pulses – 22.40 million tonnes (record)
  - Gram – 9.08 million tonnes
  - Tur – 4.60 million tonnes (record)
  - Urad – 2.93 million tonnes (record)
- Ø Oilseeds – 32.52 million tonnes
  - Soyabean – 14.01 million tonnes
  - Groundnut – 7.65 million tonnes
  - Castorseed – 1.55 million tonnes
- Ø Cotton – 32.58 million bales (of 170 kg each)
- Ø Sugarcane – 306.03 million tonnes

As a result of very good rainfall during monsoon 2016 and various policy initiatives taken by the Government, the country has witnessed record foodgrain production in the current year. As per Third Advance Estimates for 2016-17, total Foodgrain production in the country is estimated at 273.38 million tonnes which is higher by 8.34 million tonnes (3.15%) than the previous record production of Foodgrain of 265.04 million tonnes achieved during 2013-14. The current year's production is also higher by 16.37 million tonnes (6.37%) than the previous five years' (2011-12 to 2015-16) average production of Foodgrains. The current year's production is significantly higher by 21.81 million tonnes (8.67%) than the last year's foodgrain production.

Total production of Rice is estimated at record 109.15 million tonnes which is also a new record. This year's Rice production is higher by 2.50 million tonnes (2.34%) than previous record production of

106.65 million tonnes achieved during 2013-14. It is also higher by 3.73 million tonnes (3.54%) than the five years' average Rice production of 105.42 million tonnes. Production of rice has increased significantly by 4.74 million tonnes (4.54%) than the production of 104.41 million tonnes during 2015-16.

Production of Wheat, estimated at 97.44 million tonnes is also a record. This year's wheat production is higher by 1.66% than the previous record production of 95.85 million tonnes achieved during 2013-14. Production of Wheat during 2016-17 is also higher by 4.83 million tonnes (5.21%) than the average wheat production. The current year's production is higher by 5.15 million tonnes (5.58%) as compared to Wheat production of 92.29 million tonnes achieved during 2015-16.

Production of Coarse Cereals estimated at a new record level of 44.39 million tonnes is higher than the average production by 3.04 million tonnes (7.36%). It is higher than the previous record production of 43.40 million tonnes achieved during 2010-11 by 0.99 million tonnes (2.28%). Current year's production is also higher by 5.87 million tonnes (15.23%) as compared to their production of 38.52 million tonnes achieved during 2015-16.

As a result of significant increase in the area coverage and productivity of all major Pulses, total production of pulses during 2016-17 is estimated at 22.40 million tonnes which is higher by 3.15 million tonnes (16.37%) than the previous record production of 19.25 million tonnes achieved during 2013-14. Production of Pulses during 2016-17 is also higher by 4.77 million tonnes (27.03%) than their Five years' average production. Current year's production is higher by 6.05 million tonnes (37.03%) than the previous year's production of 16.35 million tonnes.

With an increase of 7.27 million tonnes (28.80%) over the previous year, total Oilseeds production in the country is estimated at 32.52 million tonnes. The production of Oilseeds during 2016-17 is also higher by 3.27 million tonnes (11.17%) than the five year's average Oilseeds production.

Production of Sugarcane is estimated at 306.03 million tonnes which is lower by 42.42 million tonnes (-12.17%) than the last year's production of 348.45 million tonnes. Despite lower area coverage during 2016-17, higher productivity of Cotton has resulted into higher production of 32.58 million bales (of 170 kg each), i.e. an increase of 8.57%, as compared to 30.01 million bales during 2015-16.

Production of Jute & Mesta estimated at 10.27 million bales (of 180 kg each) is marginally lower (-2.39%) than their production of 10.52 million bales during the last year.

# USDA raised India Wheat Production Estimates

USDSA has revised MY 2017/18 wheat production higher to a record 96.5 MMT due to higher yields (3.04 metric ton (MT)/hectare) than were earlier anticipated (2.99 MT/hectare). MY 2017/18 wheat production may increase by as much as 11 percent (2017/18) 31.8 million hectares vs. 2016/17 30.4 million hectares) and higher yields (2017/18 3.04 MT/hectare vs. 2016/17 2.86 MT/hectare).

The wheat purchase by Food Corporation of India (FCI) and state government agencies for the ongoing rabi marketing season (2017-18) from farmers on Wednesday crossed 25

million tonne (mt), which is close to 4 mt more than the volume of grain purchased during the same period previous year. This higher volume of wheat procurement would replenish depleted grain stocks with FCI. According to the food ministry data, Punjab (11 mt), Haryana (7 mt) and Madhya Pradesh (5.1 mt) have purchased a major chunk of wheat from farmers so far since the procurement operations began on April 1. Farmers have brought in more than 28 mt of

wheat for procurement to the markets across key growing states, so far.

Sources said that overall procurement of wheat this season is likely to surpass around 30 mt while the food ministry has set a target of 33 mt purchase for

the current marketing season (April-June). Only 23 mt was purchased in the previous season (2016-17) by the agencies. The government had hiked the minimum support price of wheat by more than 6% to Rs 1,625 per quintal for the 2016-17 rabi season.

Meanwhile, Uttar Pradesh, which had

historically been a laggard in terms of procurement of grain despite being country's biggest wheat producer, the procurement has reached 1 mt, while the agencies such as Uttar Pradesh Cooperative Federation, FCI, farmers cooperative Nafed, National Cooperative Consumers' Federation of India are aiming for a record procurement of 4 mt this season.



## Demand for wheat to reach 140 MT by 2050: ICAR

The demand for wheat in the country will reach 140 million tonnes (MT) by 2050, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research has said. I S Solanki, ADG, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) said here that he country has so far recorded unprecedented growth in wheat production. Solanki was delivering the keynote address at the memorial in Hisar on the birth anniversary of Rao Bahadur Dr Ramdhan Singh, a noted plant breeder.

The crop yield, which in 1912-13 was only 790 kg per hectare has increased to 3,197 kg per hectare in 2016-17. "But in future, intensive efforts will need to be made as national productivity of wheat has to be increased to 46 quintal/ha to produce 140 million tonnes of wheat from the available land," he said. Highlighting the challenges facing wheat production, he called upon agricultural scientists to develop new wheat varieties which apart from being heat tolerant and resistant to diseases and pests, are water efficient. He also

emphasised the need to bridge the existing yield gap between the different zones of the country.

Solanki said there is a need to develop wheat varieties with at least seven tonnes per hectare of yield for the north-western plain zone of the country. Paying tributes to Ramdhan Singh, he said that the scientists and students should draw inspiration from the legendary scientist and work hard to contribute in providing food and nutritional security to the country. K P Singh, Vice Chancellor, CCSAU, in his presidential remarks said that with the burgeoning population, the number of vegetarians is also increasing.

Underlining the achievements of Ramdhan Singh as a plant breeder, he said that today India is a leading exporter of basmati rice. This has been developed from the basmati 370 variety developed by Ramdhan Singh. He said Ramdhan Singh had developed 25 improved varieties of wheat, rice, barley and pulses in his life which resulted in unprecedented increase in food production in the Indian sub-continent.



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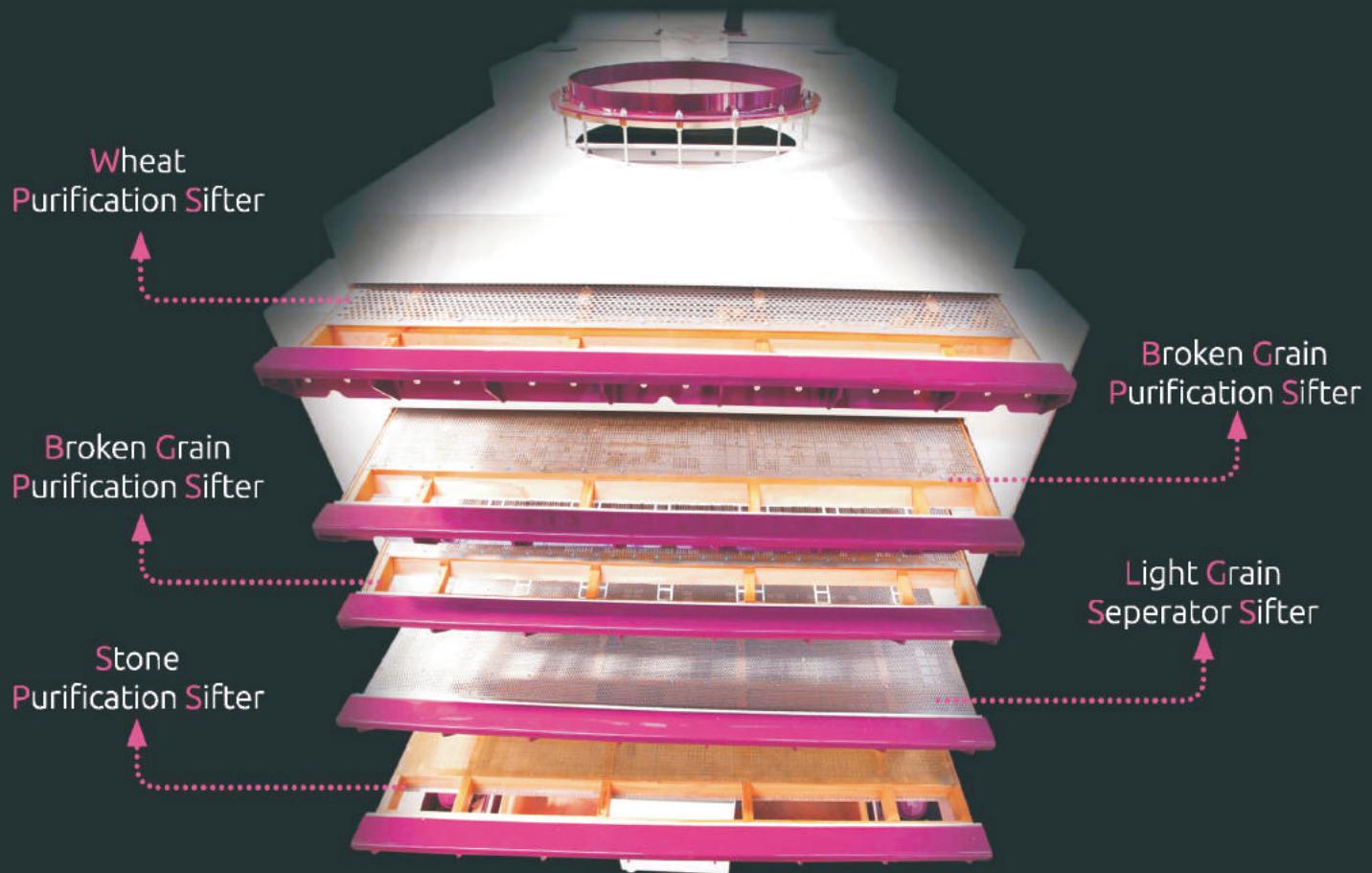
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