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UPCOMING EVENTS

- Anutech India 2018:** 27 Sep 18 – Mumbai, India
- Agritex 2018 :** 04 Oct 18 – Hyderabad, India
- FarmTech Asia:** 05 Oct 18 – Indore, India
- Dairy Industry Expo:** 12 Oct 2018 – Pune, India

Horticulture output pegged at new high of 307 million tons (2017 – 18)



Horticulture production in the year ended June is pegged at 306,82 million tonnes (mt), up 2,05 per cent from the previous year's 300,64 mt, according to the third advance estimates of horticultural production, released by the Agriculture Ministry on 29th August 2018.

The production of fruits is expected to cross 97 mt, thanks to an impressive increase in the output of many fruits, particularly mangoes, which registered 9 per cent growth.

Production of vegetables, on the other hand, is projected to be close to 180 mt, marginally up from 2016-17. A slight slide is expected in the yield of major vegetables such as potatoes, onions and tomatoes.

The total area under horticulture crops was also up by 3,26 per cent at 25,66 million hectares (mha) from 24,85 mha in 2016-17.

At 48,5 mt, potato production is projected to be slightly lower than 48,61 mt in 2016-17, whereas a slump is expected in the output of onions, which is down 1,8 per cent at 22 mt. The highest decrease in production among major vegetable crops, however, was witnessed in tomato, with output projected to drop by 6,6 per cent to 19,4 mt. Brinjal production is expected to be marginally up at 12,83 mt from 12,51 mt in 2016-17.

Among fruits, citrus fruits output is expected to rise strongly to 9,6 per cent at 12,51 mt (11,42 mt). The production of mangoes is projected to grow 9 per cent to 21,25 mt. As is the case with banana production, which is expected to go up to 31 mt from 30,5 mt in 2016-17.

An impressive 10 per cent increase in dried chilli production to 2,3 mt from 2,09 mt in 2016-17 may help push up the total spices output to 8,37 mt from 8,12 in the year before. On the other hand, a slight dip is anticipated in the plantation crop output to 17,87 mt from the previous year's 17,97 mt, the estimates showed. This is mainly on account of a drop-in coconut production, which is slated to fall to 16,23 mt from 16,49 mt.

India's food grain output to touch new record of 284,83 million tons (2017-18)



India's food grain production is estimated to grow to an all-time high of 284,83 million tonnes (mn) in the 2017-18 crop year ending June, driven by record output in wheat, rice, coarse cereals and pulses after a normal monsoon, according to the Agriculture Ministry.

Wheat output has been pegged at record 99,70 million tonnes, rice at 112,91 million tonnes and pulses at 25,23 million tonnes for the 2017-18 crop year, it said.

The previous record food grain output was 275,11 million tonnes achieved in the 2016-17 crop year. The food grain basket comprises of rice, wheat, coarse cereals and pulses.

In its fourth advance estimate released on 28th August 2018, the ministry revised upward the total food grain production by 5,3 million tonnes from the previous projection of 279,51 million tonnes for the 2017-18 crop year.

"As a result of near normal rainfall during monsoon 2017 and various policy initiatives taken by the government, the country has witnessed record food grain production in 2017-18," the ministry said in a statement.

Wheat production has been revised upward by 1,06 million tonnes to record 99,70 million tonnes for the 2017-18 crop year from its previous projection. In 2016-17, wheat output stood at 98,51 million tonnes.

Similarly, rice output for 2017-18 has been upped by 1,39 million tonnes to record 112.91 million tonnes from its previous estimate, higher than 109,70 million tonnes achieved in 2016-17.

Production of coarse cereals has been revised upward by 2,12 million tonnes to record 46,99 million tonnes from its previous projection made for 2017-18 and is higher than 43,77 million tonnes during 2016-17.

Pulses production during 2017-18 is estimated at record 25,23 million tonnes, revised upward by 0,72 million tonnes. The output is higher than the previous year's output of 23,13 million tonnes.

Oilseeds output has also been revised upward to 31,31 million tonnes for 2017-18 crop year, marginally higher than 31,28 million tonnes in the previous year.

In case of cash crops, sugarcane output has been revised upward by 21,9 million tonnes to a record 376,9 million tonnes from its previous projection made for 2017-18. The output stood at 306 million tonnes during 2016-17.

Cotton output has been pegged at 34,89 million bales (of 170 kg each) for 2017-18 as against 32,58 million bales during 2016-17.

The ministry releases total five estimates of food grain production at different stages of crop growth. The final estimate for 2017-18 will be released along with first estimate for the new 2018-19 crop year. The kharif sowing is underway at present.

Rs 3.5 billion vegetable processing facility to come up at Mohali, India



Chandigarh: On 6th September 2018 Union Food Processing Minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal on Thursday said a Spanish company will set up a Rs 3.5 billion vegetable processing facility at Mohali in Punjab, which will benefit vegetable growers of the state. The minister, in a statement here, said she visited the factory premises of food processing company Conelodos de Navarra in Spain and assured the promoters that her ministry will extend all possible support to it.

Company President and CEO Benito Jimenez told the minister that the new plant would create around 500 jobs, besides benefitting 5,000 farmers directly, said the release.

He said the company would also focus on potato processing which will open up a new market for farmers of Doaba region.

Badal, who was on a visit to Spain and Netherlands, also held a meeting with Carola Schouten, Minister for Agriculture in Amsterdam and discussed ways and means as to how India and The Netherlands can cooperate in food processing, said the release. The minister said two Dutch investors were also set to invest in Punjab.

She said Punjab would benefit immensely from Dutch investment and collaborations as they were the leaders in agriculture and food processing.

The minister said with the efforts of her ministry, value was being added to farm produce, be it traditional crops like wheat and rice, milk products, honey, vegetables, fruits or agri produce like 'haldi'.

"We have created the necessary awareness about the need to add value to agri produce and even hand held farmers by hiring consultants to enable them to form their own self help groups, clusters or join mega food parks," the minister said.

She said besides establishing three mega food parks in Punjab, the Food Processing Ministry had established 20 cold chains and four backward-forward linkages.

India's buffalo meat exports up 4% to \$1,8 billion in April-July: Agricultural group

The country's buffalo meat exports grew 3.88 per cent to \$1.18 billion during April-July period of the ongoing financial year

The country's buffalo meat exports grew 3,88 per cent to \$1,18 billion during April-July period of the ongoing financial year, according to the data of APEDA



In volume terms, the exports increased to 384.096 tonne during the reported period as compared to 373.808 tonne in April-July, 2017-18. The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) comes under the commerce ministry. As per the data, exports of total livestock products, which include buffalo meat, sheep/goat meat and poultry items, grew 6,71 per cent to USD 1,4 billion during the period.

The country is one of the largest exporters of buffalo meat and rice globally.

Nabard launches Rs 80 bn Dairy Processing and Infra Development Fund

According to Nabard, the fund is expected to achieve an investment of Rs 100 billion in the dairy sector by 2019-20



In a bid to support the modernisation of the dairy sector in the country, the Centre has set up a Dairy Processing and Infrastructure Development Fund (DIDF) at the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (Nabard), with a corpus of Rs 80,04 billion.

According to Nabard, the fund is expected to achieve an investment of Rs 100 billion in the dairy sector by 2019-20.

The first instalment of Rs 4,4 billion was disbursed to the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) by union minister of agriculture and farmers welfare, Radha Mohan Singh.

The fund would be distributed to six different projects, namely, including Dakshina Kannada Milk Union (Udupi), Kolar-Chikballarpur Milk Union (Kolar), Mysore Milk Union (Mysore), Karnataka Milk Federation (Ramnagar), Karnataka Milk Union (Channarayapatna) and Ropar Milk Union (Ropar).

So far, Nabard has sanctioned Rs 8,44 billion under DIDF for 15 projects with an investment of Rs 11,48 billion in Karnataka, Punjab and Haryana. It estimates sanctions to touch Rs 38 billion by end of the current financial year.

The setting up of the fund comes at a time when the vision 2022 document pegs India's estimated milk production to touch 254,5 million tonnes, up almost 45 per cent from the current 176,35 million tonnes. Nabard anticipates the funds to be accessed by viable milk unions and dairy federations through NDDB and National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC).

DIDF is also aimed at bringing more dairy farmers into organised milk marketing through better price realisation, with milk processing capacity of cooperatives set to increase by 32 million litres per day and bulk milk chilling capacity by 14 million litres per day. The fund is expected to help create 40.000 direct employment and over 200.000 indirect employment in dairy marketing, distribution and retail chains.

Meanwhile, quoting the latest Nabard All India Rural Financial Inclusion Survey (NAFIS), Harsh Kumar Bhanwala, Chairman, Nabard said that 51 per cent of agricultural households own milch animals. "Milk production has been growing around 6.5

per cent each year and we need to create the infrastructure to handle the production and process the same," Bhanwala said.

68% Of Milk, Dairy Products Violate FSSAI Standards, Says Punjab Official

Mohan Singh Ahluwalia, member, Animal Welfare Board of India said the most common adulterants are detergent, caustic soda, glucose, white paint and refined oil.



LUDHIANA: Around 68,7 per cent of milk and milk products sold in the country is not as per the standards laid down by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), a member of the Animal Welfare Board said on 5th September 2018.

Mohan Singh Ahluwalia, member, Animal Welfare Board of India said the most common adulterants are detergent, caustic soda, glucose, white paint and refined oil.

Quoting a report by the Ministry of Science and Technology, Mr Ahluwalia said 89,2 per cent of such products are adulterated in one form or the other.

He said the production of milk in the country up to March 31, 2018 has been registered at 146,8 million litres per day against the consumption of 480 grams per capita per day.

He added that adulteration in milk is more prevalent in northern states as compared to the southern states.

Mr Ahluwalia said the National Survey on Milk Adulteration had conducted a survey some years back and found that due to lack of hygiene and sanitation in handling and packaging, detergents used in washing containers and other surfaces find their way into milk and milk products.

"However, detergent and other contaminants like urea, starch, glucose and formalin are also used to deliberately adulterate milk as they provide thickness and preserve the milk for longer periods," he said.

The Animal Welfare Board member said the adulterants in milk are hazardous and can cause irreversible damage to human organs.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) had recently issued an advisory to the Government of India stating that if adulteration of milk and milk products is not checked immediately, 87 per cent of citizens would be suffering from serious diseases like cancer by the year 2025.

"With a view to equipping the Food Safety and Standards Act with more teeth, a committee has been formed under the chairmanship of Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley. The committee will investigate the ground realities of the issue and submit feedback," the member said while chairing another meeting at Nawanshahr.

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