

India Plans to Promote Export of Rice Varieties Not Consumed in India

Decision to be taken after stakeholder talks

Our Bureau

New Delhi: India is working to develop new tariff codes, called HSN codes in trade parlance, for certain rice varieties to enable exports of those which are traditionally not consumed by the people in the country, officials said on Tuesday.

At present, exports of all categories of non-basmati white rice are banned.

The Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) is working on separate HSN codes for rice varieties which are GI (geographical indication) tagged such as red rice, black rice and Kalanamak rice.

Every product that is globally traded is coded as per the HSN system, which describes and classifies these goods. There are 40-50 varieties of non-basmati rice and when the government bans the export of non-basmati rice, all these varieties, including Sona Masuri, Govind bhog and Kalanamak, or normal white rice, get impacted, said Rajesh Agarwal, additional secretary in the commerce department.

He said new HSN code for some other varieties of rice is the demand of the industry and a decision would be taken after a detailed stakeholder consultation.

“We are trying to see whether there is merit in doing so because as a country, on one hand we would not like to impose a ban on rice, which we are not worried too much about, but at the same time, we need to see that there is enough incentive for farmers to keep on producing the normal varieties of rice also which is the

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Basmati rice exports up 19% on-yr in Apr-Dec 2023




Parboiled rice exports up **9.36% on-yr** in Apr-Nov 2023 in value terms

Talks on with global supermarket chains to promote agri products

The move assumes significance as the Red Sea crisis is expected to impact India's rice exports this year

core staple diet of the country,” Agarwal said. Currently, there are six HSN codes for non-basmati rice and one for basmati rice.

The move assumes significance as the Red Sea crisis is expected to impact

India's rice exports this year. Due to restrictions on exports of rice, sugar, and wheat, India's agricultural exports may fall 9%, but the country has started exports of commodities such as water chestnut and makhna (fox nut). “This year we will not be exporting... Non-basmati rice, we are not exporting, because we do not know whether there will be an exportable surplus or not,” he said.