

# Soyabean prices rule below MSP despite hike in import duty

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**MANDI PRICES OF** soyabean, a key kharif oilseed variety, continue to rule below the minimum support prices (MSP) even though seven weeks have passed after the government increased import duty on edible oils.

Official sources told *FE* that average mandi prices of soyabean currently is ruling in the range of ₹4,500 to ₹4,700/quintal against the MSP of ₹4,892/quintal announced for the 2024-25 season (July-June). But retail prices of all edible oils have risen sharply after the duty hike.

So far agencies such as farmers' cooperative Nafed and National Cooperative Consumers Federation of India (NCCF), have purchased 26,442 tonne of soybean from farmers in Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Kar-



nataka, Gujarat and Telangana under the at MSP under the price support scheme (PSS) of the agriculture ministry in the kharif 2024.

"Procurement of soyabean at MSP is currently picking up and there have been higher moisture content in the crop arriving in the market due to rains prior to the harvesting of the crop," an official said, adding that arrivals usually peak during the end of October-December. In September, when mandi prices were below the MSP due to low

import duties on edible oil, the agriculture ministry approved the purchase of 3.22 MT of soyabean from farmers in Madhya Pradesh (1.36 MT), Maharashtra (1.3 MT), Rajasthan (0.29 MT), Karnataka (0.1 MT), Gujarat (0.09 MT) and Telangana (0.05 MT) under PSS. In the previous kharif season, agencies had purchased 70,000 tonne of soybean from farmers at MSP.

The agriculture ministry has projected soyabean production in the 2024-25 crop year (July-June) at 13.36 MT, 2.2% higher on year.

Meanwhile, according to a Bloomberg report, India's imports of edible oils will likely fall to 15 MT in the 2024-2025 oil year against 16 MT in 2023-2024, on record oilseed crops including soybean and rapeseed, according to BV Mehta, executive director of the Solvent Extractors' Association of India.