

Agri, processed food exports increase to \$20.3 bn in Apr-Jan

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INDIA'S EXPORTS OF agricultural and processed food products grew by over 13% year-on-year, reaching \$20.3 billion in the first ten months (April-January) of FY25, driven primarily by a sharp rise in rice shipments.

According to data from the directorate general of commercial intelligence and statistics (DGCIS), rice exports surged over 22%, climbing to around \$10 billion, compared to \$8.26 billion in the same period last year.

By September 2024, the government removed nearly all restrictions on basmati and non-basmati rice exports, including minimum export price (MEP) limits and export duties. However, the ban on broken rice exports remains in place.

Exporters anticipate a 15% rise in total rice exports for FY25, potentially reaching a record \$12 billion, fueled by strong global demand. In FY24, India's rice exports were valued at \$10.41 billion, a 6.5% decline from the previous year due to earlier export restrictions aimed at stabilising domestic supply.

"We expect the value of basmati rice exports in the current fiscal at around \$5 billion because of robust global demand," Vijay Setia, managing director, Chaman Lal Setia

IN NUMBERS

Rice



10.09

22.14% ▲

Fruit and vegetables



2.97

5.63% ▲

Meat, dairy & poultry products



4.16

12.79% ▲

Cereal preparation



2.32

10.3% ▲

(in \$ billion) ▲ % change y-o-y

*Apr-Jan, target for FY25 \$26.56 billion, #including items - cashew, oil meals & other cereals

Total#
20.3 13.8% ▲

Exports, a leading exporter of aromatic rice, based in Karnal, Haryana, told *FE*.

India's dominance in the global rice trade is expected to strengthen further, with increased shipments to Africa and Southeast Asia. India has remained the world's largest rice exporter for over a decade.

Exports of buffalo meat, dairy and poultry products rose by close to 13% on year to \$4.16 billion during April-January compared to \$3.68 billion in the same period of FY24.

Officials said that in the past decade, there has been a rise in demand for Indian bovine meat across the globe due to its quality and nutrient value as buffalo meat is

processed and exported as per the World Organization for Animal Health guidelines for any risk mitigation.

The shipment of fresh fruits and vegetables in the first ten months of FY25 increased by over 5% to \$2.9 billion, and cereals preparation by more than 10% to \$2.56 billion.

The agricultural and processed food products export development authority (APEDA) has set an export target of \$26.56 billion for FY25.

The share of exports of products under the APEDA basket is around 51% in the total shipment of agri-produce. The rest of the agricultural product exports include marine, tobacco, coffee, and tea.