

# Rice, Wheat Prices Show Diverging Trend amid Steady Festive Demand

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**Kolkata:** Prices of two major staples — rice and wheat — are moving in two different directions this festive season. While wheat prices have gone up by 4% in the ongoing festive season, rice prices have fallen. Basmati rice prices have fallen by 12%, while non-basmati prices have slipped by up to 5%.

Roller Flour Millers Federation of India (RFMFI) president Anjani Aggarwal said wheat prices will remain firm till the new crop comes, while the huge arrivals of basmati rice in the market has brought down its prices.

Prices of wheat were around ₹2,400 per quintal a month ago, but in Delhi, wheat prices are now trading in the price band of ₹2,525- 2,550 per quintal.

Tarun Satsangi, commodity analyst at Origo Commodities, said though steady demand ahead of the festive season has kept the prices stable near highs, going ahead, prices may correct gradually due to a slump in demand post-Diwali coupled with traders liquidating their old stocks as the new wheat crop sowing season kicks off by October-end.

Arrivals of new basmati crop has started bringing down the prices of aromatic variety of rice. Suraj Agarwal, CEO of RiceVilla, a rice marketing and export-



**Not In Sync**

**Wheat prices up 4%**  
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**Basmati rice prices**  
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**Wheat prices** expected  
to remain firm till  
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**Huge arrivals** of bas-  
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ting company said, “The old crop of 1509 was selling at the rate of ₹80 a month ago. But now, the same variety is being sold at a price of ₹70 per kg, a drop of 12.5%.”

The price of non-basmati rice dropped after the government announced 20% export duty on certain grades of rice effective from September 9.

“There is a fear in the market that government might put a complete export ban on non-basmati rice. Prices have fallen by 3-5% as more supplies are expected,” said Agarwal.

According to the ministry of agricultu-

re, the first advance estimates of production of major kharif crops for 2022-23 pegged kharif rice production at 104.99 million tonnes (mt) during the current season in wake of uneven monsoon which is 6 per cent lower than the production of 111.76 mt in the last season.

Kharif rice production estimates are lower than the target of 112 mt set for the current season and 105.21 mt figure of 2020-21. The dip in kharif rice production is significant in view of requirement of rice for distribution under the National Food Security Act 2013.