

European nations, Egypt eye Indian rice as prices stabilise

RISING DEMAND. 3 bidders in Cairo's tender offer Indian cereal, Thai rates cut by over \$40

Subramani Ra Mancombu
Chennai

Indian rice continues to get good enquiries from the global market with European nations and Egypt joining the list of nations looking for the cereal from the sub-continent, traders say. Enquiries are coming in as prices have stabilised in the global market.

Reports from Cairo said Egypt's General Authority for Supply Commodities (GASC) floated a global tender to import 25,000 tonnes of white rice and three of the four bidders offered Indian rice.

"European nations have emerged as new buyers of Indian parboiled rice. Enquiries are coming in from countries such as France," said VR Vidya Sagar, Director, Bulk Logix.

RISE ALBEIT EXPORT TAX

The demand for Indian rice is despite its offer prices ruling firm and Thailand cutting its rates by over \$40 a tonne in the past month. Exports continue to be good despite the Indian



government imposing a 20 per cent duty on shipments of white rice. "We are seeing demand re-emerging for Indian rice after witnessing a slump in the past three months. Demand is for both white (raw) and parboiled (boiled) rice," said BV Krishna Rao, President, The Rice Exporters Association of India (TREA).

"The Indian kharif rice crop is good. The Food Corporation of India (FCI) is set to meet its procurement target this year. Our exports of non-basmati rice should be able to top 18 million tonnes (mt) easily this year," said New Delhi-based exporter Rajesh Paharia Jain.

Despite the Indian government imposing a duty on ex-

Ruling steady

Countries	5% broken		25% broken		Parboiled	
	Feb 23	23-Jan	Feb 23	23-Jan	Feb 23	23-Jan
India	440-44	443-7	427-31	428-32	395-99	388-92
Thailand	474	523	465	511	480	523
Pakistan	473-77	488-92	443-47	458-62	513-17	533-37
Vietnam	458-62	458-62	438-42	438-42	-	-

Source: Thai Rice Exporters Association

ports of white rice and banning shipments of fully broken rice, rice exports, including Basmati, were estimated to have been 21.9 mt in 2022. Pakistan and Thailand gained from the Indian curbs on rice shipments imposed from September 8.

"Rice production has been made up by Telangana," said Bulk Logix's Sagar.

STILL COMPETITIVE

"Rice prices have stabilised of late, but there could be a further rise in prices as there is a supply shortage. Currently, prices have stabilised as Thailand's new crop has entered the market and it has cut prices," said a New Delhi-based trade analyst.

Despite Thailand cutting prices by nearly 10 per cent over the past month, Indian rice is still competitive, said Jain. "The Centre is also gaining from exports as it gets the duty on shipments," said Rao, adding that despite cutting prices, Thailand did not pose any problem to Indian rice.

M Madan Prakash, President, Agri Commodities Exporters Association, said supply was slow to ports, especially on the western coast. "There are issues with Customs in sending feed quality," he said.

Rao said Thailand was willing to lower its parboiled rice price to \$460, while Sagar said Indian parboiled is quoted at \$390-410 a tonne.